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NaNoWriMo Anyone?

*Founded March 1983**Chapter 33, Region 5**October 2015**Volume 34, Issue 8*

Letter from the President

GEARING UP FOR NaNoWriMo?

I've been asked several times this year if I plan on participating in [National Novel Writing Month](#). The answer is that I have a deadline on December 1st, so that means I'll be writing a book in November. HOPEFULLY...it won't ALL be in November. I don't want to admit that I just did that in 33 days...wrote a book I mean.

Yes, other people write faster than me. But 33 days was pretty much a record for Angi Morgan (speaking of my writer self). I was exhausted and seriously want to write a

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reasonable amount of words every day instead—and take weekends off. A steady stream of words is better for me: physically and mentally.

Have you found your pace? The correct amount of words on the page each day that keeps you writing the next?

NaNo might be for you. It offers a lot of encouragement and challenge. It might help you keep that inner editor quiet so you can finish the book. Unfortunately, my editor doesn't shut up AND that works for me. It's my process. The words I put on the page pretty much stay there, tweaked a bit, but they work.

So find what works for you, write as fast or as slow as you need. Just Keep writing!

~Angi

Angi Morgan is the author of Intrigues where honor and danger collide with love. She combines actual Texas settings with characters who are in realistic and dangerous situations. Her debut Harlequin Intrigue, Hill Country Holdup, is her Golden Heart winning manuscript and also an RT & Booksellers' Best Award nominee.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media is important to a writer's world. Complete the social media form <http://ntrwagreatexpectations.blogspot.com/p/ntrwa-social-media-form.html> and get connected with other NT members.

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Let us know if you have a # (hashtag) specific to promoting North Texas authors. Share other hashtags on our loop or with the hashtags below.

#TXauthors

#ntrwa-gecontest

#dara-ntrwa-pals

From Best Selling Author
CM DOPORTO

A DIFFERENT SIDE
CM DOPORTO

UNIVERSITY PARK SERIES BOOK 4

GET CAUGHT IN THE RAVEN'S TRAP
Park Hill University's star quarterback, Raven Davenport, has every woman dying to get caught in his trap, but he's only interested in catching one girl – Lexi Thompson. But will he learn how to deal with his inner demons or will they continue to control him to the point of destroying what he loves most? Read Raven and Lexi's story from a different side.

CM Doport completely outdid herself on this one. Raven needed this. He needed to tell his story and what an incredible one it was! I was able to feel Raven's pain radiating through the pages and I adore any author that can make me feel this emotional when I'm reading a book. This is one of my favorite books of the year and one of my favorite books period!
~ Heidi Hudson, Momma Says Read Blog

Fantastic Series! I have read this story from the beginning and fell hard into The Raven's trap. Lexi Thompson and Raven Davenport's love is...truly unstoppable. Books 1-3 are from Lexi's POV, but Doport now brings you his side, A Different Side. I absolutely loved it. It completed the whole story line.
~ Beth's Blog

Just when you thought it was over, CM Doport takes us back to PHU and gives us a look at Raven and Lexi's romance from Raven's perspective. I achieved a whole new level of understanding on what drove Raven that touched a part of me very few books touch. Get through the first chapter and there's nothing you'll want more than to get caught up in the Raven's Trap all over again. ~ Iris, Smexy and Fabulous

Ages: 18+ for adult content and sexual situations
www.cmdoport.com

MEMBER NEWS

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... on Sept. 14, 2015. It's an epic novel with over 650 pages all from the hero's POV. New Adult College/Sports Romance.

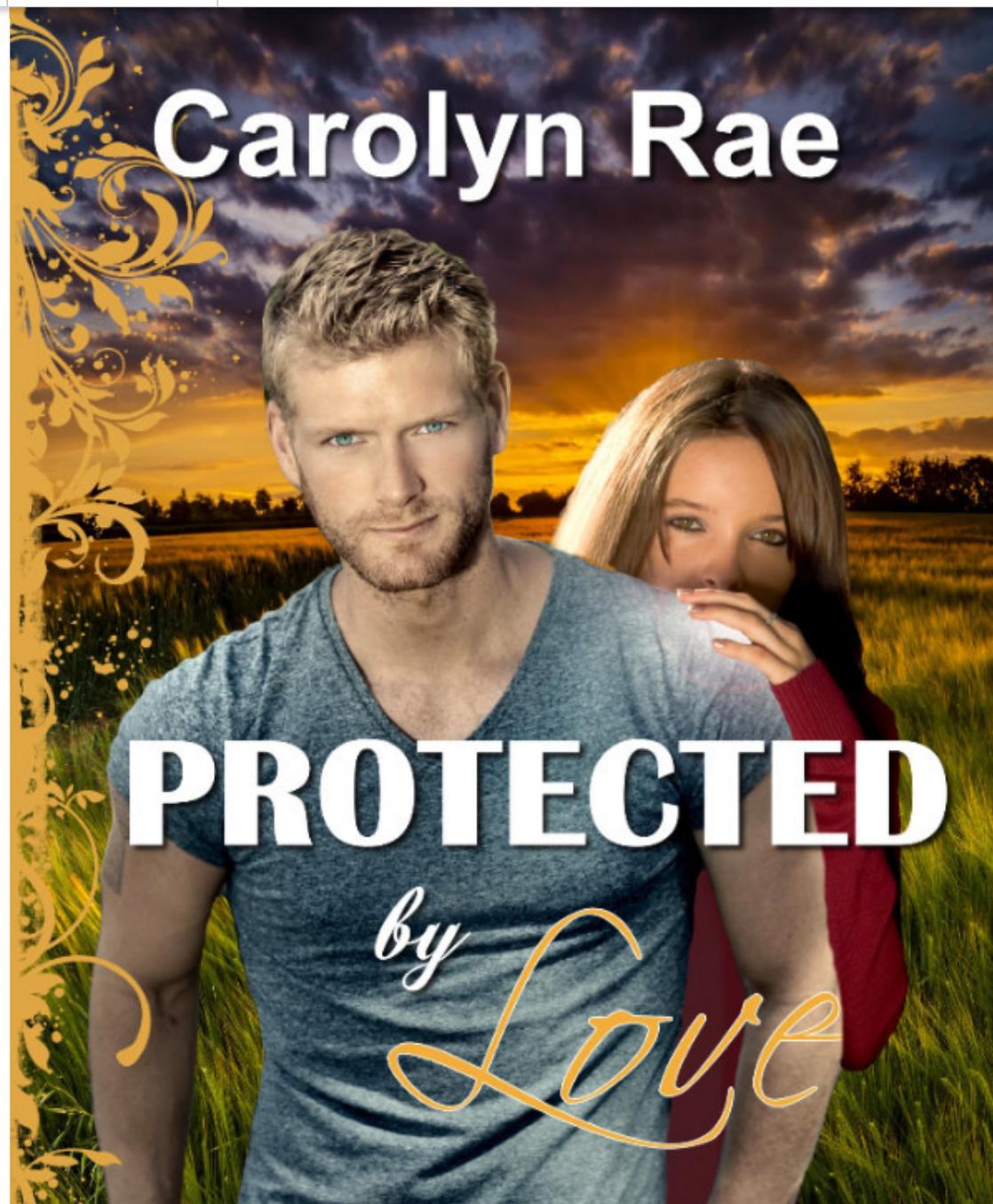
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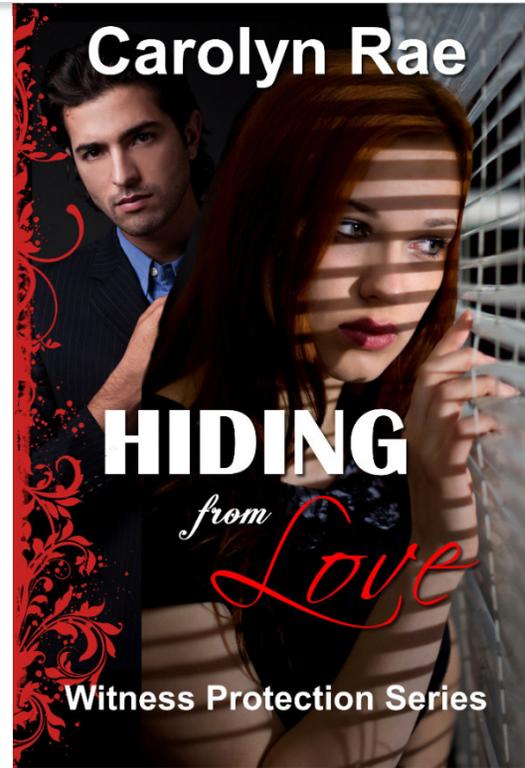
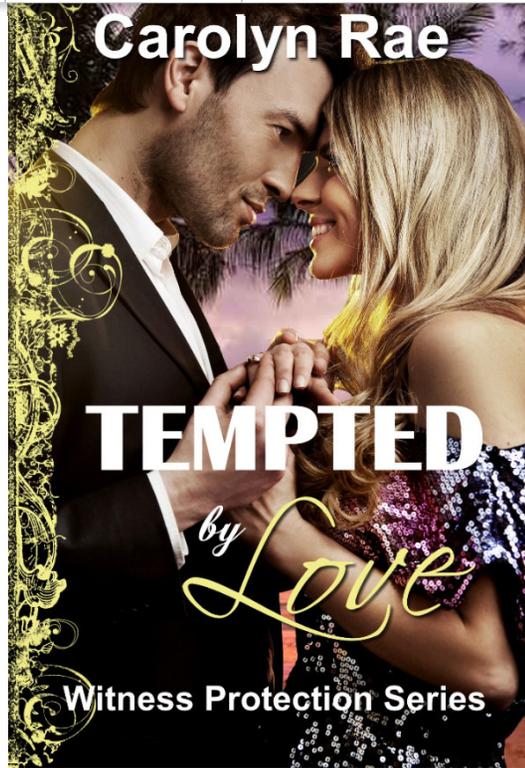
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- Carolyn Rae's new Witness Protection Series trilogy is now on sale.

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- Sharla Rae's new book *How to Fell a Timberman* is now on sale.
- Jerrie Alexander's *Flirting with Fate*, A Noble Pass Affaire Novella released on September 15th, 2015.

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Next Meeting: October 17th with Elizabeth Essex

Character Driven Writing

Elizabeth Essex is the award-winning author of the critically acclaimed Reckless Brides series of historical romances for St. Martin's Press. When not rereading Jane Austen, mucking about in her garden, or simply messing about with boats, Elizabeth writes, and has done so for over twenty years. She graduated from Hollins College with a BA in Classics and Art History, and then earned her MA in Nautical Archaeology from Texas A&M University. While she loved the life of an underwater archaeologist, she has found her true calling writing historical romance full of passion, daring and adventure.

Elizabeth's books have been nominated for numerous awards, including the Gayle Wilson Award of Excellence, the Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Award, and RWA's prestigious RITA Award, and have made Top-Ten lists from Romantic Times, The Romance Reviews and Affaire de Coeur Magazine, and Desert Isle Keeper status at All About Romance. Her fifth book, *A BREATH OF SCANDAL*, was awarded Best Historical in the Reader's Crown 2013.

She has taught her "Character Driven Writing" Class to numerous writing groups, including Lawson Writer's Academy, the Yellow Rose Romance Writers, Dallas Area Romance Writers, and Writer's Guild

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OF NORTH TEXAS.

THERE WILL BE A SHORT BOARD MEETING following the presentation.

10:15 Member chatting

10:30 short membership meeting

10:50ish Elizabeth will begin

The following article first appeared in the August 2015 issue of In Print!, the monthly newsletter of Houston Bay Area RWA. Permission granted to reprint or forward to sister RWA chapters with proper credit to author and chapter.

THE PERILS OF BEING PUBLISHED - Are You Being Ghosted?

by Gerry Bartlett

I just learned about ghosting, the term, recently. Apparently a famous person had been dating another famous person and wanted to break up but didn't have the guts to tell him face to face. So she just quit answering the man's calls, texts and emails. Ignoring a person rather than giving him the bad news is now called ghosting. Has it happened to you? Have you sent in a query, requested manuscript or even a partial and then listened to the silence for weeks or months on end? I have and I feel your pain if you're hurting like I am.

In the old days, when I started out in this painful publishing world, it was common to query by snail mail and then wait for a loooong time for a response. It could take as much as a

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year to hear from a publisher. But you usually eventually heard something. If you recently attended the national RWA conference in New York City maybe you are still giddy from a meeting with an editor or agent who asked you to send them something. Hate to break it to you but unless you are writing a tragedy taking place in Outer Mongolia in 210 BC with rampaging werewolves, editors and agents always ask you to send them something. When facing terrified authors who are trying to describe their books in an interview situation, editors/agents usually take pity and just ask to see something on paper or in an email. Because the Mongolian tragedy aside, it's your writing that will make them want your work, not your stammering oral synopsis. A completely unmarketable book? Well, they might have asked you what else you have on the back burner or under the bed. Because most in the publishing world are nice people.

But not all. I remember back before the centuries changed winning a contest in Beaumont. One of the perks was an interview with a high-powered agent. I got to sit down with her and she predictably said to send her my complete manuscript which at that time was a Regency historical. Yes, it was finished. A big plus because many of you probably pitched something that wasn't. Anyway, I went home on Cloud Nine and tossed that thing(100,000 words and an expensive package) in the snail mail. I waited a month or so and got back a form letter. The agent had been thoughtful enough to scrawl a personal note across the top. "No! And lose that horrible title." Yes, that was it. My hopes were dashed. I did change the title though and later sold that book after it became a Golden Heart finalist.

Today, it's more common not to hear anything if an editor or agent doesn't want your book. Why? Beats me. I have an agent who will bug an editor for me. If you don't, good luck. You can send a polite email after a month asking if the query or manuscript even got there. Because we know things get lost in cyberspace. But don't be surprised if even that question gets ignored. I know the powers that be in the publishing world are busy people but please! I am not alone, I think, in considering ghosting not only rude but unprofessional. If you don't have time to read queries, why are you taking them? There are auto-responses you can send out when something arrives safely. Use it. Or an auto-response that says you aren't in the office. Or even that you are taking a sanity break from reading unsolicited manuscripts.

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maybe I've gained some guts from my years of working in the trenches here but I think that if I am willing to deliver a book on time in a professional manner, then I should get the same type of treatment back. If I'm not getting it? Then I don't want to work for that publisher or with that agent. Are you keeping a list of where you queried? My published friends and I are. We can self-publish but don't enjoy it. So we continue to battle our way through the traditional channels. But be warned: they are fraught with downsides. Yes, you will have to play a waiting game. I hope you did get requests when you met with your dream agent or editor. I hope also that it pans out for you. But putting your hopes and dreams into one basket can lead to delays that could make you grind your teeth and wish you'd acted sooner on other options.

The rush into self-publishing may not be wise for everyone. I for one like to see my books in brick and mortar stores and I love the input from a talented editor. So I'm willing to play that waiting game. And the millions (no exaggeration) of other self-published books out there is daunting to say the least. I know for a fact that most fledgling authors jumping into the pond at Amazon make barely a ripple. The phenoms who sit on panels and pontificate about how they hit bestseller lists and make six figures are just that—phenoms. Rare and wonderful but probably not you. I'm not trying to crush your dreams just offering a reality check. I've done both, traditional and self-pub, and made a lot more money the old way. But it's nice to finish a book and get it to fans right away. So I see positives and negatives to being a hybrid as they're calling me now.

To sum up this topic, beware of being ghosted. If you aren't getting a response from someone you queried with high hopes, don't nag them to death, but do follow-up graciously after a decent length of time. If that follow-up is ignored, move on. You can keep trying elsewhere. Because I can never say it often enough. Perseverance is the key to success in this business and always has been. I can't tell you how many people who started writing when I did have dropped by the wayside. They didn't have the fire and tough skin it takes to keep going when all the discouraging things happen. I did and do. I won't ever give up. What about you?

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Gerry Darnell is the nationally bestselling author of the Near Vampires series. Her latest release is *Rafe and the Redhead*, just out and self-published. It's available now from your favorite e-retailer to download or in paperback.

The following article first appeared in the August 2015 issue of In Print!, the monthly newsletter of Houston Bay Area RWA. Permission granted to reprint or forward to sister RWA chapters with proper credit to author and chapter.

THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY AND HOW OF LAUNCH TEAMS

by Ann Peake

Recently, the four gals of [WoC](#) (Write or Consequences) watched ten days of webinars that covered a wide range of topics on what it takes to make it in the self-publishing racket. One significant takeaway was the value of a Launch Team. None of us had heard of a launch team before, but the concept is fairly straightforward.

Prior to the launch of a book (when), you assemble a core group of friends, family and peers (who). They agree, often quite eagerly, to assist you when the time comes to go live on Amazon or whatever delivery vehicle you choose (what). While the structure of a launch team can vary, they do generally provide three valuable services at launch (how).

1. Buy your book to jump start your sales.

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2. Write and post a review of your book to catapult you onto the lists that reach more readers and jumpstart your sales.

3. Push out the information about your book launch to everyone in their e-sphere of influence, including their email list, online groups, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. (where) in order to . . . reach more readers and jump start your sales (why).

In return for boosting your sales and helping you reach more readers, launch team members garner rewards. Advanced copies, free resource giveaways, or perhaps prizes. But no matter what the offered enticement, the most important perk of a launch team member is input. Author engagement with her launch team might include offering them a chance to name a character, make suggestions on story direction, or provide feedback on where the next step in the Author's career might go.

True, at first, your launch team might be made up of your Mother, Aunt Betty and some of your bestest writing pals, but over time the size of your group is likely to grow and fans enjoy engaging on a personal level with their new favorite author and helping her cast a wider marketing net.

Armed with their newfound knowledge of launch teams, [Sandra K. Moore](#), Terri Richison, Dawn Temple, and Ann Peake of [Write or Consequences](#) have decided to embark on a new venture and will be looking to form their inaugural launch team. Part of the experimentation will be chronicling the before, during and after of the launch based on personal experience and the input from the team and then blogging about lessons learned.

Want to join your first launch team? Learn from the inside about our successes, failures, and recoveries right along with us? Or maybe you hope to hedge against your own future launch? Whatever your reason, visit often the [Write or Consequences](#) blog. Lurk or make comments, but visit and watch how four ordinary women are reaching for a publishing career with the energetic support of their newly forming WoC Launch Team.

Ann Peake wrote her first ditty when she was ten on an English seashore while visiting

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her British grandmother. From then on, her family members either acted in, or were treated to, plays, skits or commercial spoofs. In school, she wrote poetry, fables and short stories. Years later, she tossed down a particularly bad novel and thought, "I could do at least that well." She's been pursuing the elusive published novel ever since. Ann loves a good romance – all the more if it is wrapped in a great fantasy setting.

A Note from the Newsletter Editor:

Please note photos included in the newsletter are provided by the members. Any photos you'd like to include can be sent to newsletter@ntrwa.org. It is at the discretion of the newsletter editor as to which photos will be included in the newsletter. Thank you.

September 2015 Meeting Minutes:

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President-Elect and the Secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:44 a.m. Approval for the minutes for the August 15, 2015 meeting will occur at the October 17, 2015 meeting.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Angi Morgan was not present. Suzan Butler reported:

- No report.

President-Elect: Suzan Butler reported:

- Please notify Suzan if you're interested in serving on the 2016 NTRWA Board.

Secretary: Lisa Fenley reported:

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- The August 15, 2015 minutes will be approved at the October 17, 2015 meeting.

Treasurer: Jen FitzGerald reported:

- The Treasurer's report was presented and filed for audit.

Program Director: Lara Lacombe was not present. Jen FitzGerald reported:

- Today's Meeting: Cindy Dees—Your Writer Type
- Report Submitted:
 - October: Elizabeth Essex-Character Themed Writing
 - November: No Meeting
 - December: Holiday Party

Website Director:

- No report.

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:**Membership Director: Gina Nelson was not present:**

- No report.

Communications Director: Kim Miller was not present:

- Report submitted:
 - Send information / articles / photos for inclusion in the newsletter to newsletter@NTRWA.org by September 28, 2015.

PAN Liaison: Chrissy Szarek reported:

- No pencils to present this month.

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- No report.

Great Expectations: Lisa Fenley reported:

- The 2016 Great Expectations Contest will run from October 1, 2015 to January 3, 2016.

Carolyn Contest: Jen FitzGerald reported:

- The 2016 Carolyn Contest will run from November 14, 2015 to February 14, 2016.

Hospitality: Michelle Welsh reported:

- No report.

Audio Librarian: Debra Owens was not present:

- No Report.

Writing Incentives: Christine Crocker was not present:

- Top Five Written Pages:
 - Krystal Shannon 143
 - Regina Richards 136
 - Lauren Canan 120
 - Cindy Dees 100
 - Lavender Day 75

- Top Five Edited Pages:
 - Cindy Dees 600
 - Roni Loren 590
 - Dawn Alexander 340
 - Regina Richards 249

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- No Report.

Spotlights: Marty Tidwell was not present:

- No Report.

Unfinished Business:

- No unfinished business to report.

New Business:

- No new business to report.

August 2015 Meeting Minutes:

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, August 15, 2015 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and the Secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m. The minutes for the June 20, 2015 and July 18, 2015 meetings were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS:**President: Angi Morgan reported:**

- Reviewed new PRO and PAN RWA requirements
- Board positions for next year: We especially need a Program Director and a Treasurer for next year's board. If interested,

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- No report.

Secretary: Lisa Fenley reported:

- June and July minutes were approved and filed.

Treasurer: Jen FitzGerald reported:

- The Treasurer's report was presented and filed for audit.

Program Director: Lara Lacombe was not present:

- Today's Meeting: Addison Fox-Benefits of your day job to your writing career
- Report Submitted:
 - September: Cindy Dees-Topic TBD
 - October: Elizabeth Essex-Character Themed Writing
 - November: No Meeting
 - December: Holiday Party

Website Director:

- No report.

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:**Membership Director: Gina Nelson reported:**

- 60 Members to date.

Communications Director: Kim Miller reported:

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- Send information / articles / photos for inclusion in the newsletter to newsletter@NTRWA.org by August 28, 2015.

PAN Liaison: Chrissy Szarek reported:

- Pencils presented to:
 - Connie Bowen

PRO Liaison: Dakota Byrd was not present. Clover Autrey presented:

- PRO pin presented to Mia London.

Great Expectations: Lisa Fenley reported:

- No report.

Carolyn Contest: Jen FitzGerald reported:

- No report.

Hospitality: Michelle Welsh reported:

- No report.

Audio Librarian: Debra Owens was not present:

- No Report.

Writing Incentives: Christine Crocker reported:

- No Report.

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- No Report.

Spotlights: Marty Tidwell reported:

- Krystal Shannan is our spotlight for August.

Unfinished Business:

- No unfinished business to report.

New Business:

- PAN pins are available through RWA. Chrissy Szarek will determine procedure for request and report back to the chapter.

Email questions, comments, or articles to newsletter@ntrwa.org.

Our mailing address is:

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