

[Subscribe](#)[Share](#) ▼[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

November 2016

*Founded March 1983**Chapter 33, Region 5**November 2016**Volume 36, Issue 10*

Letter from the President

[INSERT HERE]

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Your turn to vote!

I am looking for a little of your input for next year's programs, and am thinking a poll is the best way to get your input! To start, I have the following presentations booked thus far:

The Power of Secrets - Kay Honeyman

Plate Tectonics Theory of Dialog - [Tex Thompson](#)

Research for Historical Fiction - J. Kathleen [Cheney](#)

And for those not at October's meeting, we're having Tami Cowden for Archetypes on April 1. Wowzas--thanks, Angi!...

Could you please give me your input on the following? (See NT

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Facebook page).

I've also enabled you to suggest topics by adding to the poll. You can choose as many as you like. Thank you so much for your ideas and thoughts.

And finally, remember we don't have a program this month, so use your time wisely--get your words in, spend time with family, or use the time to frantically clean up the house before said family arrives (my choice). We'll see you the SECOND, el segundo, numero dos Saturday in December for our Christmas party. Don't forget your wrapped tacky Christmas ornament and to wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater! PLEASE email Amanda at armcmurrey@gmail.com with your program/speaker ideas & suggestions.

COMING UP...

December: Don't forget your wrapped tacky Christmas ornament and to wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater!

The [Yellow Rose](#) is NT's chapter service recognition award. Each year we try to recognize one outstanding member.

NTRWA Chapter Service Award. Known as the Yellow Rose Award, this award recognizes individuals who have served the Chapter in an outstanding way throughout the year.

- 6.1.1. Nominations for the Yellow Rose Award will be accepted from the General membership until November 15.
- 6.1.2. Nominations should be through an online form and include a written paragraph, detailing what contributions the nominee has made to the Chapter and why he or she should receive the award, and submitted to the President Elect.
- 6.1.3. All nominations will be placed on a ballot and mailed to all members by November 15.
- 6.1.4. To be considered, the nominee should not have received the award in the past five years.
- 6.1.5. The Yellow Rose Award will be presented at the December meeting.

[Subscribe](#)[Share](#) ▼[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

0.1.0. The Award shall consist of a plaque, a \$25.00 gift card, yellow roses and a free NTRWA membership for the following year.

The past five recipients are:

2015: Chrissy Szarek

2014: Jen FitzGerald

2013: Angi Morgan

2012: Nikki Duncan

2011: Clover Autrey

***Please nominate a member at: http://bit.ly/NTRWA_YellowRoseNom

My last name is spelled Lewandowski.

GOAL, MOTIVATION & CONFLICT

The Building Blocks of Good Fiction

by *Debra Dixon*

REVIEWED BY CHERYL BOLEN

To those of us who are long-time members of Romance Writers of America, GMC is old news, but it never hurts to take a quick refresher with Debra Dixon's easy-to-remember simplification of plotting.

The author/editor/motivational speaker freely admits she borrows from the late fiction writing instructor extraordinaire Dwight Swain. But Dixon's GMC simplifies his precepts.

In her quickly read book, she makes plotting even easier with her Who, What, Why and Why Not. The *who* is the character. The *what* is the character's **goal**. The *why* is why the character needs to achieve his or her goal (**motivation**), and the *why not* is why the character cannot achieve his or her goal (**conflict**). Put in all these things, and you've got a pretty good basis for a story.

As Dixon points out, there is no story if everything runs smoothly. She uses the movie *Wizard of Oz* to illustrate. Dorothy's goal? To get back to Kansas. Motivation? She believes her Auntie Em is dangerously sick, and she must apologize to her and tell her

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

how much she loves her. Conflict: Dorothy must get the broomstick from the wicked Witch so the Wizard will use his power to send Dorothy back to Kansas. Of course, many obstacles (more **conflicts**) come between her and getting that broomstick.

According to Dixon, each main character needs a GMC; hence, in *Wizard of Oz*, the Lion, Tin Man, and Scarecrow all have GMC, and all will have character growth over the course of the story.

Dixon also stresses the need for there to be both internal and external GMC for each main character.

What about the goal in our genre? "Excuse me while I climb on my soapbox," Dixon says. "The heroine's goal in a romance is **not** to fall in love and get married."

Another important thing she stresses about goal is to make it important and urgent. Reading those words was just what I needed while writing my current WIP. I had a pretty wimpy goal, but after rereading Dixon's handy-dandy little gem, I was able to bump up the importance and immediacy of the goal that propelled the first part of my book. (Yes, goals can change during the course of a book.)

She also says, "The large, central goal of the character is often accompanied by a series of smaller goals that drive the action of the book."

In a really good story the main characters' goals should come crashing into one another.

Moving to motivation, she says motivation is usually preceded by the word *because*. Dorothy wants to get home to Kansas *because*. . .

On conflict, she says story can be strengthened with several smaller conflicts, in addition to the central conflict.

"The outer conflict usually reveals or causes the big black moment, but it is the character's internal GMC which will resolve the big black moment," Dixon says.

Just as *because* precedes motivation, the word *but* precedes conflict. Therefore, Dorothy's goal is to get back to Kansas *because* Auntie Em is sick, *but* she must first get the broomstick from the Wicked Witch. Pretty simple stuff. Yet it can drive an entire book.

Dixon also brings home many other lessons we fiction writers know, but it's never a bad idea to refresh ourselves. Thus, she stresses that every scene should illustrate a character's progress toward the goal, or bring the character into conflict with opposing forces, or provide the character with an experience that strengthens or changes his motivation. Also, there should be three reasons for every scene. She provides a lengthy list which includes introduction of suspects, foreshadowing, discovering clues, and

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

establishing trust between characters. But remember, there must be three reasons for each scene.

For more juicy tidbits, buy the book.

An appendix includes GMC charts for various characters in the movies *Wizard of Oz*, *Ladyhawke*, *Casablanca* and *The Client*.

Cheryl Bolen is currently releasing three Pride & Prejudice novellas.

Five Tips to Improve Your Amazon Author Central Page

by **Cat Rambo**

If you're selling books on Amazon, you'll want to set up your page in their Author Central program. Use your Author Central page to provide more information for your readers: upcoming events, a full listing of your books, pictures and videos, and even excerpts from your blog.

In order to set up your Author Central profile if you haven't, go to <https://authorcentral.amazon.com/> and click "Join Now." Once you've walked through the sign-up steps, you'll enter the name under which your book or books was published and select one of your books. You'll need to wait while Amazon verifies your identity, which may take a few days.

1) Make sure all your books are listed. Once you're logged into Amazon Central, click on "Books" on the blue bar across the top of the page. The page that appears shows the books connected to your author page. You can sort these by publication date, best-selling, and relevance. Relevance is a somewhat mysterious formula of which Amazon will only say, "the relevance ranking function uses many different elements to determine the best matches for customers' queries" and notes that search results may fluctuate.

2) Make sure your books have complete listings. To edit a book, click on its title. This will open its profile page.

You can add information here in three different categories:

- Editorial reviews: You can add a review from someone else, a product description, a "from the author" note, information from the inside flap and back cover, and an "about the author" section.

[Subscribe](#)[Share](#) ▼[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

- **Book details:** These include publisher, publication date, language, print length, and file size if in electronic version.
- **Book extras:** These are actually pulled from Amazon's companion book review site, Shelfari. In order to fill this out you'll need to create a Shelfari account.

To add books that aren't listed, click on "Add more books."

3) Provide a bio. Click on "Profile" on the blue bar across the top of the page. The page that appears shows your author information. The most important part of this is your biography.

To edit your biography, click on edit biography, which should appear in the upper righthand area of the biography section. Your biography must be at least twenty characters long. Plain text only – you can't include fancy stuff like bold, italics, or links (those can go elsewhere though).

If you don't fill this out, be aware that what Amazon displays for you in its place is taken from your Wikipedia entry if one exists.

4) Include some visual interest. You can do this by adding photos and videos on your profile page. If you look at mine (amazon.com/author/catrambo) you'll notice I've got a photo up there next to the bio. I added that and the other photo (you can have multiple ones) via the profile page.

You can add videos as well, which will appear on the righthand side of the page. Mine's a book trailer, but you could include all sorts of stuff there (make sure you have the rights to it).

5) Hook up your blog and social media. The profile page lets you add your blog as well as your Twitter feed. Add your blog, and the latest few entries will appear on your profile page. Link in your Twitter account and your latest Tweet will appear on the page.

...

Cat Rambo's most recent short story collection, [Near + Far](#), appeared this fall from [Hydra House](#). Find links to her fiction as well as her upcoming online classes on her website, <http://www.kittywumpus.net>.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The updated membership roster is available in the YahooGroups file section. Those who have notified us of their social media links...that information is included. We did not include phone

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

numbers or addresses. If you'd like to contact a member, please use the provided email address.

If you'd like your information to be included, please use the Social Media update form in the members only section of our website. Please remember that information on our roster is for members only use and is a violation of chapter bylaws to be sold or used for profit.

<http://ntrwagreatexpectations.blogspot.com/p/ntrwa-social-media-form.html>

MINUTES from OCTOBER

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and the Secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:56 a.m. The minutes for the September 17, 2016 meeting were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Suzan Butler reported:

- No report.

President-Elect: Kim Miller presented:

- If you are interested in a leadership position for 2017, whether a Board position (requires a membership vote) or a Committee Chair position (appointed), please see Kim Miller. If more than one person is interested in a board position, a run-off vote will occur.
- The positions requiring a membership vote are:

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

- [President](#)
- [President-Elect](#)
- [Secretary](#)
- [Treasurer](#)
- [Program Director](#)
- [Communications Director](#)
- [Membership Chairperson](#)
- [Chapter Contests Chairperson](#)

Secretary: Lisa Fenley reported:

- The September 17, 2016 meeting minutes were approved and filed for audit.

Treasurer: Jen FitzGerald reported:

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

Program Director: Amanda McMurrey reported:

- Today's Meeting:

Andra Dunn: Social Media Influence

- November: No scheduled meeting
- December's Meeting: End-of-Year / Holiday Celebration
 - Bring an ugly ornament (wrapped)
 - Wear an ugly holiday sweater
- Writer's Block (all the writers organizations in the DFW) meeting in March.
- Tami Cowden, potential speaker for an event for NT members on April 1st. Angi Morgan will send out a poll to members to determine member interest.

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**WEBSITE DIRECTOR:**

- If you want to post information to the website, please contact Jen FitzGerald.

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:**Membership Director: Angi Morgan reported:**

- 82 members to date.

Communications Director: Audra Lewandowski reported:

- Report submitted:
 - Send information / articles / photos for inclusion in the newsletter to newsletter@NTRWA.org by October 28, 2016.
 - Social Media—please complete the profile information for your social media formats to share with the chapter.
- Reminded chapter of Facebook changes.

PAN Liaison: Chrissy Szarek reported:

- Pencils for book releases / sales to members present:
 - Audra Lewandowski-*The Hard Men of the Rockies* anthology: *Beyond Lace*
 - Brynley Bush – *The Hard Men of the Rockies* anthology: *Leather and Lace*; *Entangled: Phoenix Rising* 3 book series.
 - Linda Bolton – *Final Chance* (3rd book in a series)
 - Angi Morgan - *Company B* four book series for Harlequin
 - Cathy MacRae – *The Saint* through Kindle Worlds
- RWA pins for milestones (starting at 5 books published.) Pins are \$10 apiece. Order through RWA. You must order your pins yourself.

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

PRO Liaison: Clover Autrey reported:

- Report Filed:
 - If you are not a PRO member, please see Clover for application information. PRO pins must be purchased from RWA.
 - PRO membership allows you on the NT PRO loop, where training and information are provided to our chapter PRO members.

Two Step Conference: Amanda McMurrey reported.

- No report.

Great Expectations: Lisa Fenley reported:

- Report filed:
 - Currently have nine Category coordinators:
 - Suzan Butler
 - Mary Beth Lee
 - Audra Lewandowski
 - Amanda McMurrey
 - Kim Miller
 - Susan Miller
 - Robin Nelson
 - Chrissy Szarek
 - Carolyn Rae Williamson
 - Training offered this fall
 - Six confirmed final editors, two more should come through this week. Still need a New Adult final editor.
 - Contest begins October 30, 2016. Last day for entry submittal is January 4, 2017.

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**Carolyn Contest: Jen FitzGerald reported:**

- Report filed:
 - We need volunteers to help with the 2017 contest.

Hospitality: Faith Stencil was not present:

- Faith Stencil will continue her tenure as hospitality chair for the next half of the year.

Writing Incentives: Chrissy Szarek reported:

- Top 3 Edited Pages: Carolyn Williamson-397, Angi Morgan-250, Lisa Fenley-187
- Top 3 Written Pages: Angi Morgan-125, Jen FitzGerald-123, Brynley Bush- 60

Bylaws: Angi Morgan reported.

- No report.

Spotlights: Jen FitzGerald reported:

- Jen FitzGerald accepted this position this month.

Unfinished Business:

- No unfinished business to report.

New Business:

[Subscribe](#)[Share](#) ▼[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

- NO new business to report.

Next Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 10, 2016
at La Hacienda. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.
Submitted electronically by [s] Lisa Fenley.



Can you name this cutie?

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.

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

Our mailing address is:

NTRWA
2100 W. Northwest HWY
Suite 114-1081
Grapevine, TX 76051

*[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

Translate ▼

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

North Texas Romance Writers of America · 2100 W. Northwest Hwy · Suite 114-1081 · Grapevine, TX 76051 · USA

