

**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
OF  
RWA CHAPTER: YOSEMITE ROMANCE WRITERS**

February 21, 2009

(11:00 a.m. - Marie Callendar's (Shaw & Brawley - Fresno, CA)

1. *Opening*

- a. Call to Order (President/Vice President)

**Meeting was called to order by President, Dawna Richard @ 11:52 a.m.**

2. *Reading of minutes of last meeting (Secretary)*

**Reading of the minutes was waived. Minutes will be submitted on website only for review by general membership.**

3. *Business*

- a. Unfinished/old business

1. Marie Callendar's

**Will be our permanent meeting location.**

2. Cap on Attendance

**Not discussed**

- b. New business

1. Critique Group

**We are starting a new critique group for members of YRW only. Per Sandy, it is nearly up and running. Separate Yahoo Group guidelines will be posted. Once we get a more complete list and welcome documents, invitations will be sent out. Kathy Angelos - interested and questioned procedure: The group will have separate folders for material to be critiqued and for material that has already been critiqued. Members will upload a chapter at a time to a file designated for that purpose only. Members can then download those files and critique them. Once they are done, they will upload the critiqued version to the author's own folder. When files are uploaded, the person critiquing will need to include their name in the description area of the file upload dialog box. Critiques should be submitted within a reasonable time frame which will be posted initially and may be adjusted based on need and guidelines. Once critiques are uploaded, send individual e-mail notifying members that file was uploaded and the specific genre, erotica, paranormal, etc. Use .rtf format**

2. Future Speakers

- i. Marilyn Meredith - April

**Mystery writer - How to write a mystery but include romantic elements; She will have members participate in writing exercise.**

- ii. Monica McCarty - May

**Scottish Historicals**

- iii. Linda Wisdom Randall - June

**Paranormal**

Speakers continued:

iv. Jessica Barksdale Inclan - September  
**Paranormal Contemporary**

v. Deb Salonen - October  
**Category Romance writer who has ties to the valley (She previously taught at Merced College.) She is also s a friend of Stacey Kayne's. She will be speaking on how to write an open ended series.**

vi. Martha Engber - November  
**Online class instructor. Does a lot of critiquing. Topic unknown at this point but will probably involve critiquing.**

vii. Allison Brennan – May 2010  
**Romantic Suspense**

**One of the authors will be coming in the Friday before - Dinner critique meeting.**

3. Committee: Conference (**Research conference so that we can hold our own small conference**)

a. Volunteer Members:

**Andrea volunteered herself and JoAnne Lucas to put together initial information on details, logistics, prices, some hotel estimates, etc.**

**Andrea: Volunteers or small speaker fees (Steve Metty) Publisher of Wind Dancer Press - very good at getting volunteers**

**Di motioned for Andrea Vetter to be Committee Chair; Dawna seconded; Members approved unanimously.**

b. Report

5. Newsletter Articles

**We need them!!! Layout and sections can change. Idea or articles; possible review section - needed. Member News - requests, contest wins, publications. Book Review - Promote our classes.**

**Newsletter Contest sponsored by RWA - Our first one was entered as of February 20, 2009. Unknown announcement date.**

**Melissa volunteered to submit articles consistently, i.e., links.**

**Editorials - articles about anything that bothers you or are excited about.**

**New Member welcome section**

**Issue re printing out Newsletter - a bare bones issue will be uploaded for those that want to print as time allows.**

6. Flyer distribution

**E-mail flyers if printing is an issue. Attachments are not functioning well. Downloaded to the Folders Section - Will create separate folder.**

7. Workshops – Advertising online!

***When we send e-mails re online classes - send it through so that it gets lots of exposure. Classes are our main source of income – need to create interest.***

***Check out YRW blog and participate: <http://s261982036.onlinehome.us/>***

***June will link our blog to their website.***

8. Miscellaneous

- a. **Group roster: (June sent it to Sandy; she will add new members from today and list will be circulated to all members.)**
- b. **Dues: January will be our renewal month. Members that signed up at first YRW meeting in September will be current through January 2010. Previous Wine Country members from the coast that have not paid dues will lapse their membership status.**

Announcements:

**Member Tina Stanbaugh as accepted a publication contract with Samhain Publishing. Congratulations Tina!!!**

**Stacey will be speaking next month. She will be storyboarding. Everyone will participate and make one for your own WIP. Process helps with consistency. Materials will be provided by Stacey.**

**We need to be sure to RSVP as soon as possible for restaurant issues and next month especially in March - Stacey needs to know ahead of time for materials required.**

**Meeting will begin at normal time next month - i.e., 10:30**

**New Members Introduced:**

**Ginny Christensen - She has self published one children's book, Nicky's Nocturnal Octopus and as second children's book to come out soon - Andie's Pet Duck. For the past year and a half, she has been working on contemporary romance manuscript which incorporates details from her family's travels in Europe. Finished but will now need to make changes. Joined our group to promote publication of her manuscript. (Sandy mentions that our online classes are very helpful in many areas. In addition to the craft of writing, other areas include public relations, how to choose agent/editor; etc.)**

**New Members continued:**

**Mary Amelia Cavazos-Reyna - She will bring her published book, *Love Thyself - A Life Guide for Women* to next meeting and will raffle it away. Based on anecdotes gained from life experience. She also does seminars for women - i.e., how to get out of debt; get your affairs in order; writing memoirs - basically how to take care of yourself. 24**

**Sarah Simas - She is from Lemoore and recently joined Kings County Writers Group. She writes historical regency - has 11 chapters completed in her first manuscript. She is a stay at home mom 3 year old and 20 month old - Writing time is nap time.**

There being no further business, Di motioned for adjournment; Melissa seconded; unanimous vote by members to adjourn, whereby meeting was adjourned by President, Dawna Richard.

- Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.; Speaker and lunch followed
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Donna O'Brien.

/s/ Donna K. O'Brien \_\_\_\_\_  
Donna K. O'Brien, Secretary