



# North Texas Romance Writers of America

## HEART TO HEART

FOUNDED MARCH 1983

CHAPTER 33, REGION 5

MAY 2011

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 5

### RISING STAR Awards Most Pages Written

Candy Havens

260 pages

Heather Long

152 pages

Jean Marie Brown

100 pages

### SPUR Awards Most Pages Edited

Nikki Duncan

1140 pages

Jerrie Alexander 703

Heather Long

325 pages

## JOIN US MAY 21ST FOR OUR ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE CRITIQUE



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER - MARSHA WEST

**"No gains without pains." *Ben Franklin***

I'm writing this with another full week left in April but can hardly believe this is for the May issue.

I've continued with the mammoth editing of my third book — the one I went back to after writing two others. There was a huge discussion on one of the loops I'm on about the value of going back to an old book and revising it. The consensus seemed to be this wasn't a good idea. For me it's working. (Well, I guess I'll only know that if an agent likes it. LOL) Seriously, it's been a learning process for me. (What about writing isn't?) Last month I was in the throes of a word search, which thankfully I completed.



Then I started reading it backwards — the bottom half of the last page followed by the top half of that page and so on. That's a useful strategy, and I thought I'd caught every little thing. However, after getting Staples to print it, I've started to read it forwards in hard copy. You guessed it. I've found a few more little things needing to be tweaked. So I continue onward in the quest to have the best possible book I can have before sending it off to the agents who requested partials and a full from conferences. I gotta believe before I write the next installment of the newsletter article I will finally have been able to push send. Fingers crossed.

Let me tell you how excited I am about all the new members we had join since the new year. You'll find the list in another part of the newsletter. We have some traditions in the chapter, and I want to remind members who've been around for a longer time as well as our newer ones of a couple of them. (That was the long way of saying "older Members." LOL)

An announcement goes out about a member's birthday, and we respond to that with wishes. Some people put those on the loop, and others send a greeting directly to the birthday girl or boy. I remember being shy about doing that right after I joined. I mean, I didn't know these people, and they sure didn't know me, but I forced myself and I'm so glad I did. Not all our members attend meetings — hey, not everyone lives in the Metroplex, and even some of those who do have reasons they can't attend the meetings. So if we don't open ourselves up on the loop, we'll never make the connection. (I'm probably preaching to the choir here. The NT loop was really the first one I was on.)

The other tradition is to celebrate with each other over contest finals, wins, and sales. So whether or not you've met the person face to face or not, join in the activities of the NT Loop.

*Marsha*

**"Now or never was the time." *Lawrence Sterne***

## APRIL MINUTES

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, April 16, 2010 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The president and secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 A.M. The minutes as they were printed in the March newsletter were approved.

### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

#### **President: Marsha West reported:**

A note recognizing the Connecticut RWA membership for its generosity in giving money so writers who had financial difficulties could attend a seminar was read in the meeting.

Money can be submitted to purchase yarn for the Prayer Shawls to Jean Marie Brown.  
Read Treasurer's Report in the absence of Ron Campbell, and it will be filed for audit.

#### **President Elect: Kim Campbell reported:**

Cards listing the goals set by members in January were handed out so they could be reviewed. She provided cards to members who hadn't set goals yet, and then collected all at end of meeting.

#### **Program Director: Nikki Duncan reported:**

The Roundtable Critique is set for next month.

The remaining schedule for NTRWA 2011 calendar is as follows:

May – Roundtable Critique

June – Speed Pitching

July – Synopsis Review by Victoria Chancellor

August – Discuss e-publishing with Misa Ramirez

September – Finding A Place in the Market with Tracey Wolf

October – Discuss Dialog

November – Members retreat

December – Christmas Party

The NTRWA Texas Two Step will be held March 2012.

#### **Membership: Jamie Webb reported:**

There are seventy-seven (77) members.

There were two visitors.

There were three new members.

#### Visitors:

Chrissy Szarek

Kristina McClure

#### New Members:

D'Ann Burrow

Barbara Han

Christine Crocker

#### **Communications Director: Jean-Marie Brown reported:**

Articles submitted to the Newsletter should not be plagiarized.

Submissions to the Newsletter are due April 24<sup>th</sup>.

## MINUTES

### **COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:**

#### **PRO Liaison: Clover Autrey reported:**

Finished manuscripts need to be submitted in May for the Beta Read. Two PRO members will read the manuscript beginning April 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Kim Campbell is now PRO.

**Great Expectations Chair: Angi Platt/ Wendy Watson:** Had no report but were thanked for the hard work on the 2011 contest.

#### **Hospitality Chair: Marsha West reported:**

A new Hospitality Chair is needed. Reviewed the door prizes which were a gift basket, paper and spiral binder, first chapter critique from a editor at a publishing company and a free online workshop. New member Barbara Han volunteered to be the new Chair.

#### **Audio Librarian: Michelle Welch reported:**

CDs from nationals can be checked out.

#### **Spotlight Chair: Carolyn Williamson reported:**

She spotlighted Wendy Watson.

### **PAGES:**

Highest number of pages written this month:

Candi Havens – 260 pages

Heather Long – 152 pages

Jean Marie Brown – 100 pages

Highest number of pages edited this month:

Nikki Duncan - 1140

Jerry Alexander – 703

Heather Long - 325

Next General Meeting: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 16th at La Hacienda.

The business meeting was adjourned at: 11:30 p.m.

Submitted electronically by Sheniqua Waters

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Corrected: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2011 NTRWA Schedule

**May**            **Round Table Critiques:** Have 15 pages of your WIP read and critiqued by an NT published author.

**June**            **Speed Pitching for Nationals:** Practice pitching your story to our "editors and agents of the day" to prepare for those face-to-face opportunities at conferences.

**July**            **Synopsis with Victoria Chancellor:** Get your synopsis written and polished so that manuscript is ready for post-conference submission.

**August**        **The Writer's Guide to ePublishing with Misa Ramirez:** Presentation on ePublishing ins and outs, as well as some numbers.

**September**    **Finding Your Place in the Market with Tracy Wolff**

**October**        **Dialogue: It's More Than What You Say** with **Julia Quinn:** We'll follow Julia's talk with a book signing. Non-members will be charged \$5 for this month's workshop.

**November**     **Retreat TBA**

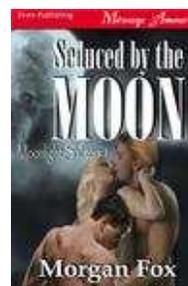
**December**     **Christmas Party**

## SPOTLIGHT ON PATRICIA WOLF AKA MORGAN FOX

BY CAROLYN WILLIAMSON

New member, Patricia Wolf, not only had her first book, "Seduced by the Moon," come out in April, but her second book, Tempted by the Moon, will be available in July. Both are in electronic format, but they will be available in paperback by November 2011. Read on to find out all the interesting things she does besides write paranormal erotica romance.

**I see you live in Wylie. Why did you join our group that's so far away?** My dear friend Shayla Black told me that the NTRWA group had some pretty talented writers and was a lot of fun to be apart of respectful women who understand the challenges of being a struggling writer as well as an established writer.



**How do you define paranormal erotica romance?** To me, paranormal erotica romance is anything related to the supernatural world, where magic and passion unite.

**What's the URL of your website? Did you do it yourself or pay to have it done? Do you blog too?** I'm not a blogger, but I am about to set up my first website. I'm going to have someone manage the site for me. I have a brain for writing and creating new worlds, not so much for designing and maintaining a website.

**Do you belong to a particular biker group? What's it called?** I cycle with the PBA group - Plano Bicycle Associates. I also participate in bicycle rallies around Texas. Collin County Classic, Hotter 'N Hell 100, Richardson Wild Ride, Tour Dallas just to name a few.

**Is your bike one you pedal or a motor bike? Where do you ride?** Currently, I'm sticking with the kind of bike you pedal, but to be perfectly honest I did own a motorcycle. I sold it a few years back. I seem to get a lot more exercise pedaling around rather than revving the engine.

**SPOTLIGHT ON  
PATRICIA WOLF AKA MORGAN FOX**

BY CAROLYN WILLIAMSON

**Why did you pick Morgan Fox for a pen name?** Morgan Fox is the name of the heroine in the first book I ever wrote called Vampire Secrets. A book I wrote specifically for me. I named that character because my mother told me long ago that if she had another daughter she would have loved to name her Morgan. I'm also a big fan of X-Files. Fox Molder is a character I enjoyed watching for years. I felt that combining those two things made the perfect name.

**Are you married or single? Do you have children?** No children, but I will be celebrating my 10 year wedding anniversary in May with the hero of my dreams. I have an amazing husband, and he has helped to make my writing career possible. He is my biggest fan and supporter.

**What inspires you with ideas for your stories?** Daily activities inspire me, living life inspires me. I've always chased butterflies as my husband calls it, living more in the dream world than the real world. What can I say, its just more fun creating a world where anything cool is possible.

**What else to you do besides ride your bike and write?** I start my days by attending a spin class and weight training each and everyday at the gym. I also support my husband who is actively mountain bike racing. We get to travel all over Texas and he gets to race unbelievable areas of Texas.

**Which type of book is the one coming out and who publishes it?** Is that an e-book publisher? Does the publisher do print copies also? What date does your book come out and how can we get it? Seduced by the Moon, a paranormal erotica romance will be out in April 2011 and will be an e-book release. My second book, Tempted by the Moon will be out in July, but the print of both books will be out in November 2011.

My books will be available at [www.sirenbookstrand.com](http://www.sirenbookstrand.com), [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com), and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

*The following article first appeared in the May/June 2011 issue of The Galley, the newsletter of the Georgia Romance Writers chapter. Permission granted to reprint or forward to sister RWA chapters with proper credit to author and chapter.*

### **What I've Learned From...Procrastinating**

By Tanya Michaels

Brace yourself, I'm about to say something radical: Procrastination can be a good and necessary part of the writing process. (A lot of you are thinking, "Thank God because I already do that really well. Unlike, say, writing a synopsis.") I've sold over thirty books — I know we have to put our butts in the chairs and write the dang books, and I highly encourage you to do so. But I also know that sometimes if you stop swearing at the blinking cursor and walk away from the computer, your subconscious will provide a solution. Occasionally, putting off 'til tomorrow the chapter you needed to write tonight actually works; by tomorrow, you'll have a much better and very different idea.

**Caveat #1:** Not all procrastination is created equal. I once suddenly decided — with a week left to finish the book — I must learn how to make balloon animals! and bought a kit. (Sadly, a true story.) The two dozen mutant poodles I created for my children were not a productive use of my limited time. But if I'd taken the kids to the park, I could have done some people-watching (a good creative exercise) and we would have benefitted from the fresh air.

**Caveat #2:** Use procrastination sparingly. If you miss a deadline after eighteen hours of Farmville and whine to your editor, "I was waiting for my subconscious to kick in, I feel she's justified in smacking you on the head with a rolled up copy of your contract. To get you thinking about how you spend time, I've compiled a quick list of completely acceptable procrastination techniques and their evil time-suck counterparts.

- Fitness. Always useful! Writers are often too sedentary. Anything you do to keep active is good for yourself, your loved ones, and your fans who hope you'll be writing for decades to come.
- Spending three hours creating custom ring tones for everyone on your iPhonecontact list. Even if you don't own an iPhone, you've done something like this, right? The kind of random activity where you start playing around, then look up and wonder where the afternoon went? You need to focus if you want this to be the year you: a) finish a manuscript for Golden Heart entry b) submit revisions to that interested agent or c) impress your editor by turning books in early.
- Critiquing. This rates high on my list of "I'm not technically writing, but I'm still doing something good for my career" activities. When we analyze someone else's work we not only help them, it heightens our awareness of mistakes in our own writing that we were too close to see.

•Watching television. This is a double-edged sword. TV can help refill the creative well (much like reading, with even more visual and auditory stimulation). Good TV can give you an ear for dialogue and better understanding of pacing. There's hero inspiration to be found in the expressive faces of our favorite actors, story fodder to be overheard on the news. But if you lost an entire Saturday of potential writing because you got sucked into a marathon of Project Runway repeats, step away from the remote. I combine TV watching with other necessary activities like updating my laptop programs or fixing dinner. Let's face it, there are thousands of ways to put off writing and you need to approach them strategically. Give yourself breaks, then come back refreshed and ready to work. Just make sure the break was valuable in some way and that you come back sooner rather than later!

*Tanya Michaels is an award-winning author and could teach a master class on procrastination. But she's managed to complete many books, including the soon to be released A MOTHER'S HOMECOMING (Harlequin American Romance, Aug. '11). Tanya lives outside of Atlanta with a husband and two kids, all of whom are frightened by her balloon "animals."*

## CHAPTER EVENTS LOOP

The chapter will no longer be responsible for sending info about contest and conferences to NT members on our loop. All of that information is available on the Chapter Events Loop. See below for how to join that loop.

Thanks,  
Marsha West  
NTRWA President  
[President@ntrwa.org](mailto:President@ntrwa.org)

The email address to send messages to the Chapter events loop is:  
[chaptorevents@yahoogroups.com](mailto:chaptorevents@yahoogroups.com).

To subscribe, the web address is:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chaptorevents>.

If you were a member of the previous Contest Loop, you do not need to subscribe.

## MEMBER NEWS

**CONGRATULATIONS . . . JERRIE ALEXANDER** - "The Green Eyed Doll" and "The Last Execution (entered as Twisted Justice) has been selected as one of the top five entries in the Romantic Suspense Category of the Fabulous Five Writing Contest. "The Last Execution" also is a finalist in the Sheila Contest. . .

. . . **BETH SHRIVER** signed a six book deal with Strang aka Charisma House Publishing. The series is The Season of Grace. Here's the lineup: "Annie's Truth" - May 2012, "Grace Given" - January 2013, "Surrendered Ground" - October 2013, "Touch of Grace" - May 2014, "The Gift" January 2015 and "Return to Me" -October 2015. [www.BethShriverWriter.com](http://www.BethShriverWriter.com)

**WELCOME . . .** NTRWA welcomes new members D'Ann Burrow, Karen Goodchild, Barb Han, Yvonne Jocks, Kay Overton, Gloria Richard, Cecyle Rexrode, Donna Stockton, Genevieve Wilson, and Patricia Wolf!

Thanks for joining. We're so happy to have you!

## ROUND TABLE CRITIQUE

If you're new to NT or visiting or you just need a refresher, May is the month when our published authors read 15 pages (the first 15) for the unpublished peeps in the group and give a critique. I know for myself this was always a big time learning experience and I still value the lessons I learned and the feedback I received.

How it works:

- During the meeting, you sit with the author who's read your pages.
- You get feedback on your story (always constructive and never degrading or down putting in any way) and have the chance to ask other questions about things you've maybe been concerned about that they may have some insight on.

PLEASE NOTE: This critique part of this event is for NT members only and pages were due to the programs director last month. We are not accepting any more submissions.

So what if you aren't sending in pages to be read? How do you participate? You are welcome, and highly encouraged, to come and sit at a table with some people getting feedback. Listening in, taking notes on the kind of things being pointed out, will give you ideas on where you've gone wrong or majorly right with your own stories. And you will have the valuable opportunity of asking your own questions of the published author at your table when all the feedback has been delivered.

Nikki Duncan, Program Director



Top Left: NT President-Elect Kim Campbell.

Top Right: NT Spotlight Editor Carolyn Williamson fêtes April's Spotlight, Wendy L. Watson.

Bottom Left: NT members and authors, Nikki Duncan, Shayla Black and Angi Morgan at Barnes & Noble book signing.

(Photos courtesy of Angi Morgan)



newsletter@ntrwa.org

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**NTRWA MONTHLY MEETING**  
**THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**DOORS OPEN @ 10 A.M.**  
**LA HACIENDA RANCH**  
**5250 HIGHWAY 121 SOUTH**  
**COLLEYVILLE, TX**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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