

Northeast Ohio RWA ®

Communique

President's Message:

Hello again everyone,

Well, it's nearly October and while our chapter is winding down for the year, there's SO much excitement brimming for the year upcoming. The fate of our chapter depends on the excitement and enthusiasm of its members, and I've seen and heard so much of both over the last few weeks, and this is a great sign!

If you haven't considered running for office, please do so. There's so much that each and every member can contribute...every little bit helps. All the board positions and their required jobs are listed in this issue; please review them, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

Take care and I'll see you in a few weeks...

—Nancy Plisko

ROMANCE AUTHORS ROUNDTABLE

Visit our fellow NEORWA authors during their first joint book signing! Kathleen Fuller, Susan Gable, Holly Jacobs, Connie Lane, Erin McCarthy and June Lund Shiplett, along with special guest Catherine Mann will be signing at two Borders Books locations.

Saturday, October 25, 2003

11:00-1:00 at the Borders Books in Mentor, Ohio

3:00-5:00 at the Borders Books in Strongsville, Ohio

Meeting Minutes:

Northeast Ohio Romance Writers of America (NEORWA) met at 10 a.m. at the Brecksville Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library. Members attending: Debby Conrad, Eddie Columbia, Barbara Satow, June Lund Shiplett, Casey Rudkin, Patti Fleishman, Cheryl Klosak, Dianne Harper, Nancy Schuemann, Diana Reep, Connie Laux, Mary Ann Chulick, Christine Robinette, and Tom Dukes. We also had 17 guests. (Thanks for coming!)

The meeting officially began at 10:15 a.m. with the introduction of our guest speaker, Dr. Joseph Felo, Deputy Coroner for Cuyahoga County. After outlining his education and background, Dr. Felo explained the structure of the coroner's office (he is one of 8 pathologists who do autopsies), and then presented the route a body would take through Cuyahoga County's state-of-the-art facilities, illustrated with slides of the premises, personnel, and bodies.

Far from just cutting into patients (which is done with great care so that an autopsied body is perfectly presentable for viewing) departments in the Coroner's office examine trace evidence on both the body and their clothing, and test guns to match powder burns. There's an electron microscope to scan for metals, infrared to test for substances like oil and paint, a DNA lab (smaller coroner's offices often have to ship their evidence out for examination), a car testing area (next to the room where they autopsy decomposed bodies... it has its own air system so the smell doesn't spread), toxicology (County tests all bodies for 250 different substances), histology (where tissue samples are prepared), photography, general office, computer and the only grief counseling department in the United States as part of the coroner's office.

Every body that goes through the Cuyahoga County Coroner's office is given a complete autopsy, with samples of all tissues taken and stored. Because any case that comes to the coroner's office is a potential legal case, a thorough job is done so any question that arises afterward can be answered.

Michelle Levigne, editor
16210 Academy Drive
Strongsville, Ohio 44149

Chapter #16
Volume 17
Number 10
October 2003

Meetings:

October 4

10 am to 1 p.m. ♥♥ Brecksville Library

AFTER THE SALE

Come join 3 of NEORWA's recently published authors for a panel discussion. Kathy Fuller, Susan Guadagno and Michelle Levigne are willing to share their personal experiences, discuss their individual genres and much more. The talk will be followed by a Q & A session. Lunch will follow at the Courtyard Cafe.

November

Join us at the **BUCKEYE BOOK FAIR.**

More information in the November newsletter.

December

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Punderson Lodge

Continued on pg. 8



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NEORWA Membership -- Annual dues: \$20.00

Any member in good standing with National RWA can join Northeast Ohio RWA

Communique

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Deadline: Please turn in all articles, member news, news releases or any other pertinent information no later than the 14th of each month to: Michelle Levigne

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RWA® Websites

NEORWA Website:

<http://members.aol.com/hfur/NEORWA.html>

National RWA website:

<http://www.rwanational.com/>

For members only:
Find it in the table of contents.
Fill in your name and RWA membership number.
Choose a password.

Why the RWA National Conference reminds me of summer camp...

By Erin McCarthy

- ♥ You always pack too much (next time, the Body Shaper stays at home)
- ♥ You are labeled a Counselor, New Camper, or Old Hand (Did you teach the workshop, show up with your AphaSmart, or skip it in lieu of the bar?)
- ♥ Every single person standing or sitting next to you becomes your new friend
- ♥ You eat everything on your plate regardless of texture or color, not knowing when you'll be fed again
- ♥ Stay up too late talking about boys (or heroes)
- ♥ Have so much fun you forget you're missing your favorite TV show
- ♥ The swim badge (or editor appointment) isn't as hard as you thought it would be
- ♥ By day five, wearing shoes seems stupid
- ♥ You bring home a collection that your family doesn't see the value of (I'm going to use these bookmarks, all 72 of them!)
- ♥ No matter how much you pack, you never have enough clean underwear



Erin McCarthy went to NY as a New Camper and can't wait for next year! Her debut book from Kensington Brava, BAD BOYS ONLINE, is a Sept. 2003 release. www.erinmccarthy.net

New Member Profile:

Dianne Kodger Harper

By Nancy Loyan Schuemann

Since joining NEORWA last winter (co-worker and member Christine Robinette told her about the group), Dianne Kodger Harper has finished one manuscript, a single title contemporary. She also likes romantic suspense as evidenced by her favorite authors. She likes Tom Clancy, Jack Higgins, and Iris Johansen. Her favorite books of all time, however, are the *Hobbit*, the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, and *The Snowblind Moon* by John Cooke.

Born and raised in North Olmsted, one of twelve children, Dianne now lives in Shaker Heights with her Cleveland policeman husband,

Oroboros

By Holly Jacobs

I reached the end of what will be my second Flipside, affectionately known as The Dead Body Book. Of course my editor says that title doesn't say romantic comedy so I can't use it, but that's another story. The point of this essay is that I'd reached the end of that book and was anything but pleased. Oh, I hate writing the end of books in general. I mean, the beginning is exciting. I have two characters I've barely met and want to know better. The middle is equally as exciting...I know the characters now, and I'm cheering them on, anxious to see what they do next. But the end? I know I have to tell them goodbye and by the last part of a book I'm in love with them and don't necessarily want to let them go. So endings are tough to write and rather bittersweet. But I'd done it, I'd written the end to my Dead Body Book. And my lack of enthusiasm with it didn't have to do with saying goodbye (although that was part of it). It mainly had to do with the fact that the end was missing something. It needed a punch.

So, I did what I frequently do, I went back to the beginning of the story and looked at how I started the book. This one opened with the word, SPLAT. It's the word that pops into my heroine's head when she trips over the dead body and sees the porch floor rushing toward her...SPLAT. Ah, I had my end. It only needed a few sentences to give it the punch I'd been

wanting. Just those couple sentences would change the whole tone of the ending. The heroine looks at the hero, the man she loves and thinks, "Splat! She heard the sound in her head and knew that this time the fall was going to be long, hard...and permanent. Which was all right with her." Ah. Done. I might not like saying goodbye, but I was satisfied I gave the story the end it deserved.

I love when I take a story full circle, ending it where it started. There's a certain symmetry to it. I've done it a lot. Sometimes literally, like with the Dead Body Book, sometimes a bit more abstractly like in my first Flipside. At the opening of the story the heroine's life is perfect...it's everything she's always thought she wanted. But something seems missing. At the end of the book the heroine's life is perfect...it's nothing like she always thought she wanted it, but she's happier than she's ever been. Of course, she's met the man she didn't know she'd been dreaming of until he came into her life and helped make it perfect. A circle. Complete.

And reaching the end, bring the story full circle means it's time to start a new story. Go back to the beginning and start that foray into the unknown, getting to know characters, cheering them on through the middle of the book, then giving them an end. Another circle.

This month the Harlequin Duet line is closing. It's the Harlequin line where I got my start. An ending. It saddens me. But next month Harlequin's launching Flipside. An end...a beginning. Sadness at letting go, excitement at the idea of a new beginning, a new challenge.

Writing is like that. It's highs and lows, it's joys and chores. Every time you get to an ending, as a writer you get to go and start another beginning. It's constantly starting over, relearning what you thought you knew, trying something new. I've always like the word oroboros, the snake eating its own tail, going round and round...writing is like that. Going back to the beginning to find an end to a story, and reaching the end and going back to the beginning and starting something new.

Oroboros.

It's what keeps me writing.



Holly Jacobs, *Madcap & Aspen Gold Finalist*, <http://www.HollysBooks.com>
HOW TO HUNT A HUSBAND, Harlequin Duets, 9/03
HUNG UP ON YOU, Harlequin Flipside, 2/04
FAIRLY HUMAN (w/a Holly Fuhrmann), ImaJinn Books, 3/04
BE MY BABY, Sil. Rom., A Perry Square Romance, 8/04
LOSING IT (working title), Harlequin Flipside, 10/04

Using Myth to Reach our Readers

By Bonnie Joyner

No, Lora Kenton, author of *Sinfully Delicious*, a Leisure Historical, is not a single person, nor a split personality. Lora Kenton is the pen name for Susan Siplal and her collaborator, Astrid Haugen. Both ladies belong to the Heart of Carolina RWA Chapter and live near Raleigh, North Carolina. They began their collaboration as a result of an e-mail that Astrid sent Susan asking her to finish a story. Their partnership has been working very well ever since.

At our February meeting, Susan spoke to us about myth and how myths touch on essential truths common to all men. The conflicts and the resolution arising from them are the basis for all storytelling. Susan sees the novel as a continuation of myth. Myth explains what we are about and why. It is a truthful reflection of our shared experiences as humans and thus strikes a cord within each reader. Though the reader may see and interpret the experience from his or her own perspective, the underlying truth found within a good novel, the mirroring back of our own truths and experiences, provides the motivation to keep that reader buying and reading books.

The definition for a myth is a traditional or legendary story generally associated with deities, demigods, the creation of the world or its inhabitants. One

pictures early man sitting around the campfire passing down stories that deal with or explain such things as the rising of the sun, the changing of seasons, heroes, beasts, where the soul goes, death, arts, invention and rites of passage to name but a few. These verbal records gave accounts of the gods and the history of the tribal people. Often myths deal with supernatural phenomena. No matter what the subject of the myth all myths answer the essential question 'WHY?' Many of these stories were presented as allegories, or parables. Each story or belief sought to explain a basic truth, an underlying meaning beyond the superficial. It was only by listening carefully could those who heard the myth come to deeper understanding.

In modern times philosophers such as Jung and Freud expanded this definition. Freud said dreams were often private myths. He believed the myth served to show the collective inward journey carrying the human spirit to its final destiny.

In the Hero's Journey a book based on the work of Joseph Campbell by Christopher Vogler, we see a hero who sets out on a quest, he goes out to prove himself worthy, he meets the challenge, conquers and overcomes to return victorious. Contrast this to the heroine whose main journey is generally confined to character growth. She is often

placed in a difficult situation or under dire circumstances. The heroine grows to an understanding that she has the ability to survive, that somehow she will get through this. Once the heroine achieves her goal, she completes her journey. In both cases, the myth, the story of the journey, is comprised of symbols that carry the human spirit forward.

The inherent truth within a myth appeals to a wide range of people. This is true whether or not those who hear the myth understand or respond to it in the same way. All are moved on some level.

Many myths arise from mystery religions. Today we would call them cults. An example might be the Zoroastrians or the Masons. One must be an initiate to fully understand and appreciate the various levels of truth within the allegories of mystery religion. Within closed group of initiates, priests and wise men were generally more qualified to explain the mysteries of life depicted in the myths studied.

Myths are found within every primitive culture and often there are striking resemblances between the stories of the various peoples- Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Mayan, Norse, Celtic. Stories such as the great flood, the creation, and coming of age-all bear a certain similarity regardless of the culture from which it springs.

Continued on pg. 7

Quitting Is An Option

By Rochelle Bailey

We've all heard the motivational quip "Quitting is not an option!" In my humble opinion, we're selling ourselves short if we blindly accept this statement as truth. Quitting is an option. A viable, possibly even easy, option. Honestly, quitting is a vastly underrated option.

Who's with me? Who will take up the banner and march proudly to proclaim the benefits of quitting?

Hmm, no takers? Really? Admit it, you've thought about it once or twice. Maybe even once or twice in the past hour. A contest entry comes back shredded by a judge. You hit a snag and no matter how you write it your spunky heroine won't cooperate with the scene you've given her. The toner fades out just two pages into the submission you're aiming at the next editor's desk. The power goes out and you lose the best ten pages you've ever written, moments before your spouse walks in and declares it's time you get a real job.

Quitting sounds pretty good about now, doesn't it? Go ahead, give in and quit. No one will blame you for making the sensible choice. Think how empowering it will feel to put an end to the madness of beating your head against the insurmountable wall at the end of the obstacle course. Just stop what you're doing and you'll have lots to cross off that lengthy to-do list. You'll have quit.

Still no takers?

Good! In fact, I'm not surprised. You won't quit, give

up or give in. You'll chalk up the harsh judge to lousy egg salad sandwich and take the entry back to your critique partners for advice. You'll unsnag yourself by listening to what your heroine needs and try the scene her way. You'll expand your horizons and teach yourself how to change the toner cartridge. You'll even make notes, call it a research moment, and use the experience in your next book. And your spouse knows better than to even suggest you give it all up now. (No one dares tangle with a writer who just lost her best ten pages).

How can I possibly know all that? Because if you're reading this, you're a writer. When you're a writer you feel the words to your soul, even on your worst day. You live and breathe to create new worlds for the reader to live and breathe. No matter what discouragements, derailments or distractions, you keep at it. For the next paragraph, page or chapter.

Of course, quitting is an option. But it's not the easy choice and probably not the best choice. For every good reason to quit there is a greater reason not to. Your dream. Take time to picture it and hold that image in your mind until you make it come true. Disappointed I didn't let you off the hook and encourage you to give up? Then here's a list of things you must quit as soon as possible:

-Quit doubting your talent...Hone your skills and learn from other writers.

-Quit comparing your work...Your voice is unique; use it to your advantage.

-Quit thinking about quitting...Right now.



Rochelle Bailey is an award winning poet and write-at-home wife and mom recovering from her previous lives as florist, waitress and executive secretary. Highly praised for her gift of writing queries, she eagerly awaits a request from the right agent or editor. This article appeared in the April issue of The Jasmine, the Lowcountry RWA Chapter newsletter. Used with permission.

AFTER THE SALE - Don't miss this exciting opportunity to talk with 3 of NEORWA's recently published authors, SUSAN GUADAGNO, KATHY FULLER and MICHELLE LEVIGNE. Find out how their writing schedules and personal lives have changed since they signed that first contract. Learn how their books sold and why. Also, they will be sharing information about the individual genres for which they write, the ups and downs of the publishing world and more. There will be time for Q & A after the discussion.

♥ SUSAN GUADAGNO aka SUSAN GABLE recently sold 3 books to Harlequin SuperRomance and was a 2003 Rita finalist.

♥ KATHY FULLER is the author of 2 inspirational romance novellas, which were published by Tyndale, and she has penned many short stories, which have appeared in several magazines.

♥ MICHELLE LEVIGNE, also writing as DOMINIQUE TOMAS, is the author of several fantasy and paranormal books and has sold to ImaJinn, New Concepts, Awe-Struck, and more.

Translating Male Speak

By Catherine Mann & Joanne Rock

Puzzled by hero talk? Need a codebook for deciphering masculine dialogue? Not to worry, series romance authors Catherine Mann and Joanne Rock have waded into the male mind and over uncharted bad boy terrain for the sake of their stories. They've returned with these bits of wisdom to help you comprehend guy-speak-and lack thereof...

10. Yeah, babe, I'd love to go the opera (or ballet, or tea room, or clothes shopping...).

Translation: I want out of the doghouse. (married guy) OR I want to get in your bed. (single guy)

9. Of course that looks great on you.

Translation: God, please don't let her ask me if it looks better than what she was wearing yesterday because I can't frigging remember. OR God, please don't let her realize I was actually picturing her without it or I will have sat through the frigging opera for nothing.

8. Absence of comment.

Translation: He either has no clue how to respond or

else he's certain any response he gives will result in lengthy argument.

7. Series of unintelligible grunts.

Translation: This cryptic response means he has no clue how to respond, knows any response given will result in lengthy argument, but he's been pressed to the wall for comment.

6. Damn.

Translation: Popular catchall phrase for moments of frustration, surprise, agreement and lust.

5. Damn. Damn. Damn.

Translation: All of the above sentiments taken to a greater degree.

4. Hoo-yah, oo-rah and other nonsensical syllables strung together while his fist punches the air or he bumps puffed chests with another male.

Translation: Masculine version of a yippee squeal and dance, but don't let them know that's what we're really envisioning or we'll be robbing them of a much-loved macho rebel yell.

3. That hurt a little.

Translation: I'm spurting blood from a major artery, so could you call 911? But don't give 'em my name because I don't anyone to think I'm a wuss.

2. I'm dying here.

Translation: He's feeling VERY healthy at the moment and wants you more than air.

1. How do I like your highlights? What the hell are highlights?

Translation: You look gorgeous in his eyes and all he knows is that he's lucky to be the man who gets to wake up next to you.



Look for heroes to win your heart in Intimate Moments books by Catherine Mann (PRIVATE MANEUVERS 6/03 with more "Wingmen Warriors" on the horizon), and Blaze and Temptation books by Joanne Rock (REVEALED, 3/03, and the upcoming "Single in South Beach" series). Happy deciphering! This article appeared in the April issue of The Jasmine, the Lowcountry RWA Chapter newsletter. Used with permission.

PROFILE - cont'd from pg. 2
teenage son, Brian, and dog, Logan. They had lived in an apartment in downtown Cleveland for twelve years and would love to live downtown again when retired. Dianne received an Associate's degree from Cuyahoga Community College and attended Cleveland State University. She is employed at NatCity (subsidiary of National City Bank) Investments

in administration, a career she has enjoyed for thirty years. She currently spends all of her free time writing, though she has enjoyed photography, Bicycling, and sewing.

Her goals?

"I'd like to see something published, of course, but in the meantime, I'm having fun with the writing. I'd like to see my son in college/graduate in the next

half-dozen years, and I'd like to retire before I'm 65 though I'm not sure that will be possible with a husband on the golf course (not!) and a son's college education to pay for."

MYTH - cont'd from pg. 4

An example of a myth we see in many cultures is the Greek story of Persephone, her abduction to the underworld because Pluto loved her, and her mother's plea for her to return for six months of every year so that plants might bloom again and the sun shine. On one level the story explains the seasons. On another it shows the fight of good and evil, light against the darkness, death and rebirth, pull and tug, the conflict between the spiritual self and the physical self.

One might recognize the story of Persephone in the movie *About a Boy* starring Hugh Grant. A man exists alone in the dark cave of his flat. His life is self-centered and hollow. He has no soul until the boy breaks down his defenses and forces the man to reconnect on a spiritual level. The man grows as a result of this new spiritual connection and he comes out of his shell into the birth of a new reality.

In another myth King Author must find out what women most want if he is to achieve his crown. He finds an old crone who will tell him the answer for a price—he must marry her. He agrees. She tells him a woman wants to control her own destiny. The night of the wedding when he goes up to his wife, he finds, instead, a beautiful gorgeous woman. She says he can have her as a beautiful woman either in the daytime or at night when he retires but not both. He must choose. The wise man tells her he does not have the right to make that choice. The decision is up to her. Because he

respects her, she is able to remain beautiful both day and night.

Think how the myth above might play out in a story. Remember all interpretations of myth are correct because they are seen and understood by the truth within the story as reflected in the lives of the reader.

Conflicts in myths help us deepen the conflict within our books. The hero and heroine do not always have to be at odds. Their conflict need not be from opposing viewpoints. Conflicts may arise from within as the character over the course of a novel as he or she develops spiritually or mentally. The character grows and changes, he learns to give and take without losing himself. His conflict broadens and deepens our story telling.

Through the hero's ability to overcome conflict and break through internal and external pressures to reach a new understanding, the reader sees a reflected image of a universal truth, and the writer achieves fulfillment, producing best-selling stories filled with conflicts of mythic proportion.

Susan's reading list includes the writings of Joseph Campbell, *Hero with a Thousand Faces* and Manly P. Hall's *The Secret Teachings of all Ages*.



This month Bonnie Joyner completed High Stakes, a romantic comedy. Are the stakes too high if your heart is forfeit? A cowboy gambler, who inherits a rundown ranch and five kids, opts for a marriage of connivance with a socialite from back east.

Hilarious high jinks and heartwarming fun meld a loving family who face serious issues of faith and life's consequences as their marriage hits the skids. This article appeared in the March issue of The Jasmine, the Lowcountry RWA Chapter newsletter. Used with permission.

MEMBER NEWS:

From Debby Conrad - My manuscript *PRYING EYES* is a finalist in the Stepping Stone contest and is being read by Gail Fortune at Berkley/Jove, and my manuscript *WHAT ABOUT LOVE* is a finalist in the Love and Laughter contest and is being read by Jennifer Greene at Harlequin.

From MaryAnn Chulick - Just heard that my novel "The Rivals" finished in the San Francisco Heart-to-Heart contest, contemporary category. I am so thrilled! It will be going to Kathryn Lye at Harlequin for final judging.

From Holly Jacobs - I'm a finalist in the Madcap Awards. I also have some signings, in addition to the NEORWA coming up:

Yð Barnes and Noble, 2610 Hazard Center Dr., San Diego, CA November 15th from 4-6 along with Sherrilyn Kenyon, Carla Neggers,

Yð Waldenbooks, Millcreek Mall, Erie, PA, December 6th from 1-3.

Minutes -- Cont'd from pg. 1

After a break, Dr. Felo discussed all the causes of death (natural causes, blunt trauma, cutting and stabbing, firearms, asphyxia, drowning, electrocution, fire and burns, exposure to heat and cold, and drugs and chemicals). For each cause he showed slides of bodies and pointed out the significant details in the photograph. Throughout his presentation he answered questions from the audience, and held a brief question and answer session when his presentation was done.

After Dr. Felo's presentation, Debby Conrad chaired a meeting for the assembled NEORWA members.

Upcoming events covered: The chapter author booksigning is October 25 (Borders in Mentor 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Borders in Strongsville 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. — all members are encouraged to attend and support our authors!). Our regular October meeting will be a panel discussion where some of our published authors relate the changes making a sale has made in their lives/writing habits, November is the meeting at the Buckeye Bookfair at the Ohio State Agricultural Center in Wooster (stay tuned for car pool information), December Christmas meeting at Punderson State park, January a presentation on goals and accountability followed by a plotting party. In February, Erin McCarthy will talk about Bad Boys and sensuality in fiction. In March, Connie Laux and Maire McGuinness will demonstrate how to plot with tarot cards. Author Rachel Gibson has been invited to speak in April, and, in June, there will be a Scene of the Crime Workshop with the working title of Kick-Ass Heroines.

November is also election month. Any person who is part of the organization has the right to run for any office. And every position and contribution (even attending meetings) is helpful to the organization. A list of the offices and their duties is posted online and anyone wishing to run should give their name to the election committee — Connie Laux and Lindsey Brookes. And

volunteers to help in any of the upcoming events are greatly appreciated. (And in the spirit of volunteerism — Dianne Harper and Nancy Schuemann volunteered to do refreshments for October.)

Because we got our request for the larger room at the Brecksville Library in late, we may have to hold some meetings in the smaller room, and venues for larger events (like Rachel Gibson's visit and the SOC workshop) will need to be found.

In an effort to grow the chapter, Deb sent a survey to all the chapter presidents in RWA to find out what they do at meetings, fundraisers, etc. One of the ideas was an Author's Luncheon. Once the idea is explored more thoroughly for execution and cost, a committee will be formed to put this together for sometime next year.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Satow for Secretary
Cheryl Fedorcio

It's election time again! Please consider helping your chapter by running for office. Anyone wishing to run needs to nominate themselves by contacting either Connie Laux at: ctlaux@earthlink.net or Kim Duffy at: hearts@epohi.com All nominations must be to either Connie or Kim by September 30th. All nominees will be posted in the November newsletter with instructions on how to vote for your favorite candidate.

PRESIDENT

Duties include serving as spokesperson for NEORWA, setting the agenda, and presiding over all general meetings. President also responsible for submitting a few words of inspiration for the monthly newsletter.

VICE PRESIDENT

Duties include working with President to maintain quality programs and

Meetings -- Contd' from pg. 1

January

Don't miss our KICK-OFF PARTY!

Be prepared to offer suggestions for ways to make our chapter more fun, exciting and successful. After the discussion, we will have a PLOTTING PARTY! Stuck on a plot? Can't get over the hurdle? Let us help. More details in an upcoming issue.

February

NEORWAS ERIN MCCARTHY MEETS THE BAD BOYS!

Erin will discuss how to keep the sexual tension and the high level of sensuality from fizzling out in your manuscripts. She'll also give you some tips for creating bad boys turned good guys.

March

PLOTTING WITH TAROT CARDS

NEORWAS Connie Laux aka Connie Lane and Mary McGuinness will show us how we can use tarot cards as plotting tools. Join us for this fun and exciting hands-on session.

April

RACHEL GIBSON - THE TRUTH ABOUT FICTION

I will get a brief bio from Rachel before we print this—not sure if she's a best-selling author or not)

meetings, scheduling meeting dates and locations, and serving as spokesperson in the President's absence.

SECRETARY

Duties include taking attendance, recording minutes of all chapter and board meetings, and keeping chapter records. Secretary also responsible for submitting minutes for the monthly newsletter.

TREASURER

Duties include new member applications, collecting dues, notifying President of delinquent members, keeping financial records in good order, preparing list of members for Board and Newsletter Editor, providing accurate and up-to-date financial statements to Board and National RWA.