



A publication of the Mid-Michigan Chapter (#12) of Romance Writers of America ®  
Volume I: Issue 6 July 2003

---

### **Mission Statement**

The purpose of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of Romance Writers of America® is to promote excellence in romantic fiction, to help writers become published and establish careers in their writing field, and to provide continuing support for writers within the romance publishing industry.

### **In this issue:**

- ♥ Front Page Contents/Mission Statement
- ♥ Page 2 July Program Preview/*The Write Stuff*, the President's Message
- ♥ Page 3 Recap of June Program/ July Birthdays/Member news
- ♥ Page 6 Before Venturing to the Big Apple by Nancy Fraser
- ♥ Page 7 To Conference, To Conference by Susan C. Charnley
- ♥ Page 9 The Business of Writing. An Inside View: Part Four
- ♥ Page 12 Contests
- ♥ Page 15 Conferences/ Directions to July Meeting
- ♥ Page 16 Meeting and Speaker Schedule 2003
- ♥ Page 17 Officers and Chairs/ MMMirror subscription form



## **July MMRWA Meeting at the Golden Rose Restaurant in Lansing.**

July 12<sup>th</sup> we are meeting at The Golden Rose, near Lansing at 12:00 noon. Our topic is “Attending the national RWA® Conference” directed by several veteran attendees. Packing, dressing, attending sessions, and New York's many amenities are among the discussion topics. (In August we will return to our usual 11:30 meetings.)

### ***The Write Stuff . . .***

We all lead such busy lives that there never seems to be enough time to write. I know I had trouble finding the time.

When my children were young, there was always so much else to do first: family responsibilities, school and after-school activities, household chores, grocery shopping, banking and bill-paying, appointments to make and appointments to keep. By the end of the day, all the items on my To Do List would be checked off--all except one. Write.

The women of my generation were conditioned by society to put everyone else's needs and desires first, and it's darn difficult to break that kind of conditioning. We feel guilty if we don't put our needs at the bottom of our To Do lists. If we get to them, fine. If not, too bad. That's life.

That went on for years. Then came the lucky break. The first chapter in my futuristic romance took first place in two contests. I was ecstatic and panic-stricken when both final round judges asked to see the complete manuscript--ecstatic because of the validation, panic-stricken because the manuscript wasn't finished.

If I was to take advantage of these fabulous opportunities, something had to give. So, instead of trying to find time to write, I made time to write. It was a big change in attitude. I took some advice I read and turned my To Do list upside down. I put “Write” at the top of the list instead of at the bottom.

Something marvelous happened as a result of that one simple attitude adjustment: I finished the damn book--and a lot faster than I thought possible! I'm almost done with the final polish and will put it in the mail tomorrow.

Wow. After so many years of trying, to be able to say, “I did it. I wrote a book and submitted it for publication.” When I look at that huge stack of pages, every one of which written by me, what a rush! Those of you who have already completed a first manuscript know the feeling. Those of you who haven't: what are you waiting for? Turn your To Do lists upside down, plant your derrieres in front of your computers, and write your little hearts out.

And finish the damn book! ☺

***Lana Miersen, President***

### At our June Meeting:

**Cheryl Hemmerle**, the Program Director of the Kalamazoo YWCA Domestic and Sexual Assault Shelter attended the June Meeting. MMRWA presented Cheryl with our retreat's sizable donation for the Kalamazoo Shelter.

Cheryl Hemmerle was hired as Director of the Kalamazoo Center on June 1<sup>st</sup>. She gained nine years experience from the New York City based national staff of the United Methodist Church. She developed leadership guidelines for teens and college-age women to use in social advocacy causes and community organizations for justice. She is most proud of working with tens of thousands of young women as they became aware of how they could personally make a difference in the world, as well as realizing their own power. Cheryl told the members to write the truth about love: That love is all about mutual respect, trust, honesty and affection. She encouraged us to not include violence against women in our romances.

Our Program Speaker, **Laurie Kuna**, dissected the intricacies of Active and Passive Voice. She let us review our knowledge of the grammatical distinctions with the help of a 25 sentence worksheet. The subject of an active verb acts while the subject of a passive verb is acted upon. In an interrogatory sentence all bets are off: "Isn't that right?" In our genre the active voice keeps the reader engaged in the story; although, there are times when the passive voice is unavoidable.

*Rohn Federbush, MMRWA Secretary*



### Happy July Birthdays

Patty Gordon 2

DeAnna Pyle 6

Jennifer Armintrout 15

Jeanie Prince 27

### Member News

**Jen Armintrout:** find out June 22 how my book did in the Haunted Hearts Contest.

**Chris Allen-Riley:** Received a lovely 2 page rejection letter from Shannon Godwin at Silhouette. She also requested revisions! Working on revisions and paranormal, entered Dorchester New Voice Contest.

**Dawn Bartley:** Still working on WIP; have a built-in fan already.

**Annette Briggs:** Still planning to enter a contest.

**Diane Burton:** Submitted a partial – rejected; submitted a partial, editor left; submitted a partial....

**Dana Corbit Nussio:** I just sold my third book, *A NEW LIFE*, to Steeple Hill Love Inspired. I also signed yesterday with an agent, Karen Solem. I'm just snoopy dancing. Hope everyone is having a great writing week and a great personal week.

**Flavia Crowner:** Continue work in progress, two books in Sunny Farnum series, Herbal Garden.

**Wil A. Emerson:** Going to New York -- moderator for two workshops --two books in the works, looking for an agent.

**Rohn Federbush:** Sent Susan Litman of New York Harlequin for a contemporary partial.

**Nancy Gideon:** Finalist in Best Sellers Best paranormal for *Midnight Crusader*.

**Peggy Hanchar:** Working on historical and working on contemporary with Jenny.

**Michele Hickerty:** Waiting, waiting, waiting! Query at Silhouette, manuscript at Avon, entered the Dorchester New Voice Contest. New York in 22 days!

**Tammy Kearly:** Waiting on Blaze single title that has 2 partials at editors and 2 completes at agents; working on second in series.

**Arlene Hodapp:** Finished contemporary and sent it to my editor (yeah!). Signed with new agent who has sent one proposal and is reviewing 3 others.

**Anne Marie King-Jakubiak:** submitted -- rejected; submitted -- rejected; submitting again.

**Shar Koenig:** Started new book in a whole new series (just for fun) and I'm surprised at how well it's going. In spite of being busy with publishing, I'm making sure I write every day now.

**Lucy Kubash:** Am writing a column for Mailmax, (weekly paper in SW Michigan) for the summer to help support the local humane society.

**Laurie Kuna:** Working on finishing book #2 for ImaJinn; going to RWA.

**Pat Lazarus:** Trying to finish my manuscript. Designed one cover this month and closed up my classroom for the summer.

**Loralee Lillibridge:** Working on proposal of mystery for agent's request.

**Melissa Lucken:** Going to New York.

**Marsha Ransom:** Just started writing a column in S. Haven Tribune; was interviewed by Assoc. Press reporter re: my published non-fiction book; working on WIP. Hope to keep on it this summer?

**Juli Schuitema:** Ready to submit manuscript to TOR, working on fantasy, working on film script.

**Connie Smith:** Writing steadily and I have a new office.

**Maris Soule:** Judging contests, writing, preparing for a personal cruise.

**Cheryl Steimel:** On chapter 13 of my romantic comedy, starting to outline the next fantasy. I'm not going to New York. I'll be in Europe! Entered the New Voice and Jasmine Contests.

**DeAnna Talcott:** I thought I'd mention that I won the Holt Medallion for *HER LAST CHANCE*, my November 2002 Silhouette Romance. I'm really thrilled, and didn't expect it at all...I'm still going around pinching myself.

On June 19 fans of **Debbie Macomber** streamed into Rollins Bookstore in Kalamazoo to meet their beloved author, buy her books, and obtain her autograph on their new purchases.

She earned her faithful readership with heartwarming, wholesome stories of love and commitment. Today her literary focus has broadened to the emerging field of women's fiction, which includes stories of all kinds that bear universal appeal for women.

Sixteen years after her first sale, RWA® member Debbie Macomber's name is recognized not only in households across the country, but in countries around the world. Sixty million copies of her books are in print.



Pictured (left to right) Mid-Michigan members Annette Briggs, Nancy Gideon, Sue Crouse, visiting Debbie Macomber, Maris Soule, Dawn Bartley, and Julie McMullen enjoying dinner and conversation at a Kalamazoo area restaurant after Debbie Macomber's Rollins book signing.

### **Before Venturing to the Big Apple**

By Nancy Fraser

For our members who are venturing to the Big Apple for conference, please remember to attend the Annual General Meeting on Thursday afternoon. RWA® can only be what its members make it and we do that by casting our vote. For those unable to attend, or not going to this year's conference, please remember to send your proxy with someone you trust.

Also, don't forget the Reader's for Life Literacy Signing on Wednesday. This year's event will be one of our biggest ever.

For anyone who's going to be in NYC by Tuesday evening, there is a group of members being organized to walk over to Rockefeller Center on Wednesday morning for

a chance appearance in Al Roker's outdoor portion of the Today Show. This same group will be selling t-shirts so the RWA reps can all dress alike. They're red, romantic and \$10.00 each. You can reserve by e-mailing [IRISHSECTY@aol.com](mailto:IRISHSECTY@aol.com). The lady's name is Terri and she only bringing shirts for those who pre-reserve them. Of course, there may be some leftovers available if they're not claimed.

Last, but certainly not least, for those of you staying home, please cross all those fingers, toes, legs, etc. between the hours of 8:30 and 10:00 for our GH and RITA finalists. Those of us there will be sure to cheer loud enough so that we can heard back in Michigan.

If anyone has questions regarding the Bylaws, the AGM, the Literacy Signing or conference in general, please do not hesitate to drop me a line.

Nancy Fraser, RWA® Secretary and MMRWA chapter member  
[nfraser2@cogeco.ca](mailto:nfraser2@cogeco.ca)

## To Conference, To Conference

By Susan C. Charnley

Each of us writers has numerous motives for attending one or more of the multitude of conferences available every year. RWA® members have, perhaps, more choices than most authors, due to local chapter conferences. In fact we have so many choices among which to spread the few dollars we can spare for business travel, that the choice becomes almost overwhelming. But choose we must, because few of us are rich enough in time or money to attend every conference.



Since every month of the year holds at least two to five conference choices, how are we to decide which ones to attend? We could choose on the basis of size. Writers' conferences, both RWA® sponsored and otherwise, come in all sizes, from intimate limited attendance affairs like our own MMRWA Retreat from Harsh Reality to the hoopla of Romantic Times' yearly open-door extravaganza. I've attended both and enjoyed both, so choice on the basis of size may not be a deciding factor.

Number of attendees is, however, a factor worth consideration, and you may want to ask yourself this question: *How many people are attending this conference will have goals similar to mine?* Remember, conferences, despite all the fun and/or glamour, are business travel and most of us have business purposes for attending, i.e. a meeting with an agent or editor, networking with other authors, background research on a particular city, researching a particular publishing venue, or something else. The number of people at the conference with similar goals to your own is worth considering if the resources for achieving that goal are limited.

For example, an editor or agent can only interview so many authors in one conference. Would you rather compete with 2000 people or 60 for an editor/agent appointment? Remember, not everyone at the conference will have such an appointment as a goal, but chances are that the larger the conference, the more competition for appointments, hence the lower probability that you will get an appointment at all, let alone with the editor or agent of your choice. So while the size of the conference is a factor we may wish to consider, it is not the only factor.

We may also wish to consider the costs involved in attending a conference. These costs do vary somewhat with the size and purpose of the conference. The Retreat from Harsh Reality can be a very economical conference choice, costing no more than the registration fee, lodging and transportation expenses. I could have done last year's retreat for \$200.00 or less, had I not chosen to bid on some of those famous auction baskets. The baskets, by the way, would be an incidental expense, but an expense none the less, and should be included in any estimation you make of conference costs.

By comparison to the MMRWA retreat, expenses for RWA®'s National conference can be five to ten times as much, or more. Some authors don't have the dollars available to attend even a small conference, so RWA® National is simply not an option for them. If your budget is more flexible and you are able to pick and choose which conferences to attend, you might get more for your money at a smaller conference such as the Emerald City Writer's conference, or the Mountain Laurel Conference. The expenses to consider include registration fees, lodging, transportation to and from the event, meals (some conferences do not provide all or even any meals) and incidentals, i.e. book sales, auctions, charity contributions. So ask yourself, when you are making your conference decisions, *how much money will this event cost me?*

You may also wish to ask, *how much time is involved?* Kathryn Falk's Romantic Times Book Lovers Convention extends over a full week or more. The time you must take to attend the conference impacts you, your job, your family and your writing time.

Think carefully about what will most benefit your writing career; ten days in Kansas City ogling cover models and meeting readers or one day in Lansing Michigan gleaning the expertise of writing professionals? These examples are extremes in the wide range of conferences available. Most conferences run three to five days in length. Some are only day long affairs, but well worth the time.

Certainly, the one day conferences are attractive from a size and expense perspective. They are usually smaller local affairs that demand fewer dollars and fewer hours than the larger, longer conferences. One day conferences are usually more focused, with specific writing or publishing topics as their stated purposes. None the less, with careful choosing, it is possible to achieve all the same research and networking goals at a small one-day event as it is at a huge week-long extravaganza. The key is to be certain that the information you want is available at the conference whether it be from an expert in firearms or a publishing house representative.

One way to be certain is to participate in planning the conference. Another is to research the conference before you register. The RWR has contact information on writers' conferences throughout the US every month. Either of these options requires effort, as does actually attending the conference. You must not only clear time on your schedule to be present, you must also register—usually in advance, pack your bags (even if it's just a brief case for a one-day event) arrange for baby sitters or time off from work, make travel arrangements and hotel reservations, set up appointments, bring books and/or promotional items and attend to a host of other details that often apply only to your special circumstances. Whatever arrangements you must make to attend a conference, those arrangements take effort on your part. *How much effort are you willing or able to expend in order to attend a conference?*

Regardless of size, expense, time and effort involved, each conference offers the opportunity to achieve a variety of goals. One of the best events I ever attended was a small one-day conference in the Detroit area where a nationally known and highly influential agent was invited to speak. This was, if I recall correctly, a “members only” event for the Greater Detroit Romance Writers of America. I learned more in that one day about the business of being a romance author than I have learned before or since. I had the opportunity to pitch my work to this agent and to network with other authors. The costs were minimal as was the time involved. This was a good event for me because it provided the means for me to achieve goals that I had set for myself. And that is perhaps the most important criteria for choosing a conference.

*What goals do you want to achieve by attending a specific event?* Remember, even the smallest, least expensive event can provide opportunities for achieving your goals, but that doesn't mean you should attend every small conference. It profits you nothing to spend a day in Lansing with other writers and writing experts, if your goal is to meet a specific agent who is not attending that conference. To achieve that goal you must choose one or more of the conferences that agent is attending. So before you sink time, money and effort into a conference, think carefully about what it is you want to achieve and how/if you will be able to achieve those goals at the event you are considering.

In the best of all possible worlds we would be able to attend every conference simply for the fun of the event, and believe me, these events can be a great deal of fun. Please remember to add that factor into your equation for choosing a conference. Whether you attend a large conference or a small one, a distant conference or a local affair, many conferences per year or only one, if you target your attendance to achieve your specific goals and you choose to have fun, you will always have the best possible conference experience.

Thank you, Susan C. Charnley

## The Business of Writing, an Inside View: Part Four

From Mid-Michigan's published authors



### **Kathleen Nance**

#### **What was your biggest surprise concerning the business end of being a published author?**

How time consuming it can be. Publicity especially, no matter what you choose to do.

#### **What is your idea of the most important rules of etiquette?**

Be sure and tell people thank you for help, for reviews, for input. But, that's a general rule of etiquette for living, and those all still apply.

#### **What were you least prepared for?**

From the publicity end, that it would be hard to figure out what is effective. I've tried several different things and haven't gotten a good feel even yet for what works. Publicity is also very unpredictable. What works for one, won't for another. One person can promote and be barely noticed, while another does little and suddenly is all the rage from buzz/word of mouth. That's not something you can always control.

#### **What helped you the most with the business of being a writer?**

Talking with other writers, finding out how they do things and what pitfalls they've encountered.

#### **If you could only give one bit of business advice to a new author, what wisdom would you offer?**

Keep organized and take care of things in a timely manner. Don't let it pile up.

### **Peggy Hanchar**

#### **What was your biggest surprise concerning the business end of being a published author?**

I think the publicity needs! To complete a book you must be able to work in isolation which is easier for writers than most folks. To promote that book, we have to change hats and it's not always an easy fit. I always had to push myself to do his part of writing, but promotion is part and parcel of the job. Publishers are more willing to put money on the line to promote your book when they see what effort you're willing to put forth.

#### **What is your idea of the most important rules of etiquette?**

Don't speak longer than you're supposed to at conferences, etc. Other writers have equally important issues to discuss. Always show encouragement and kindness to another writer's work. Always be on time with your manuscript and be amenable when your editor discusses changes. She knows more about the market than you do. She's trying to sell that book for you. Remember to be kind and patient to your husband and children. After all, they're the source of your inspiration, the product of your very real romance!

#### **What were you least prepared for?**

Again, the need for promotion and publicity; I thought if I just wrote the book, everything else fell into place. Today's writers are much more savvy about such things. Another thing I was least prepared for is the cattiness and jealousy of some writers, published and unpublished, who seem afraid that your success is somehow taking away from their own.

Fortunately, RWA® promotes a totally different attitude, giving full support and encouragement and kudos along the way. I think for that reason, when you run across someone who's not displaying that same fellowship, it's a bit of a shock.

**What helped you the most with the business of being a writer?**

I do think RWA® and our local chapters did the most to help guide me through so many of the stumbling blocks. Although I published before I actually joined RWA®, I was so glad to have that advice and support so generously given by other published writers in that first year and every year since.

**If you could only give one bit of business advice to a new author, what wisdom would you offer?**

Don't quit your day job! Selling one book does not ensure you'll sell a second or third or a tenth. Also don't count on your royalties until the check is cashed and in your bank account!! Keep good records and receipts and find a good accountant! Preferably one with a sense of humor!

**One of our authors preferred to remain anonymous.**

**What was your biggest surprise concerning the business end of being a published author?**

One of my biggest surprises is how little money there is, especially for first time authors.

**What is your idea of the most important rules of etiquette?**

I'm a bit confused by this question. Etiquette is no different for authors than it is for other people, so all the rules are important. Treat others as you expect to be treated regardless of how they behave to you.

**What were you least prepared for?**

I was least prepared for the amount of promotion and PR that I had to do on my own.

**What helped you the most with the business of being a writer?**

My fellow authors

**If you could only give one bit of business advice to a new author, what wisdom would you offer?**

Learn all you can about the business side from every source available. Be prepared.



**Marsha Ransom**

Although I have a book published, I don't know if I have any wisdom to impart. I'm basically just muddling my way through the whole thing - trying to promote my book through home-schooling, e-mail lists and being available to answer questions so people get to know me and want to buy my book. I have spoken at and keynoted a few home-schooling conferences. I speak for small groups, too, and have had some book signings. I don't usually have good luck at regular bookstores - although I've done a few Barnes & Nobles. I do better at venues which are marketed directly to home-schoolers since the book is about home-schooling (and home-schoolers are only about 1% of the total population!).

I guess I didn't really have any big surprises about the business end of being an author. I already knew that it didn't pay well unless you either wrote prolifically or penned a bestseller! I have been self-employed in a number of ventures in the past so I wasn't surprised that writing takes a lot of work, just like anything else I've done! Maybe more - as finding the time to write has been a really big struggle!

My biggest concern about the business end of being a published author is much like that of any other business I have been involved in: keeping good records, and keeping track of things so I have the money set aside for my taxes at the end of the year! As well as being a book author, I am a freelance writer and newspaper correspondent, so all the things add up to a neat little income. And Uncle Sam wants his share of all of it!

I guess if there was any surprise, it was the size (bigger than I expected) of the advance I got, and the short amount of time I had to get the book written after my book proposal was accepted. At the time I got my contract, I noticed a billboard advertising for a manager at the local Family Video Store and they would get half of my advance for working full-time all year. I "earned" twice as much in 6 months! And could do it at home, in between home-schooling my kids! I got half my advance on signing the contract (because I had submitted a workable outline and a sample chapter with my query - and that is what was required for the first half) and a quarter each at the halfway point when I submitted a certain portion of the book, and at the end, when I submitted the final portion. From the time my proposal was accepted until my final portion of the book was due was 6 months. And I had to start writing immediately to accomplish that - I did not have a signed contract for 2 months because of glitches with the publishing house (Macmillan) and the person who normally handled that being on maternity leave. I started writing trusting that my agent, who had worked with Macmillan on "Idiot's Guides" before knew that it would be okay. And it all worked out. I set a goal of writing 5 pages a day to meet that goal. I was nervous, but I figured even if I didn't get the contract, I would submit the ms. to the Dummies publisher!!

Another thing that you could say surprised me was that a month was dedicated to editing the book. I worked with 7 different editors altogether, but mainly with two who line edited the book. They were wonderful! I thought I would feel like they were cutting up my baby, but I learned a lot about writing from them. Because they were not familiar with the topic, the questions they asked helped me to fine-tune what I had written to be more helpful to a beginner home-schooler (the publisher's vision for the series.) They told me more than once that I was the expert - that they were just there to help me make a good book better! And I believe they did.



**Maris Soule**

**What was your biggest surprise concerning the business end of being a published author?**

That I didn't get rich. Somehow, I always thought if I sold a book, I would get lots and lots of money. Ha!

**What is your idea of the most important rules of etiquette?**

Do unto others as you would have done unto you. Be polite to editors,

agents and other writers. Don't say anything behind someone's back that you wouldn't say in front of his or her face.

**What were you least prepared for?**

The ups and downs of this business. That just when you think you have made it, the bottom falls out -- a line is closed, your editor leaves, sales drop.

**What helped you the most with the business of being a writer?**

The support of other writers who willingly shared advice. Kay Hooper, who took the initiative and helped me (and lots of other writers) get our rights back when Loveswept ceased to be. My agent who fought for every dollar. Staying alert myself so I knew when I was supposed to be paid and checked to make sure I received what I was supposed to receive. Keeping good records.

**If you could only give one bit of business advice to a new author, what wisdom would you offer?**

After you've been creative and written your book, put on your business hat and approach this as a business. You have a product to sell. Play fair, be honest, expect honesty back, but watch out for people who will take you. CYA - Cover Your Ass.

Our thanks to Peggy Hanchar, Kathleen Nance, Marsha Ransom, and Maris Soule and to the other published authors of our Mid-Michigan chapter who have given us their insights into the business of being a writer.

## Contests

**Emerald City Opener/Greater Seattle Chapter**

Received by July 15, 2003

Four copies of the first scene up to seven pages.

[http://www.gsrwa.org/emerald\\_city\\_con/ec\\_opener/ec\\_opener2003.htm](http://www.gsrwa.org/emerald_city_con/ec_opener/ec_opener2003.htm)

**2003 Gold Leaf Contest (Published Writers)/New Jersey Romance Writers**

Register Deadline: been extended until July 12th!

Romance novels with a first copyright date or first North American printing date of

**August 2002 through July 2003**

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Gallery/7019/2003GLguidelines.html>

**2003 Heart to Heart Contest/San Francisco Area RWA®**

Received by July 15, 2003

A complete scene, maximum 10 pages, in which the hero and heroine meet for the first time or for the first time in the book if they are previously acquainted

[http://www.sfarwa.com/h2h\\_info.html](http://www.sfarwa.com/h2h_info.html)

**A Cup of Comfort for Teachers**

Submission Deadline: July 15, 2003

See Submission Specifications <http://www.cupofcomfort.com/share.htm>

**Fifth Annual Picture This Contest/Inland Empire Chapter**

Received by August 1, 2003

Send us the best scene from your book, **5-12 pages**<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Studios/2936/contest.html>**2003 Hot Prospects Contest/Valley of the Sun**

DEADLINE AUGUST 1ST, 2003

Synopsis up to ten pages/plus manuscript pages not to go over 30 pages in all.

<http://www.azauthors.com/voscontest.html>**4th Annual Madcap (Published)/Heart and Scroll Chapter**

Received by August 1, 2003

Book with 2002 copyright. <http://www.passionatepen.com/scroll/madcap.htm>**A Cup of Comfort for Sisters**

Submission Deadline: August 1, 2003

See Submission Specifications <http://www.cupofcomfort.com/share.htm>**Where the Magic Begins/Romance Writers Ink**

Postmark Deadline: August 2, 2003

First 25 pages of manuscript/ <http://www.ipcsolutions.com/rwi/contest.shtml>**Black-Gold Spurlock Contest/Trinity Writers Workshop**

Postmarked by August 8, 2003/Twenty pages, one page synopsis

<http://www.trinitywritersworkshop.com/pages/4/index.htm>**Finally a Bride Contest/Oklahoma Romance Writers**

This is for writers who have finalized in a contest! (60% of Finalists received requests!)

Received by August 15, 2003

[www.okrwa.com](http://www.okrwa.com) Email questions to: [okrwabride@yahoo.com](mailto:okrwabride@yahoo.com)**Southern Heat 2003 Writing Contest/RWA ®- East Texas Chapter**

Received Deadline: August 15, 2003

First Chapter (up to ten pages) Synopsis (up to five pages)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ContestLink/files/SOUTHERN%20HEAT/SH%20Entry%20Forms.doc>**Ozark Creative Writers/Postmark by August 26, 2003**

Check out the different categories...entrants must register for conference

Page down for details...

[http://www.ozarkcreativewriters.org/annual\\_conference.htm](http://www.ozarkcreativewriters.org/annual_conference.htm)**Gateway to the Rest/Missouri Romance Authors**

Received by August 29, 2003

The first chapter (max 25 pages including prologue if any)

<http://www.morwa.org/Chapter1.html>

**2003 LAUREL WREATH AWARD (for Published Writers)**

VOLUSIA COUNTY ROMANCE WRITERS

Received by August 31, 2003/Copyright date of 2002

<http://www.jcj.net/vcrw/contests.htm>**Oak Leaf Award for Unpublished Authors/Oak Leaf Romance Writers**

Deadline; September 1, 2003

Synopsis - 5 pages. Beginning of book, not over 25 pages

<http://www.geocities.com/CHARTEROAKRWA/Contest/contest.html>**2003 Golden Rose Contest /Rose City Romance Writers**

Postmarked: September 8, 2003

Synopsis and first three chapters (55 page max).

<http://www.rosecityromancewriters.com/>**Sweet, Spicy & Spooky/Smokey Mountain Romance Writers**

Received by Sept. 30, 2003

One page set-up and ten (10) page scene between hero and heroine with an emotional impact.

<http://www.smrw.org/contests/ssscontest/sss.htm>**Launching a Star/Spacecoast Authors of Romance**

Postmark Deadline: October 1, 2003

The author's "best" chapter, maximum 20 pages, plus a two page (max) set-up of what is happening leading up to the scene

<http://www.authorsofomance.com/LAUNCHING%20A%20STAR%202003.htm>**2nd Annual Romancing the Tome/Coeur de Louisiane RWA® Chapter**

Received Deadline: October 11, 2003

Enter: First five (5) pages and two (2) page synopsis

Short Contemporary; Long Contemporary; Single Title; Historical; Romantic Suspense; Paranormal and Inspirational.

Judges are trained. Final Round Judges; Editors and Agents.

<http://www.geocities.com/coeurdelouisiane/Contest.html>**12th Annual Heart of the West Writers' Contest/Utah Chapter of RWA®**

Postmark Deadline: October 15, 2003

Opening 20 pages.

<http://www.xmission.com/~utahrwa/howcontest.html>**Obadiah Press/Enter before December 31, 2003**

Write a 1,000 to 2,000 word original article or essay based on the theme "Hope" and you could win \$5000\*

[http://www.obadiahpress.com/contest\\_writers.htm](http://www.obadiahpress.com/contest_writers.htm)

**2003 Heart to Heart Contest,**/San Francisco Area RWA®

Received by July 15, 2003

A complete scene, maximum 10 pages, in which the hero and heroine meet for the first time or for the first time in the book if they are previously acquainted

[http://www.sfarwa.com/h2h\\_info.html](http://www.sfarwa.com/h2h_info.html)

Compiled by Donna Caubarreaux....May be forwarded with credits. Donna Caubarreaux is a member of Coeur de Louisiane, NOLA Stars, Heart of Louisiana, Kiss of Death, Scriptscene and From the Heart Chapters of RWA. She received a RWA Service Award in 1997. She sponsors several writing lists...

### Conferences

**Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers 20th Annual Colorado Gold Writers Conference**

September 12, 13 and 14, 2003 in Denver, Colorado at the Denver Renaissance Hotel

Keynote Speaker: Karen Robards

Kick-off Speaker: Diane Mott Davidson

Farewell Luncheon Speaker: C.J. Box

Agents: Michelle Grajkowski, Irene Kraas, Kristin Nelson, Janet Reid and Pam Strickler

Editors: Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Tor; Jennifer Heddle, ROC; Susanne Kirk, Scribner;

Craig Nelsen, Loveland Press

Registration includes all 52 conference workshops and presentations, an informal Dessert Buffet at the Friday evening Book Sale, Saturday and Sunday morning Continental Breakfast Buffet, Saturday evening Awards Banquet, and Sunday Luncheon Buffet.

Registration before July 30: \$189

Registration by August 30: \$209

Registration after August 30: \$229

Editor and agent appointments require pre-registration and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Editor/Agent workshops offer the opportunity to have your work professionally critiqued. Workshop fee is \$30 to participate, \$20 to audit. Space is limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

For a registration form and the full line-up of workshops being offered, visit

<http://www.rmfw.org>

Don't delay! Conference registration is limited to 350 people

Printed with permission

### Directions to the Mid Michigan RWA July Meeting

**The Golden Rose** is located off I-196 on Okemos road:

**FROM EAST:**

\*Merge onto I-96 W toward LANSING.

\*Take the exit- exit number 110- toward MASON/OKEMOS. 0.38 miles

\*Turn LEFT onto OKEMOS RD. 0.63 miles

**FROM SOUTH:** (Jackson)

\*I-94W/US-127 N \*Take the US-127/M-50 exit- exit number 138- toward LANSING/JACKSON. 0.33 mi.

\*Take the ramp toward LANSING/CHARLOTTE. 0.11 miles

\*Merge onto US-127 N. 25.57 miles

\*Take the HOLT RD exit toward HOLT. 0.40 miles

\*Turn RIGHT onto HOLT RD. 2.18 miles Turn LEFT onto OKEMOS RD. 2.11 miles

**FROM SOUTH** (Kalamazoo)

\*Merge onto I-94 E. 27.25 miles

\*Take the I-69 N/US-27 N exit- exit #108- toward LANSING. 0.93miles

\*Keep LEFT at the fork in the ramp. 0.45 miles

\*Merge onto I-69 N. 33.80 miles

\*Merge onto I-96 E via exit number 72 toward DETROIT.12.81 mile

\*Take the exit- exit number 110- toward OKEMOS/MASON.

\*Turn RIGHT onto OKEMOS RD.

**FROM WEST:** (starting in Holland)

\*I-196 E. 31.66 miles

\*I-196 E becomes I-96 E. 72.00 miles

\*Take the exit- exit number 110- toward OKEMOS/MASON 0.38 miles

\*Turn RIGHT onto OKEMOS RD. 0.42 miles

-----  
**The Golden Rose, 3056 Okemos Rd. (corner of I-96 & Okemos Road) Lansing, MI 48854** /phone: (517) 349-9500

Pat Lazarus at LazArt2000@cs.com for a map.

**Deadline for submissions to the August issue of Mid-Michigan Mirror is July 20.  
 Your input and submissions are welcome.**

**Revised MMRWA Meeting and Speaker Schedule 2003**

<b>Month/Day</b>	<b>Restaurant, City</b>	<b>Speaker/Program</b>
July 12	Golden Rose, Lansing	Prepping for NY
August 16	Damon's, Grand Rapids	FBI Guy?
September 20	Gilbert's, Jackson	Tony Englund
October 11	Gallagher's, Kalamazoo	Nancy Gideon/Laurie Kuna
November 15	Golden Rose, Lansing	Gail Gaymer Martin
December	Christmas Party, TBA	Santa Claus

### 2003 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Officers

President: Lana Miersen  
[j.l.miersen@cablespeed.com](mailto:j.l.miersen@cablespeed.com)  
 Secretary: Rohn Federbush  
[rohn@comcast.net](mailto:rohn@comcast.net)

Vice-president: Pat Lazarus  
[LazArt2000@cs.com](mailto:LazArt2000@cs.com)  
 Treasurer: Diane Burton  
[Dburton72@aol.com](mailto:Dburton72@aol.com)

### 2003 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Committee Chairs

Welcome/Membership: Dawn Bartley [bartleyd@chartermi.net](mailto:bartleyd@chartermi.net)  
 Publicity: Juli Schuitema [jl\\_schuitema@yahoo.com](mailto:jl_schuitema@yahoo.com)  
 PAN Liaison: Dana Nussio [nussio@earthlink.net](mailto:nussio@earthlink.net)  
 Retreat: Pam Trombley [ptrombley@voyager.net](mailto:ptrombley@voyager.net)  
 Library: Maris Soule [SOULEM@aol.com](mailto:SOULEM@aol.com) and Lucy Kubash [lucykubash@parrett.net](mailto:lucykubash@parrett.net)  
 Newsletter Editor: Annette Briggs [afbriggs@hotmail.com](mailto:afbriggs@hotmail.com) and Laurie Kuna  
[lauriecarroll55@worldnet.att.net](mailto:lauriecarroll55@worldnet.att.net) hard copy publication and distribution  
 Web mistress: Michelle Crean [mecrean@parrett.net](mailto:mecrean@parrett.net)

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of RWA®. Market information does not constitute an endorsement by RWA® or MMRWA. Readers are urged to determine for themselves the reliability and integrity of those with whom they deal. RWA® sister chapters may reprint any information in this newsletter, providing credit is given to MMRWA and its author. Non-RWA® groups must secure permission from the author. Writers are encouraged to check market report accuracy through RWA® Hotline, 281-440-6885, press 8.

### Mid-Michigan Mirror Hard Copy

In response to requests for a printed copy of the chapter newsletter, the board has decided to make it available to those who wish to pay for the printing and mailing cost starting with the July issue. Please print out the following form:

MMRWA NEWSLETTER

I wish to receive a printed copy of the newsletter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I am including \$5.00 for issues July through November, 2003.

Mail to:  
 Diane Burton, MMRWA Treasurer  
 602 E. Oak St  
 Saint Johns, MI 48879-2422