

♥ Winner of the 1999 RWA® Mid-Sized Chapter Newsletter Contest ♥

The Mid-Michigan Mirror Reflection of Romance



♥ A publication of the Mid-Michigan Chapter (#12) of Romance Writers of America® ♥

Volume II Issue 6

JUNE 2004



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**Please refer to: MMRWABUSINESS@yahoo.com for MMRWA meeting minutes
and chapter business information**



Sue Brockman with Dawn Bartley at Brockman's recent book signing at KAZOO BOOKS

We *All* Have Something In Common by Dawn Bartley

Should I or shouldn't I? That was the debate. Should I or should I not take an extra long lunch and haul my cookies across town to hear Suzanne Brockman talk and autograph books. (Okay, I was thinking with a very fuzzy brain. And stress. I found out on Thursday I would be losing my job, and a nasty cold and my parents showed up on Friday.) The answer? Duh!

The story is continued on page 4

Thanks to the contributors for the May issue of Mid-Michigan Mirror. The next issue of the Mirror has room for news and contributions by our July issue deadline of June 25. Please query or submit at: brainchilde@websurfers.biz

June Meeting Preview
Join us at Sam's Joint in Plainwell on June 19th, NOON, when our speaker will be Dr. Sandra Portko. She will be discussing the effects of stress, how to alleviate it and in doing so, how to increase our writing productivity. Sandra is a professor of psychology at Grand Valley State University. Her courses range from Child Development to Feminine Archetypes to The Hero's Journey - and everything in between.

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Inventing the Future . . .

A message from our president

Summer is upon us. As the sun shines more often, now might be the time to get out of a writing slump. Open the window and be inspired. Take your notebook – *and a pen* – outside and soak up the rays while you create a new story. Summer can rejuvenate your creativity if you let it.

Looking ahead, if you plan to go to National Conference and haven't registered already, there is still time. National Conference promises to be wonderful yet again this year. For those of you who wanted to get an editor appointment and missed your opportunity, take heart! Last year, I signed up for one editor appointment and couldn't get an agent appointment. By the end of conference, I had three editor appointments and an agent appointment. There are more opportunities to be had once you get to Dallas. I'll give more details on how next month.

This month our speaker Sandra Portko will speak to us about Stress Reduction and Increasing Productivity. Does anyone need this? Stress Reduction? Increased Productivity? I thought so.

See you at the meeting, *Michele Hickerty, President*



Member News

ROSANNE BITTNER: Working on newly-contracted inspirational for Steeple Hill - INGRID'S CHOICE. First inspirational, WHERE HEAVEN BEGINS, is selling well, and #2, WALK BY FAITH, is coming in January. Steeple Hill sent Rosanne to Nashville to the National Women's Ministries Assoc. conference to sign books and talk to readers of Christian fiction. Her next Forge hard cover, INTO THE PRAIRIE, is coming in July. Rosanne wants all members to know she has available copies of Steeple Hill's guidelines for Women's Fiction, the Love Inspired line, Romantic Suspense and Chick-lit/Mom-lit books. Also has submission guidelines. Anyone who wants copies can e-mail Rosanne at bittner@parrett.net. She will also bring copies to the June meeting. Steeple Hill is still expanding and looking for even more authors. Will be signing books June 10th in Lansing at Waldenbooks after the July meeting. Also attending a very large author signing in Gaylord Michigan Saturday July 31st - Forge Books invited her and is paying for the hotel!

Jackie Braun: Just found out the manuscript I turned in a few weeks ago will be a April 2005 U.S. Harlequin Romance release. I'm not sure of the title yet. This means I have a release in July 2004 (Her Stand-In Groom) and November 2004 (The Game Show Bride) and now April 2005. Very excited.

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Member News continued from page 2

Rohn Federbush: Painting my way out a depressed corner (watercolor and oils), I've emerged to attend a University of Michigan sponsored Bear River Writers' Conference upper-lower Michigan. I'm hoping my writer's block will dissolve into rewriting skills or even a mystery tugging at my brain. Hope to see you all after the National, where I'll enjoy your success stories.

Melissa Ford : *FOUR WEEKS*, my contemporary romance, will be one of the featured titles in Hard Shell Word Factory's June newsletter. The article will include an interview and a bit about my book.

Anne Marie King-Jakubiak: I got a partial out. Other than that I've spent my time either running my husband back and forth to hospitals in Kalamazoo for surgeries and other procedures.

Sharolett Koenig: I finished my locked-room whodunit titled Ink On Her Nose and now working on the screenplay.

Gail Martin: Have two books that have finaled in three national contests. *Loving Ways* has finaled in the Booksellers Best and the Golden Quill. *The Christmas Kite* has finaled in long inspirational for the Holt Medallion. Returned from being on staff at a conference in Colorado and heard from a rep from Larry Levinson Productions, an Emmy-winning producer of Hallmark movies. They are negotiating options on *The Christmas Kite* for a Hallmark movie. I'm thrilled, but not holding my breath. Will be doing two book signings at Christian Booksellers Association Inter-nation Expo in June; will be signing *Adam's Promise*, the launch book for the continuity series Faith on the Line, and will attend a tea and book signing with Catherine Palmer on the hardcover gift book *That Christmas Feeling*. Finishing up an unexpected sale of a Christmas romantic suspense single title for Steeple Hill to be released November 2005.

Lana Miersen: *Falcon's Way* finaled in the 2004 Daphne, unpubbed paranormal. Still waiting to hear from Chris Keeslar, re: FW [sigh]. Polishing and polishing the first three chapters and synopsis of the contemporary I'm submitting to the Warner Forever editor for her critique.

Kathleen Nance: Is a Daphne du Maurier Published Award Finalist, in the paranormal category with her entry, *Spellbound*.

Word has been received that **Joyce Soule** and her husband have not been well. Members who want to send well wishes and encouragement can find their address/e-address in our roster.

Sincere condolences to **Anne Marie King-Jakubiak** on the recent loss of her father-in-law.



June Meeting Preview continued from front page

Sandra has five children - the youngest of whom graduates from high school this month, five grandchildren and has taught at GVSU for the past 25 years. Prior to that, she received her RN degree and worked in the Operating Room and occasionally the Emergency Room. While working as a nurse and raising her family, she also managed to receive Bachelors degrees in both Philosophy and Psychology - simultaneously. While continuing her nursing profession she also managed to get her Masters in Psychology, and later, after teaching for several years, received her Doctorate. Sandra is no stranger to stress.

Directions on page 14

**We All Have Something In Common** by Dawn Bartley continued from the front page

Back to Suzanne, I arrived at Kazoo Books later than I anticipated. Suzanne was already speaking, so I tried to sneak in to the back as quietly as possible – which was next to impossible due to the ding-dong of the doorbell signaling every patron’s coming and going.

Suzanne was giving her audience a little background on how she learned all she has about the Navy SEALS she writes about. Her first nugget of information to her audience: “You never know how much you don’t know.” Her point was that when writing about something you’re unfamiliar with, all the research in the world wouldn’t help you if there were one piece of information missing. And you won’t know any better!

She also let us in on a little story about her days as a calendar girl...she was on a photo shoot with a Navy SEAL she knew, posing as “the rescued” of a SEAL operation. – (Now, I don’t know how she could tolerate being carried around all day like a princess swept off her feet. I mean, that’s tough work!) Unfortunately, her shoot didn’t make the calendar, but it did make for a great story.

When she was finished giving some of her background about her writing career with the SEALS, Suzanne took questions from her audience...

- Where do you get your ideas?
- When do you get your ideas? Do they strike at any time?
- How do you remember your ideas, do you jot them down?
- Do Navy people read your books?
- Do your kids read your books?

Okay, so the last two I can’t identify with, but the answers to the others gave me such a feeling of validation.

As writers, we get our ideas from all over the place. It might be from the couple at the next table at a wedding reception, from the sparks you see fly between two co-workers of the opposite sex, from the Victorian house you just drove past. Ideas are all around us.

And we know the ideas come to us at any old time. They just pop-up – in the shower, standing in line at the grocery store, walking the dogs, touring a museum, etc. – there’s no stopping them.

The last one I identify with is somewhat of an annoyance to my husband, Dirk. I am constantly stopping to grab a pad of paper or my Alphasmart before we leave the house. Yes! We jot down our ideas – we, as writers, have so many we can’t help ourselves.

So, when Suzanne finished answering everyone’s questions she patiently sat to autograph copies of her books. The cloud of haze I had been traveling in must have settled back in, because I agreed that I’d write this Suzanne’s visit. (What was I thinking?) There was even a raffle of some of her items. I won a hardcover!

I finally dragged myself back to my car and headed back to work. On the drive I realized I was really glad I decided go, even if I was miserably stuffed up.

Moral of the story? Big or small, we all have something in common.

Preparing for National Conference July 28-August 1:

The following article was used in the March 2004 issue of The Writer's Saddle, the newsletter for the Calgary RWA chapter.

Professional Socializing: Networking Survival Techniques for Authors

By Brenda Collins

Writing is a business, or so I heard repeatedly last July at the RWA® National Conference in New York City. Therefore, if you aspire to be a published author, you need to supplement your writing talent with solid business skills like networking. This makes perfect sense once you stop to think about it. Networking is all about developing relationships, credibility and referrals to support your business as published authors. However, knowing that, doesn't make it any less intimidating, right?

"I can't network," you say, teetering on the brink of panic. "I'm an introvert."

I often hear that networking must be easy for me because I'm an extrovert. Not so. Networking is 80% listening and 20% speaking according to the experts. If you spend more than 20% of the time talking (a common issue for extroverts) you're not a good networker, you're just a good conversationalist. For this article, I spoke with three professional coaches who help people develop career skills such as networking. One, a psychologist by education, told me that in his experience most creative types like writers are introverts. When asked if being an introvert made it impossible to network, he responded, "Not at all." Being an introvert also tends to mean that you empathize well with people and tend to treat the people you meet as unique individuals. You're curious, receptive to others' ideas and a good listener. These are all excellent skills for successful networking.

What I Wish I'd Known Before Going to National Conference

Lana Miersen: The one thing I wish I knew before I attended my first RWA National Conference is that it is not necessary, or even desirable, to attend a workshop in every scheduled time period. I wore myself out, and my brain turned to mush. Better to attend the workshops you consider must-see (and/or those that are not taped) and to buy the tapes for the others of interest to you. And then take a break to rest up (a nap would be nice) during the day so you can stay up late at night to schmooze with the editors in the lounge.

What I Wish I'd Known Before Going to National Conference

Jackie Braun: As for national: The first time I went I didn't know a soul. I'd just joined RWA and didn't belong to our chapter yet. Anyway, since I didn't have any friends to spend time with, I wore myself out on workshops. It's a good idea to build some downtime into your schedule to just relax, talk with other writers or see the sights in that city. Also, don't be afraid to walk out of a workshop -- quietly, of course -- if you realize it really isn't right for you. Sometimes the descriptive blurbs don't adequately sum up the workshop. It's a waste of your time and money to sit through something that isn't going to help you as a writer.

So what is really stopping you from networking? FEAR! Fear of failure. Fear of making a mistake. Fear of embarrassment. Mostly you're afraid you'll wreck your one and only opportunity to be published by saying or doing the wrong thing in public. If you were going to let fear stop you from achieving your writing dreams, you wouldn't be writing at all. You've already overcome your fear because you know you can't succeed if you don't try. I learned all my networking lessons the hard way, even the classic coffee spill down the front of a white wool suit. At least it was my white suit and not someone else's.

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Professional Socializing continued from page 5

The real networking mistakes

There are some mistakes you can make with networking. How about postponing networking until you have to, like once you're published? You'll have enough new challenges once you get The Call, so why not master this

one now. The most common mistake is hiding in your comfort zone. You ball up your courage to go to an event but then stick with the people you already know while you're there. You can talk to them any time, so sit with someone new. You're unlikely to be embarrassed if you always behave professionally. I once spoke ill of someone while standing in the customs lineup in Heathrow Airport only to discover my target was standing two people behind me. What are the odds? Remember the cardinal rule - if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all - because there's no telling who's standing behind you.

As writers we spend much of our time making our characters use body language to express themselves. If you want your heroine to meet the hero at a party, you wouldn't have her sit in a corner with arms crossed and a grim face. She'd be standing out in the open with a smile because that would make her approachable. Remember that the point of networking is to connect with people from the business.

There are really only eight things you have to do to network

Eight Steps to Networking:

- 1 Three deep breaths on the way in
- 2 Pick your target(s)
- 3 Shake hands - firm, but not a bone crusher - palm to palm
- 4 Make eye contact.
- 5 Circulate as much as possible
- 6 Ask for introductions and introduce others
- 7 Follow through on commitments you make
- 8 Keep records of who you met, when and where so that you can reference it when the opportunity arises.

Tips for the Timid

Take the time to prepare. You know the first thing a new acquaintance will ask when you meet them is "what do you do?" Prepare an elevator speech that will tell them what

What I Wish I'd Known Before Going to National Conference

Melissa Ford : Before I go to national I wish I knew...which restaurants had the best food. !

What I Wish I'd Known Before Going to National Conference

Sharollett Koenig: The one thing I wish I'd known before going to National the first time: I wish I'd gotten a map of the place and "studied" it so I wouldn't feel so lost and overwhelmed by the size and the number of people. Also I would keep a list of all the extra activities and times going on besides the workshops, although I did manage to stay busy every waking moment. And I'd take along lots of chocolate and energy bars.

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Professional Socializing continued from page 6

makes you distinctive as an author in 25 words or less. One of my favorite Harlequin Intrigue authors might say, "I'm Mallory Kane and I write spicy hot romantic suspense set in steamy New Orleans." Mine is "I write novels of romantic intrigue infused with maritime lore." You can even print up business cards and put your elevator speech on the back.

Dress appropriately for the networking event. As a new writer, I wasn't sure what to wear to my first conference so I checked with an expert. On the back cover of her recent book *Remember When*, Nora Roberts, as a highly successful romance author, was wearing a soft grey suit with an elegant knit sweater. Standing beside her was co-author JD Robb who writes edgier sci-fi suspense. She was wearing a svelte black leather jacket. Yes, I know they're the same person but clearly, from a marketing perspective, she knows they aren't!

What we all know is that your manuscript will never be published as long as it stays locked in your drawer. Unless you send your manuscript -- and yourself -- out there, that publishing opportunity will have a hard time finding you.

What I Wish I'd Known Before Going to National Conference

Gail Martin: What is the one thing I wished I knew before going to National the first time? The first year I went to National I tried to do everything. I almost killed myself filling every minute with workshops. I was overwhelmed and probably didn't learn as much if I'd paced myself. Remember that you can buy tapes and share notes with other conferees so you can have some free time to relax, to enjoy, to network, and to have a good time.

Tricks for Remembering Names

Use it three times in your conversation or say it to yourself three times.

Do word association with someone famous or someone you already know.

Say hello again or good bye -- they will have forgotten your name and will be impressed that you have remembered theirs

Breaking into a conversation

Select groups of three or more -- they are more likely to be engaged in an informal chat. Two people most often know each other and could be having a more personal discussion.

.Stand at the edge of the target group - typically they will then ease out to include you.

Don't break into conversation right away; follow the string and contribute when appropriate.

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Professional Socializing continued from page 7

Exiting a conversation

If someone is monopolizing you, use the classic 3-B maneuver. Draw someone else into the discussion then break away for the bar, buffet, or bathroom.

Things to Say:

What do you do for a living? How did you get into the publishing/writing business?

What do you enjoy most about the role you play in this industry?

What is the one thing I could do to make your job easier?

What advice would you give to someone just starting in the writing business?

What significant changes have you seen take place in your field / genre over the years?

What do you see as the coming trends in the publishing industry?

If a publisher or agent: What separates your company from others? What is the one thing I could do as an author to make your job easier?

An author? What ways have you found most effective for developing / promoting your writing?

Brenda Collins is a recognized speaker in the computer security field in both Canada and the US and has been published in various forums including industry trade magazines on related business issues. She's a member of the Calgary Chapter of RWA®, Kiss of Death, and a founding member of Mystery Writers Ink. She is currently financing her writing career by moonlighting as a management consultant.

Louise Behiel & Patsy McNish, Co-Editors, The Writer's Saddle, Calgary RWA
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RETREAT FROM HARSH REALITY 2004 OUR 20TH ANNUAL RETREAT CELEBRATION

Retreat From Harsh Reality 2004 was our twentieth annual Retreat and it was a great celebration for the wonderful writers in our chapter. Along with our usual Retreat activities, there were some new events as well as a few special things to help celebrate our milestone. But, as always, it was a unique blend of fun, relaxation, information and inspiration that probably can't be found anywhere else. A true team effort, Retreat functioned so well because of the great committees who planned it and the warm,

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RETREAT continued from page 8

friendly and extremely creative people who came to participate. I want to thank everyone who stepped up to help before or during the Retreat since you all made it the great success it was. A special thanks goes to my "sneaky sisters" who helped me secretly plan the special twentieth gifts and activities: Wil Emerson, Pat Lazarus, Laurie Kuna and Melissa Lucken.

Aileen Hyne's expert and uniquely creative leadership on the Book Basket Raffle and Auctions made them a huge success especially with the addition of the new Silent Auction, a feature which will return next year. The Raffle raised \$194.00, the Silent Auction raised \$285.00 and the Live Auction raised \$915.00. With Retreat refunds donated by three attendees, the total funds raised for the Kalamazoo YWCA Domestic Assault Program was \$1426.00. Thanks to Laurie Kuna, auctioneer extraordinaire for her witty repartee and Dawn Bartley for her hawking of the raffle tickets. A huge thank you also goes to the many others who sought and cajoled and connived all the "non-book" goodies that overflowed out of all the baskets and to all those who worked so hard on Friday to assemble the baskets equally. There were over 60 friends and authors from our own chapter and around the world who donated books and goodies for the baskets and their names are listed below.

Fundraising for our chapter always goes on quietly in the background at Retreat. Published author critiques brought in \$75.00, the Waldenbook Book Sale raised a record \$330.35, private author sales from the Book Sale raised \$16.20 and, with the donation of one attendee's Retreat refund, the chapter received funds totaling \$431.55. Many thanks to Julie McMullen for her efforts to get our public book sale in the newspapers all over Michigan to boost attendance. And thanks to our Retreat Publicity Chair, Lana Miersen, for her numerous press releases for all our authors in the book sale signing and Retreat announcements.

Now, to our real reason for Retreat - feeding our souls for our writing. Elizabeth Bevarly's two talks were not only insightful and inspiring but greatly entertaining as well. MMRWA has a wonderful new friend who was headed home right after Retreat to email our speaker for next year, Karen Witmer-Gow who writes as Elizabeth Grayson, to let her know how great a time she would be having when she comes. And Elizabeth's insightful comments, as well as everyone else's, during our new Sunday morning Round Table Discussion were "keepers." From a purely entertainment side, I'd like to thank our Welcome/Ice Breaker Committee for a great game of Romance Writing Survivor. People were still talking on Sunday about whether or not Laurie Kuna was really attacked by a prairie dog. And I'd also like to thank Alice Weidner and the Food Committee for making sure we all, once again, were never hungry. What a great variety they put together for our evening dessert selections as well as the bottomless table snacks.

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RETREAT continued from page 9

Recognition of member achievements is as important as the air we breathe and this year, we "did it" better than ever before. MMRWA was proud to toast our latest First Sales recipient, Cheryl Steimel, with her first sale to Dorchester. Her rose may have wilted and the effects of the bubbly worn off but she will have her champagne glass and, next year, receive her beautiful plaque to remember the event that kicked off her success. Wil Emerson and Laurie Kuna's new feature - Toot Your Horn - let over a third of the attendees stand up and be recognized for their writing achievements since the previous Retreat. A regular but highly honored feature of Retreat is our chapter's very own Angel Award which was awarded long distance to Leila Davis. She was one of the founding members of MMRWA as well as the original Retreat Chair. Maris Soule called her in Washington to tell her that she'd won and everyone present cheered for the many great things this wonderful writer has done for MMRWA.

The 20th Celebration features included a special slide presentation taken from our chapter historical files with pictures of members as far back as 1984, MMRWA's first year as a chapter of RWA. There were unannounced door prizes throughout the weekend and a special raffle drawing for a chapter-donated AlphaSmart, which was won by Pat Lazarus.

With Retreat 2004 and all the special 20th celebration sneaky planning complete, next year's Retreat should be a breeze. I have a deep and very personal understanding of the depth of our chapter members' generosity and know that next year, our third year at St. Ives, will be as great as the first two. We'll be relaxed and comfortable and inspired. And that's what this is all about.



Current PRO pin holders

Chris Allen-Riley
Holli Betram
Lisa Cardle
Susan Crouse
Rohn Federbush
Michelle Hickerty
Tammy Kearly

Anne Marie King-Jakubiak
Loralee Lillibridge
Lana Miersen
Dickee Six
Joyce Soule
Cheryl Steimel
Sandra Stone
Alice Weidner

12 Secrets of Highly Creative Women: a portable mentor by Gail McMeekin

A review by Marsha Ransom

I was excited to discover this book in the MMRWA library and was enthralled as I began to read it. Whether you apply the "secrets" or principals to your writing or to your life in general, Ms. McMeekin's book is an inspiration. Each chapter focuses on something you can do to improve your creative life, such as "Following Your Fascinations" (Secret 3) or "Subtracting Serenity Stealers" (Secret 11). In "Following Your Fascinations" McMeekin includes key concepts such as taking courageous risks, intuiting new pathways, developing staying power, and heeding your heart. "Serenity Stealers" may include burnout, your relationship to the creative process, coping with unavoidable serenity stealers, and dealing with negative choices.

In each section, which Ms. McMeekin refers to as Gateways, she profiles the lives of successful creative women with whom she did live interviews. These women include over 40 women who have developed such career paths as creative consultants, poets, teachers, artists, speakers, writers and others. Her contributors include some names I recognize, such as Barbara Baekgaard; co-president of Vera Bradley Designs and Barbara Sher; career consultant and author of several bestsellers, along with others you will want to learn more about as you meet them throughout the book. Rather than each chapter introducing one of the women, Ms. McMeekin focuses on the "secrets" and uses the voices of a number of the women to show how they used these principals to grow their business or their creativity, or both.

McMeekin focuses primarily on psychological or internal struggles which these women (and many women) face in developing their creative force, as opposed to financial or physical struggles, which can, of course, be equally difficult. I feel that 12 Secrets of Highly Creative Women is especially helpful to writers because most sections end with a writing "challenge" which will, if completed, provide a very insightful overview of the most essential things you personally need to do or change to guarantee success in your chosen career. So dig out a notebook and have a pen or pencil handy while you read so you can jot notes and complete the challenges on your own personal journey to success.

Marsha Ransom is the author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Homeschooling*; WIP is *Flight to Love*.

Another Online resource:

Pitching Your Book by Linda Style

http://www.lindastyle.com/files_ten_tips.html

Contests

American Title Contest

Dorchester Publishing
Received by June 15, 2004
Completed Contemporary Romance:
Read the rules!
Dorchester editors will read all the
entries and request full manuscripts
from potential finalists...
http://www.dorchesterpub.com/news/030504_WinContract.htm

Reveal Your Inner Vixen Contest (Published and Unpublished)

Maryland Romance Writers Chapter
Deadline: June 15, 2004
Enter: A scene that showcases the sexual tension between your
hero and heroine! It can be a flirtation, a kiss, or a fully described
love scene, just as long as the reader can feel the heat. 25
maximum pages plus an unjudged back-cover blurb style editor
pitch (one page max.).
<http://www.marylandromancewriters.org/contest.html>

Melody of Love Contest

Music City Romance Writers
Received by July 1, 2004 (Website states postmark by;
rules state received by).
First Chapter up to 30 pages (Cap of 75 entrants, enter early).
<http://www.mcrw.com/contest.htm>

Kathryn Hayes Love & Laughter Contest

NYC RWA Chapter
Postmark deadline July 9, 2004
Enter humorous scene between hero and heroine
not to exceed 10 pages/2500 words.
Summary or synopsis not to exceed two pages.
<http://www.rwanyc.com/RWALL2004.pdf>

Lone Star Writing Competition

Northwest Houston RWA
Deadline: Postmarked by June 7, 2004
First chapter/prologue not to exceed 25 pages.
<http://nwhrwa.freesevers.com/contest04.htm>

Golden Leaf for Excellence in Published Romance

For member of Region I and NJRW members.
New Jersey Romance Writers
Postmarked by July 14, 2004
Romance novels with a first copyright date or first
North American printing date of August 2003
through July 2004.
<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Gallery/7019/2004GLguidelines.html>

Romancing the Novel

Northeast Ohio RWA Chapter
Received by: July 1, 2004
First 25 pages or less.
<http://www.neorwa.com/Contest.html>

Lone Star Writing Competition

Northwest Houston RWA
Deadline: Postmarked by June 7, 2004
First chapter/prologue not to exceed 25 pages.
<http://nwhrwa.freesevers.com/contest04.htm>

Heart to Heart Contest

San Francisco Area
Received by June 7, 2004
A complete scene, maximum 15 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

Indiana's Golden Opportunity Contest

Indiana Romance Writers
Received By July 1, 2004
Size of Entry: 55 pages (manuscript and synopsis)
<http://home.insightbb.com/~irwa/contest/contest.htm>
Lone Star Writing Competition
Northwest Houston RWA
Deadline: Postmarked by June 7, 2004
First chapter/prologue not to exceed 25 pages.
<http://nwhrwa.freesevers.com/contest04.html>

Finally a Bride Contest

Oklahoma Romance Writers
Received by August 16, 2004
Beginning of your manuscript up to 30 pages
<http://www.niraonline.com/gambit.htm#finalists>

Black-Gold Spurlock Contest

Trinity Writers Workshop
Postmarked by July 31, 2004
20 pages plus one page synopsis
<http://www.trinitywritersworkshop.com/pages/4/>

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Emerald City Opener

Greater Seattle Romance Writers

Received by July 17, 2004

First seven pages of your manuscript.

http://www.gsrwa.org/emerald_city_con/ec_opener/ec_opener2003.htm

"Picture This"

Inland Empire Romance Writers

Received by August 1, 2004

Best scene from your book, 5-12 pages.

One page set-up must be included (not judged).

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Studios/2936/contest.htm>

Best Private Eye Novel Contest

Sponsored by the Private Eye Writers of America (PWA)
and St. Martin's Press, LLC

Received by August 1, 2004

Submit the manuscript.

Winner gets a book contract with \$10,000. advance.

<http://www.minotaurbooks.com/minotaur/privateeye.html>

Readers & Booksellers Best Laurie for Published Authors

SMOKY MOUNTAIN ROMANCE WRITERS

Received Deadline August 7, 2004

Romance novels with a happily ever after ending and first copyright date
or first North American printing date of August 31, 2003 to July 31, 2004.

<http://www.smrw.org/> Information is not on the website at present (5/31/04)

2004 Southern Heat Contest

East Texas Chapter

Deadline August 15, 2004

Entries: First Chapter (Maximum 10 pages), Synopsis (Maximum 5 pages)

FMI egaddy@cox-internet.com or send SASE to Eve Gaddy, PO Box 131704, Tyler,
TX 75713-1704.

<http://home.earthlink.net/~ralsobrook/rwaetc.htm> The website does not have
current information as of 5/31/04

St. Martin's Press/MALICE DOMESTIC CONTEST

Received by October 15, 2004

The complete manuscript...read the rules, winner gets a book contract with
\$10,000 advance.

<http://www.minotaurbooks.com/minotaur/malice.html>

Donna Caubarreaux is a member of Coeur de Louisiane,
NOLA Stars, Heart of Louisiana, Kiss of Death, and
Scriptscene Chapters of RWA. She received an
RWA Service Award in 1997 and sponsors several
writing lists...

<http://www.geocities.com/donnacaubarreaux/Main.html>

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Opening Gambit

Northeast Indiana Romance Authors

Received by: September 15, 2004

Synopsis (5 page max) and first pages of
manuscript/prologue

for a total entry of no more than 30 pages.

<http://www.niraonline.com/gambit.htm#finalists>

Heart to Heart Contest

San Francisco Area

Received by June 7, 2004

A complete scene, maximum 15 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

Directions to Sam's Joint

675 N. 10th Street, Plainwell, MI 49080

Phone number: 269-685-8235

From Southeast: (Detroit/Jackson/Kalamazoo) or southwest (Benton Harbor/Coloma) take I-94 to Exit 74B onto US-131 N. (toward Grand Rapids) stay on for almost 15 miles to exit 49A onto M-89 E. toward Plainwell. SEE BELOW:

From Northeast: take US 131 S. to exit 49A onto M-89 E. toward Plainwell. SEE BELOW:

All points East and North should get to US 131 by the shortest route possible (MapQuest can help you, there ARE much shorter routes, but somewhat confusing), take exit 49A toward Plainwell and then SEE BELOW:

The rest of the directions:

Head EAST on M-89 (Allegan Street) for just under a mile. The road narrows just after the first stoplight. You'll get to another stoplight just after a small park to your right. I believe it's the second light you'll get to. At the light, go LEFT onto N. Main ST (CR-A45) for about 1.87 miles. Just after a cross road, you'll see a small airfield to your left. Sam's joint is on the opposite side of the road, or to your RIGHT.

Schedule of 2004 Chapter Meetings

June 19	Plainwell-Sandra Portko/Stress Reduction-Increasing Productivity
July 10	Lansing-Kevin Brink/ Naval Intelligence (tentative)
August 21	Jackson-Jennifer Armintrout, Building a Better Vampire
September 18	Plainwell-Golden Heart Preparation
October 16	Lansing-Merry Zylstra, Psychic
November 20	Grand Rapids-Bounty Hunter/Private Investigator
December 11	Laurie Kuna's-MMRWA Holiday Party

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2004 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Committee Chairs

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