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NTRWA

Founded March 1983

Chapter 33, Region 5

February 2022

Volume 40, Issue 4

**FEBRUARY 2022
Newsletter****CHAPTER MEETING INFORMATION**

3rd Saturday of each month, Zoom or In Person

**None in April because we have the Texas 2
Step Conference on April 2.**

11:00am: General Speaker

12:00pm: Business Meeting

In person

[La Hacienda Ranch](#)[5250 Highway 121, Colleyville, TX 76034](#)**2020-2021 BOARD**Audra Lewandowski
*President*Chrissy Szarek
*President-Elect*Clover Artrey
*Secretary*Jen FitzGerald
*Treasurer*Celia Naples
Programs Director**Happy Spring**

This is Marsha, your friendly neighborhood newsletter editor. I'm filling in for Audra this month. She's pretty swamped putting the finishing touches on our wonderful Texas 2-Step this weekend. It was fun to see people in person in March, and while I'm really looking forward to what we'll learn from **Susan Stoker**, seeing many more of you will

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Marsha R. West
Newsletter Editor

Audra Lewandowski
*Texas Two-Step
 Conference*



The March program presented by Allie Pleiter's on the **Chunky Method** was excellent. You can find her handouts on our **Facebook page**, but I wanted to share a couple of highlights with you. This is my interpretation of what she said. 😊

The main thing I took away was the importance of finding my personal writing path that was best for me. She focused on how we can become more productive, something I really need. The question she wanted us to ask ourselves was: How much you can effectively get done in single session? Allie suggested taking 3-5 writing samples where you just write as much as you can until you just can't anymore. Don't watch the clock or count words, just write. After your 3-5 times, count up how many words you did each time and take an average. That's what your personal chunk is.

Some of us can write really well for short periods.

These folks are called "Dory's"—like from the movie. These people are comfortable on their laptops anyplace any time. Starbucks is a fav. Their laptop or phone works for them. Others she calls "Marlins" and need longer periods of time.

Allie emphasized that neither is better than the other, it's just what works for you. Personally, I do better with bigger chunks of time, on my big computer in my own home. I can crank out a 1000 to 1500 words when I'm in the zone. If I don't have those larger blocks, I don't write. Allie made me feel okay that I don't write every single day.

One of the benefits of knowing how you write your best stuff and knowing how long it will take you means you can figure out how to meet a deadline (whether it's your editors or your own.) One of the handouts speaks specifically how to figure this out. It's the Chunky Method Calculator. Again, you can find it on our Facebook page. Just scroll down a bit.

My plan was for 4 days a week of about 2000 words a time. So far that's not happening. Life happens. Allie says you need to plan for those times, those weddings, vacations, grandkid babysitting, whatever. I forgot to factor in the grandkids. 😊

But I now have a better idea of what I'm supposed to do and how to do it. Thanks, Allie Pleiter, for the great program.

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 As your newsletter editor, I want to remind you that we welcome articles from our members. Just get

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first day of the month. Also, if you have new releases remember to send the book covers to me [marsha@marsharwest.com](mailto:marsha@marsharwest.com) or if you have a special quote, you'd like me to include, send that along, too.

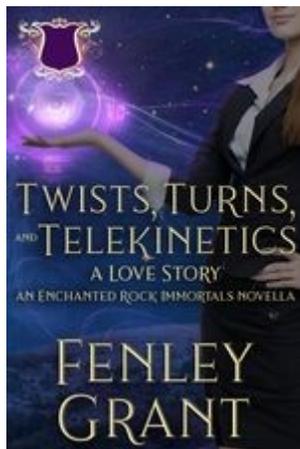
We don't have minutes from our March gathering because we didn't have a regular business meeting, just the program.

Looking forward to seeing many of you Saturday for our Texas 2-Step Conference. :)

**Marsha**

Marsha R. West

Newsletter editor & Communications Director

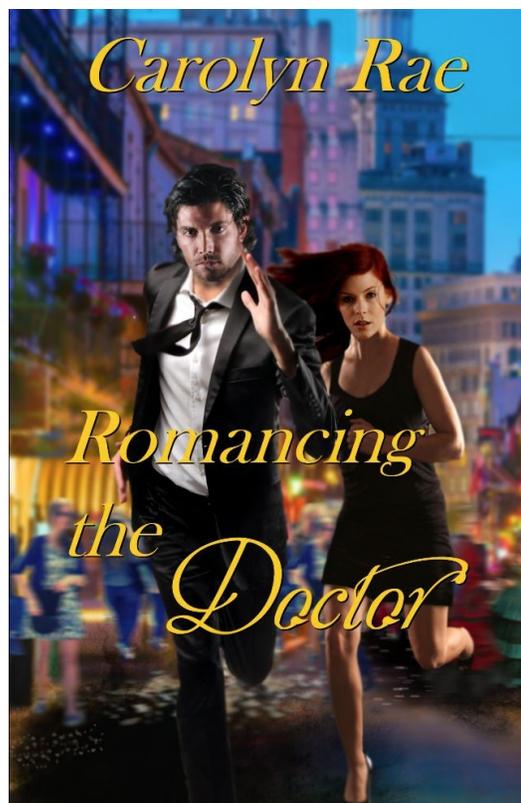
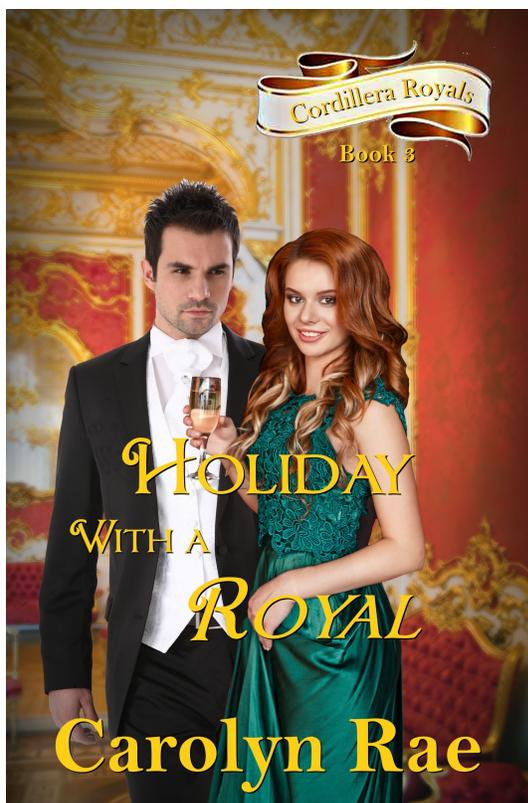


No regular meeting this month because we have the Texas 2-Step Conference on April 2. (Lisa's book is in this spot as a place holder.) :)

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**You Are Cordially Invited to Attend  
Metroplex High School Reunion**  
In 5-year increments from 2018 back to 1983.

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Class of 2008 ~ 15-year

Class of 1988 ~ 35-year

Class of 2003 ~ 20-year

Class of 1983 ~ 40-year

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In March of 2023, NTRWA will celebrate its 40th anniversary with yet another anthology, and we hope you'll join us, whether for the first time or once again.

All current and former NTRWA members are invited to submit a short story for the next anthology, tentatively called "The Stars at Night."

In case you couldn't tell, we're going with a class reunion theme, but here's the twist: Your graduating class member must have been featured in their high school yearbook in the "superlatives" section and voted "Most likely to..." or "Best... / Worst..." or something along those lines. Be creative and think outside the box. A list of 150+ superlatives has been assembled and is available for your use, but feel free to come up with your own.

Also! I'm asking you, if at all possible, to turn that superlative sideways or on its head. For example, if you want your character to have "Had the worst case of Senioritis," then have your character now be a high school teacher. If your character was voted in as the "Worst Driver," have him or her now be some sort of crash test driver or perhaps a (winning?) race car driver.

It'll be way more interesting if superlatives aren't repeated, so one to a customer, if you please.

Claim yours here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VxrlwDrAjGFhUUY5VlwXfK4RpNhA7b9jY27h7fmGCDk/edit?usp=sharing>

If you don't see the one you want, feel free to add it.

You are, of course, more than welcome to write more than one story, which would require an equal number of superlatives, naturally.

In addition, we'll sort stories by reunion year, and if authors writing stories about the same graduating class would like to collaborate or share characters, for the sake of uniformity, then by all means, do so.

_Here's the basic participation list:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AUrMJMDhsjEK-yPBStHoRac-cjH7ggKQLD5WJ-ajJoo/edit?usp=sharing>

School / Reunion Information

School: Metroplex High School

School Colors: green & purple

Mascot: Dragons

Location: Reunion takes place at a five-star hotel in Dallas

Room Description: The ballroom was suitably decked out with a dozen or so round tables covered with white tablecloths; small, purple-flowered centerpieces sat in the center of each table. A banner hung across a small dais announcing the "Class of XXXX Reunion" in dark green letters. A dance floor was set up on the far side of the room. Three portable bars lined the wall right inside the ballroom doors.

Submission Guidelines:

Submissions are open to all NTRWA members, past and present.

Submissions should be between 4000 and 5000 words.

Up to three stories may be submitted by each author.

Entries must be romance.

All sub-genres except erotic are welcome: young adult, romantic suspense, inspirational, sweet, etc. 1983 will be as historical as it gets this time around.

Heat level must not exceed PG-13.

At least one member of the romance couple had to have been featured in the superlatives section of the yearbook at some point.

Entries are due to Jen FitzGerald no later than January 21, 2023.

The anthology will go live early in March of 2023.

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New Loop

Communication with chapter mates used to be a whole lot easier...

It was quick and easy and could be done via email. No one had to login to a website to send a message.

Well, gang, we're trying to get back to that.

After some research, the board has agreed that a communications loop through Groups.io is the way to go.

Groups.io has all the ease of our former Yahoo Groups loops, with far fewer issues. In fact, it was created by the same guy, but he was able to eliminate many of the issues people struggled with in the old Yahoo format.

So if those of you who are members (or are pretty sure you are still) would create an account at Groups.io (if you don't already have one), that would be super. Then about mid-February, I'll send invites to join our chapter loop. If you don't get an invite, that probably means your membership lapsed along the way.

If you don't get an invite, feel free to reach out to me (Jen, your humble treasurer) for confirmation of membership / lapse.

Many thanks!

Jen FitzGerald
NTRWA
Treasurer

Please remember to like our FB page: [\(20+\) North Texas Romance Writers | Facebook](#) This is the best way to get notifications on meetings.

Inspirational Thought

The world needs a sense of worth, and it will achieve it only by its people feeling that they are worthwhile.

Fred Rogers

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NTRWA on Facebook



NTRWA Online

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