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The Mid-Michigan Mirror

A Reflection of Romance



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You just wrote a terrific book. You love it; your editor loves it. You both know it has the potential to be a big seller, maybe even a best-seller, but chances are your publisher will not budget much, if anything at all, to publicize it. Unless you are a big-name author, you're on your own.



Lana Miersen

MMRWA immediate past president Lana Miersen takes that bull by the horns in her article, The Basics of Being Your Own Publicist, on page 4.

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

Non-members seeking information about Mid-Michigan meetings and joining our group may contact: Dawn Bartley
bartleyd@chartermi.net

Oct 16 MMRWA meeting is at the Golden Rose, Lansing. The program is on Novel Prewriting presented by our president, Michele Hickerty. Please see page 13 for directions.

October Birthdays

Diane Burton 2
Sara Reyers 9
Holli Bertram 12
Julie McMullen 16
Sharlolett Koenig 24
Ann Susemihl 31
Lisa Childs Theeuwes 31

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.



Nominees for 2005 MMRWA Board:

President: Anne Marie King-Jakubiak and Wil Emerson © Vice president: Jodi Lozon
Treasurer: Lisa Childs Theeuwes © Secretary: Shar Koenig

Goosing the Muse by Michele Hickerty, President

Goosing your muse? I don't know about you, but mine needs it from time to time. My muse likes to take trips to Europe and forget to write postcards. As a writer, we must each have strategies to get going again when we hit a wall whether it's small or fifty feet thick.

Here are a few ways with which I've been successful in getting going again:

1. Get a book of writing prompts or writing exercises. This part's important: **DO THEM!**
2. Take a walk and think about your book and what direction you'd like it to go.
3. Drive in your car alone, without the radio on. This might sound strange but I literally told my characters that I wouldn't listen to the radio until they started talking. Boy, did they start talking fast!
4. Find some time alone where you can let your mind wander. Our muses run and hide when faced with our daily lives. Who can blame them? When we are on a 24 hour roller coaster of responsibilities and activities we don't have time for any inspiration and even if some comes our way, we might be too busy or tired to listen.
5. Plot or journal about your story. There's nothing quite like writing about your story to send ideas flying your way.
6. Just sit down and write. There's nothing quite like the actual process to get your flow going. Resign yourself to throwing away a page or two before you get to good writing. Usually, my muse comes and saves me in about half a page.

Try some of these, or come up with your own! Your muse will come out to play! Happy writing!

**Member News**

Chris Allen-Riley: Waiting to hear from Shannon Godwin and Patience Smith about IM; working on a paranormal and another IM for Sil; waiting to hear on two essays from Viva Voce Press; doing a workshop at Autumn Authors with Michele Hickerty.

Jennifer Armintrout: Finished re-writing my vampire novel. It should be back in Shannon Godwin's hands like, in a week. Still no word from notorious Mr. Keesler re: my other manuscript. I have a proposal for a fantasy novel I'm working on. I've written 462 pages since national and I had an article published by the Witches Voice online.

Holli Bertram: Finished romantic suspense; starting a new paranormal.

Member News continued on page 3

Member News continued from page 2

Rosanne Bittner: Finished third inspirational, *Ingrid's Choice. Walk By Faith* will be published in January '05 – just got the cover – beautiful! Working on new idea for contemporary. Got the rights back to my Zebra Books Savage Destiny Series (written over 20 years ago). My book, *Into the Wilderness*, won Love Designers Reader/Writer poll for favorite book and also is a finalist in Affaire de Coeur's Reader Poll for favorite western historical contest.

Flavia Crowner: Had 8 prayers accepted for a Prayer and Promises Anthology for the armed forces published by Barbour Publications. Jenna (my service dog) and I passed our certification once again for PAWS.

Wil Emerson: ms being reviewed for the Five Stars Special Edition, should know in 2 weeks; finished romance/mystery and have it out to agent. Busy.

Rohn Federbush: Six proposals out to editors for my 1841 historical romance set in the Great Lakes. Schoolcraft Conference next month complete with RWA approved agent. Starting rewrite of Maui mystery; may include an emergency room vampire.

Peggy Hanchar: Finished historical; sending it out to agent; working on a new book, something new – a contemporary.

Michele Hickerty: Waiting to hear from Shannon Godwin; working on 2 paranormals; have submissions out with Ellora's Cave and Red Sage. I will be presenting with Chris Allen-Riley at Autumn Authors.

Arlene Hoppapp: Finishing last of promo for Wild For You; waiting to hear from an agent; re-did my website; not writing and not sure if or when I'll get back to it.

Aileen Hyne: I have a disc stuck in my computer and I'm trying to get it out...

Anne Marie King-Jakubiak: Got a really nice rejection from Helming Publishing asking me to re-submit in January; still waiting to hear from Dorchester on another manuscript. Really doing well on my forth contemporary.

Sharolett Koenig: Next release, *Ink On Her Nose*, due out late October; working on the screenplay and working with my daughter on a children's book, *Ick! A Snake!*

Lucy Kubash: Almost done revising ms on chapter 14! Will start query letter to Love Inspired; will participate in Writer's Workshop at the Box Factory in St. Joseph in November.

Pat Lazarus: Back at work (school) gearing up my mentor reading program. Finaled in NEORWA's "Romancing the Novel" paranormal division. Shredding my sagging middles and revising.

Kate McAuliffe: Chapter one in progress; setting to to really write on contemporary category novel.

Juli Schuitema: Working on two fantasy manuscripts; working on screenplays for a series for an independent film company; going to Autumn Authors.

Cheryl Steimel: Continuing writing a chapter a week on my current work and am closing in on the end; finished the galleys on *What Do You Say to a Naked Elf?*; A 2 page excerpt will be in Lyndsay Sand's December release, *The Chase*.



Our sincere condolences to Michele Hickerty on the recent loss of her grandmother

The Basics of Being Your Own Publicist

by Lana Miersen



You just wrote a terrific book. You love it; your editor loves it. You both know it has the potential to be a big seller, maybe even a best-seller, but chances are your publisher will not budget much, if anything at all, to publicize it. Unless you are a big-name author, you're on your own.

What can you do to promote that potential best-seller? A good publicist could make your book a must-read and your name a household word. If you're willing and able to pay anywhere from \$50 to \$300 per hour, plus expenses, you could hire one. The alternative is to save the money and promote yourself.

Don't panic. You can do it. You already have the most unique and important promotional tool necessary to create your own publicity campaign. You. Your creative energy, your belief in yourself, and your determination to succeed.

My husband, who is a successful sales engineer, once told me that a good salesman sells his product; a great salesman sells himself. That goes for writers, too, and the current buzzword being bandied about is branding. With branding, you promote your name and your work as a whole, not just an individual title.

Think of it as a product advertising campaign and create a "brand name" slogan for your product--you and your writing. The slogan doesn't have to be extraordinarily clever--just descriptive of your work. Here are a few examples. "Lisa Childs--Heroes to Die For." (Bridal Reconnaissance) "Hot and Funny! Romance from Nina Bangs." (Single White Vampire) "Need A Great Read? Get a book by Melissa Ford." (Four Weeks)

Your job from that point on is to live up to your slogan and deliver what you promise.

Once you have that slogan down, how do you get the word out that you are a warm, wonderful, charming and talented individual who is good to her mother, champions world peace, bakes cookies from scratch for the PTA, and is trying to save the whales while writing heart-pounding romances? Start out by producing a press kit. For the first-time author, it should contain the following basics: a cover letter (optional), your business card, a news release [an example follows this article], an author bio (include contest wins, if any), and a 5x7 b&w photo (don't skimp here – invest in a professional portrait sitting).

The Basics continued on page 5

The Basics continued from page 4

The multi-published should add the following: your publishing credits and awards, copies of book reviews and articles about you (favorable, of course), a cover flat of your latest novel (postcard or bookmark), and the most recent issue of your newsletter (if you publish one). You might also include one or more imprinted promotional items (if you invest in them) or any other attention-grabber you can think of on your own. New writers should add any of these extras that are available to them.

If you can afford an attractive, high-quality portfolio to hold the contents of your press kit, it will be noticed more readily and remembered. It's not absolutely necessary if you can't. Just make sure your portfolio is neat and professional-looking. Send your press kit to local and state media contacts, to local libraries and bookstores, to larger regional and national publications, to trade publications, and to your publishing house. If you were born or attended school in another part of the country, or lived elsewhere for any amount of time, send it to the local media there as well.

In addition to the aforementioned press kit, there are other methods of self-promotion you might adopt to gain exposure and name recognition.

Take the high-tech plunge and create your own web page on the Internet. Most Internet service providers include a free web page with membership, and many web authoring programs are user-friendly.

Don't neglect the printed page. Publish a quarterly or biannual newsletter.

Consider public speaking. Clubs and organizations are always on the lookout for speakers and workshops for their meetings and conferences, as is our chapter. And take copies of your latest title with you to sell, of course. Public speaking also prepares you for radio and TV interviews.

Offer your romantic expertise to the media (you're bound to get a call around Valentine's Day), or your specialized expertise, such as Native American history (e.g. Rosanne Bittner's *Mystic* series).

Give readings of your current title at libraries and bookstores and set up book signings. Be sure to make friends with your local librarian and bookstore managers--and be very appreciative of what they can do for your career.

The Basics continued on page 6

The Basics continued from page 5

Teach a writing course at your local community education center or college. By teaching such a course, not only will you get paid for your efforts, you'll receive media attention, promoting name recognition and your latest title (which you will have with you in abundance, because chances are good you'll sell some copies after class).

Sponsor contests and giveaways. Readers love freebies and the authors who give them away. Also enter contests for published authors. Racking up awards for your work will definitely enhance your image and raise your visibility.

Finally, keep in mind that no one cares more about your career--or promoting your career--than you do. Make that work for you.

Examples of press releases: page 16 regular/17 humorous examples are modified for newsletter page constraints. Releases should begin lower down on the page to leave room for editors' notes.

Lana Miersen joined MMRWA in 1997 and is immediate past-president of the chapter. She also served as co-secretary, chapter and retreat publicity chair, policy chair, and served on the retreat icebreaker and basket auction committees. She has a B.A. in English Lit and an M.S. in Education. Her futuristic manuscript Falcon's Way placed first in the Suzannah, First Impressions, and Daphne du Maurier contests. Former occupations include advertising secretary, teacher, Cub Scout Den Leader, reporter, columnist, publicist, and editor. She is determined to add "published romance author" to her resume.



Approaching November Birthdays

Lisa Cardle November 1 Irene Atkinson November 14 Jean DeSavage November 17
Johanna Atwood Brown 19 Dimitri Fitchett November 26



In Time For The Upcoming Chapter Presidential Election - Get To Know Our Candidates

An interview by Pam Trombley

The upcoming election for MMRWA Chapter president is very important and we have two candidates to consider.

Wil Emerson



Anne Marie Jakubiak

Wil Emerson and Anne Marie Jakubiak. While some members know both the candidates well, many of us need a little more information in order to make an informed choice. Both candidates were sent questions pertaining to their goals and experience and their answers are provided here without any editing.

Candidates continued on page 7

Candidates continued from page 6

1. Why did you choose to run for the position of Chapter President?

Wil Emerson: The timing was just right. I wanted to become more involved. As I watched the chapter grow over the last five years, I knew we were headed in the right direction---toward a highly recognized profession with a broader base of readers. My experiences have taught me that if you put yourself in the right position to succeed, you are more likely to exceed your goals.

Anne Marie Jakubiak: I have always wanted to be Chapter President and think I can do a good job. Before this I was President of too many boards in different areas where I lived and couldn't do a good job. Now, my only concern is MMRWA.

2. What do you see as your key objective(s) for the upcoming year in your role as President?

Wil Emerson: I would like our chapter to focus on improving our craft and getting published. We are a talented group of individuals who have a variety of interests and knowledge to share. With this wealth of knowledge and sharing our contacts---agents, editors, and publishers---we can improve the chances of everyone getting published.

Anne Marie Jakubiak: Trying to help members who aren't published get published. Increase membership. Make sure everyone has an understanding of what MMRWA and RWA is, and how it can help our members as a group and individually.

3. Do you see a need for change in any areas within the chapter as it currently functions? Are there any current areas within our chapter which you consider outstanding or which could be used as models for other chapters?

Wil Emerson: Change is always good even when it frightens the heck out of us. But we can't ignore the contributions of all the hardworking board members in the past. In the five years I've been with our chapter, I've witnessed continual growth. Michelle has helped us focus on our craft. It has been a spirited year with this enthusiastic board. We should continue their work and build on it. I believe we can expand our chapter's goals by acknowledging individual writing goals, focusing on the markets we want to target and learning the business. What we achieve during retreat is remarkable -- We need to share that kind of fellowship throughout the year. Our goodwill efforts are commendable and enthusiasm for others' successes makes us a real team. We must continue those efforts.

Anne Marie Jakubiak: I have been a member of another RWA chapter where there was a lot of squabbling and back stabbing. Unpublished members were treated like dirt and I've heard that scenario about other chapters as well. Well, not true with our chapter. Our published authors treat the unpublished with respect and do their darneest to try and help them get published. I think our friendliness and willingness to help each other is one of

Candidates continued on page 8

Candidates continued from page 7

our greatest asset. The only change I see is our problem to find physically challenged places to meet without having to pay a charge for the banquet room. We really need to look into places or discuss what we'll do since more and more places are charging a room fee.

4. Do you think there is a need to improve communications within our chapter? If so, how would you do it?

Wil Emerson: Our chapter's newsletter is better than ever---thanks to years of experience and the wonderful age of technology. Hats off to the past and current publisher! With e-mail, we can continue to expand on our communication as a chapter. If regular email-weekly or biweekly-to the membership helps keep members informed on issues, then the board may have to utilize that process more often. I have no problem discussing issues via email. And we do a rather good job on the loops but can always open ourselves up for more discussion when necessary.

Anne Marie Jakubiak: Well, not all chairmen are present to answer questions of give updates. I think it's up to the president to contact chairmen and make sure that if that person is not at a meeting that the president get some kind of a report. I think we need a more decisive treasurer's report not excuses every month on why it's not complete or may not be true. The fact that not all members can get onto the business loop or yahoo won't let all members join, we need to find some way of correcting this problem for all members who are frustrated about this.

5. If you could start up one new project within the chapter, what would it be and why?

Wil Emerson: New project----Spotlight on---- Agents, Editors, Writers, Books.....A monthly session where a member gives a brief synopsis on either of the aforementioned. That is the first that comes to mind. Also we might want to have "My Work in Progress" session --perhaps 15 minutes allotted to reading and discussing the w.i.p.

Anne Marie Jakubiak: I would make a two or three member committee to help the Vice President come up with guest speakers and places to meet. As past Vice President, it can be a very scary job, and it's hard to make all those calls out of town to find meeting places. I know I was Vice President and there was no speaker scheduled for my first meeting, I got no knowledge of where January's meeting was supposed to be and made phone call after phone call out of town to places to meet where we had lost our meeting place. We also need some kind of form for members to be able to send in their concerns,

Candidates continued on page 9

Candidates continued from page 8

complaints and appreciation. Something members are free to express their opinions and not necessary give their name if they don't want to. All members need to feel they have a say and are listened to. It helps members feel more of a part of their own chapter.

6. How important are new members to MMRWA? Why?

Wil Emerson: New members are like an appetizer for the main meal...filling us with new tastes and sensations to get our juices flowing. We need new members who then become the main course to savor our experiences, talents and wisdom. Yes, we should recruit for fresh ideas, participants and enthusiasts of the writing venture.

Anne Marie Jakubiak: It's not just the money from the dues, it's more of the fact that there are writers out there who do not know what they are doing, they are walking a lone road where the people around them don't know how to support them. We are a very supportive group and all writers need support, they need a place where they can ask questions and get decent answers. They need to feel they are not crazy and they belong. New members bring different and/or new ideas and new personalities to the group. They keep us fresh and help us not to get stale.

7. How important is RWA National to MMRWA? Why?

Wil Emerson: RWA National is the lifeline, the opportunity, the horizon. Without the vast network and the knowledge, opportunities, and contacts, we would be struggling to find our way. Networking ---a life line for writers. Yes, we need RWA National.

Anne Marie Jakubiak: Well, it's tough to have to pay such steep dues to RWA, but hey, they do have nice articles in their reports and they do fight publishers for us and try and make things easier on us. I think it's a place where chapter presidents can go and get answers for their members, it's a support system for the chapters. They are there when we need them to be.

8. How much of an influence has MMRWA had in your writing career? What do you think you have to share with others in the chapter, whether in the role of President or not?

Wil Emerson: Without MMRWA I would not have been as focused in my writing as I am today. Although different genres requires different skills, it is the process that becomes important when one seeks publication. Our chapter's members have helped me learn the process. I've listened, learned, enjoyed and accomplished more than ever imagined because of the wisdom and friendship of fellow members. Sharing is probably the most important gift we have to give...our enthusiasm, our experiences, our talents to help others achieve their goals. As President or a fellow member, I want to continue offering support to others who have a dream of becoming published authors.

Candidates continued on page 10

Candidates continued from page 9

Anne Marie Jakubiak: I think that MMRWA has been the greatest influence in keeping me going. I've made really good, supportive friends. The write for the money and I will write a book are big goal setters that work for me. I would try and encourage other writers and work with people who ask me to help them. I'm always ready to help and think I have demonstrated that over the years. Not just with being Vice President, Secretary twice, or Membership Chair and helping several years in a roll on various parts of the Retreat From Harsh Reality, but I do try and help others and answer questions. I try to introduce myself to new members and guests so they will feel someone care they are there and they will come back.

Pam Trombley has been a member of RWA and MMRWA for four years and has chaired the Retreat From Harsh Reality since 2002. She spent way too much time on her first mss, revising, editing and throwing out first chapters enough to paper a mansion but thinks she finally has figured out how to get her own muse to work with her. She finished her second mss before National this year and is currently editing it before sending it out.



Thanks to the contributors of the October issue of Mid-Michigan Mirror. The Mirror is accepting submissions via e-mail. Please send to: brainchilde@websurfers.biz with a brief bio (author's photo is appreciated) to include with your article and permission to offer your article to other RWA groups to use with full attribution. Deadline for the November/December issue is October 18.

Writing Risky

By Julie Rowe

Everyone wants to write a novel that'll grab a reader by the throat and hold them hostage till the last word on the last page. Writing that hijacks a reader's attention can result a first sale or a best seller. So how do you write powerful prose that captivates?

By taking emotional risks on paper.

Romance novels are about a developing relationship between two people, and when you've got two people you've got conflict. Make that conflict fight it's way off the page and you've got a book that smokes when the pages are turned.

Writing Risky continued on page 11

Writing Risky continued from page 10

Create characters that take emotional risks. Give them something to fight for and make that battle worth fighting with powerful motivators everyone understands.

Babies	Injury
Marriage	Death
Old secrets	Passion
Inheritances	Lust
Money	Obsession
Greed	Anger
Love	Compassion
honesty	Mercy
Career	Nobility
Treasure	Responsibility
Power (political, religious, social, military)	Discrimination
Beliefs (political, religious, moral)	Alienation
Lies	Kindness
Charity	

An editor recently told me that a romance novel must contain some element of fantasy. I'm not talking about paranormal fantasy, rather, the larger-than-life version readers of romances hunger for.

Cinderella-meets-Erin Brokovich, The-rich-guy's-daughter-meets-THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY, THE ABSENT MINDED PROFESSOR-meets-Tom Hanks in BIG. These all sound like interesting novel ideas, but they won't be great books unless the writer takes emotional risks. Write with brutal honesty. If you use a motivator like one in the list above, take it to the extreme and ask yourself how it would make you feel.

When you up the stakes for your characters you create an exciting story that sticks your reader to the edge of their seat for the duration. Don't settle for fuzzy bunny slippers when you can have a tiger in your bed. Write risky so your characters can live large.

This article first appeared in the September 2004 issue of The Writer's Saddle, the newsletter of the Calgary RWA chapter. Reprinted with permission

2004 Meeting Schedule

Oct 16th, Lansing, Michele Hickerty, Novel Prewriting
 November 20th, Grand Rapids, Bounty Hunter-Private Investigator
 December 11th, Laurie Kuna's house, Holiday part

September Meeting Recap

The September MMRWA program was a roundtable discussion of to help prepare entries for the Golden Heart Contest (and/or editors and agents). Presiding over our program was Mid-Michigan's own Golden Heart finalist, Holli Bertram. Holli finaled in the Golden Heart with her romantic suspense novel, *Date with Danger*.

The guidelines for our discussion were as follows:

GENERAL ELEMENTS

Proper Grammar, punctuation, spelling

Acceptable Manuscript Format

Viewpoint handled skillfully, Smooth viewpoint transitions

Narrative, dialogue, action and introspection interwoven and balanced

Transitions of time and setting efficient and easy to follow

Author shows rather than tells by using active verbs and active voice

Author uses 5 senses and vivid mental images to enhance description

PLOT

Dynamic opening draws reader immediately into story

Does the story start in the appropriate place

Chapter is well-paced, compelling and holds reader's attention

Background is fed in naturally and does not overwhelm chapter

Who, what, where, when and why are established

Each scene promotes and advances the plot

Plot is presented in a fresh and appealing way even if it contains familiar ingredients

Chapter ends in such a way that you would want to turn the page

CHARACTERIZATION

Characters come across as 3-dimensional people rather than flat, stereotypical figures

All characters serve a distinct purpose

Protagonist(s) is/are likable, with enough integrity and backbone to justify his/her/their starring role(s) in a romance

Characters respond actively to developing plot

Characters interact realistically with other characters

Characters show range of believable emotions

Characters are not too perfect; they have flaws as well as virtues

Characterization remains consistent; does not fluctuate

Are the hero and heroine characters who you could root for; do they engage you emotionally

September Meeting Recap from page 12

DIALOGUE

Each character has a distinctive voice

Dialogue is natural, not stilted or overly narrative

Dialogue moves story forward; is not used merely for exposition

CONFLICT AND MOTIVATION

Basis for romantic relationship begins in an intriguing manner; if hero and heroine do not meet, are there sufficient hints that it will be intriguing

Motivations for actions/behavior/attitudes are believable and adequately explored as appropriate to targeted genre

Conflict introduced in a believable manner; not contrived

Protagonists' goals are strong, and are introduced as appropriate to targeted genre

Is there good use of both internal and external conflict

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The overall tone of the story, whether light and humorous, or heavy and emotional, is effective and well executed

Does the author have the voice of a natural storyteller

Personal taste aside, do you want to read the rest of the book

* * *

Directions to the Mid Michigan February Meeting at The Golden Rose, 3056 Okemos Rd., Mason, MI 48854 (approximately 1/2 mile south of the intersection of I-96 & Okemos Road). Phone: (517) 349-9500.

FROM EAST:

*Merge onto I-96 W toward LANSING.

*Take 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

Directions continued on page 14

Directions continued from page 13

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

Contests

Valentine Over Vegas, Cactus Rose Chapter - Las Vegas
 Entrant must be a member of Romance Writers of America® also known as RWA® and a member in good standing. RWA® Membership Number must be included on entry form. Entry Postmark Deadline: October 8, 2004 received by October 14, 2004.
 Synopsis, and the beginning of an unpublished manuscript not to exceed 25 pages.
<http://cactusroserwa.home.att.net/contest.htm>

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>

2005 Laurie Contest, Smokey Mountain Romance Writers

Entrants must be members in good standing with RWA® and cannot be published in novel length romantic fiction (40,000 words or more) nor contracted at the contest deadline.
 Received by November 10, 2004
 the complete first chapter -- not to exceed twenty-five (25) pages and synopsis not to exceed five (5) pages.
 The total number of submitted pages for chapter and synopsis is not to exceed 30 pages.
<http://www.smrw.org/contests/laurie/laurie.html>

Donna Caubarreaux is a member of Coeur de Louisiane, Scriptscene Chapter, NOLA Stars, Heart of Louisiana, Kiss of Death, and ChickLitWriters of RWA. She received a RWA Service Award in 1997. She sponsors several writing lists <http://www.geocities.com/donnacaubarreaux/Main.html>

USED WITH PERMISSION

First Kiss

New England Chapter RWA
 Received by November 1, 2004
 Set-up page plus up to ten pages of First Kiss Scene.
<http://www.booksite.net/necrwa/Brochure/firstkiss.htm>

Heart of the West, Utah RWA

Deadline: October 15, 2004 postmark; received by Oct. 22nd.
 First twenty pages.
<http://www.utahrwa.com/howcontest.html>

Dreaded Synopsis, First Coast Romance Writers

Deadline: November 1, 2004
 Synopsis not to exceed ten pages.
<http://www.geocities.com/fcrwrwa/dsynop.html>

2004 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Officers

President: Michele Hickerty chelery1@yahoo.com
Vice-president: Chris Allen-Riley matt@wmis.net
Secretary: Tammy Kearly tammyk@voyager.net
Treasurer: Jennifer Armintrout WhoTom@aol.com

2004 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Committee Chairs

I Will Write a Book/Write For the Money: Michele Hickerty chelery1@yahoo.com
Happily Ever After Contest: Michele Hickerty chelery1@yahoo.com
Library: Maris Soule SOULEM@aol.com and Lucy Kubash lucykubash@parrett.net
Membership/Historian: Dawn Bartley bartleyd@chartermi.net
Member Recognition: Jodi Lynn Copeland jodi.copeland@ttmps.com
and Cheryl Steimel wiseprez@yahoo.com
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RELEASE DATE AND TIME
[or FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

THE TITLE GOES HERE, ALL UPPER
CASE AND UNDERLINED LIKE THIS

The Point of Origin Dateline Goes Here-- Begin the release with a catchy hook, and if you have a local angle, use it--and include a photo, clearly identified (a newspaper may publish that, if nothing else). The body of the release should begin one-third of the way down the page so as to leave enough room for the editor or copy person to write remarks. The release proper should be double-spaced for ease of readability and editing.

Be sure to use normal indents and consistent spacing between paragraphs. It is not necessary to triple space between graphs. All information should be presented in descending order of importance, ending with the least important items in case last-minute editing results in the bottom of your release being lopped off.

Remember to leave at least one-inch margins all around, but resist the urge to leave huge right-hand margins in order to stretch your information. It usually looks like you're writing in a column.

For releases longer than one page, when you arrive at the bottom of the first page, leave at least a one-inch margin and indicate that more information follows by typing the word "more" (centered) with dashes on either side of it [-more-].

If more information follows, try not to break paragraphs or continue a sentence on the next page. Never hyphenate a word and continue it on the next page. Slug the following pages at the top right corner with a brief title followed by page number [i.e., RELEASE—2]. When you reach the end of your release, indicate you are finished by using -30-, -end-, or # # # # #.

#

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MICHIGAN WRITER TO TEACH AT
SMALLTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Award-winning local author Lotta Lust will teach a course in writing romantic fiction.



Smalltown, MI, September 1, 2004: If you ever read a book and said, “I could write better than that,” you are not alone. That is exactly what Smalltown resident Lotta Lust said ten years and thirty novels ago. Her latest novel, *Loins of Flame*, is currently number seven on the Paperback Best Seller list.

The prolific Ms. Lust is also a two-time winner of the Rita Award, the highest accolade given by the Romance Writers of America®. She will divulge some of the secrets of her success this fall, when she begins teaching “Romancing the Novel: How to Succeed in Writing Women’s Fiction,” at Smalltown Community College.

“Most people have an archaic view of romance novels. I intend to change that view,” said Ms. Lust. “The romance novel has evolved with the times. It’s not your grandmother’s ‘bodice ripper’ anymore!”

When asked about the content of her course, Ms. Lust replied, “Let’s just say it will give new meaning to the phrase *adult education*.”

Class size will be limited. Interested parties should register for the course as soon as possible. Contact Smalltown Community College at 1-800-HIGHIQS for more information.

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