

**IFWA MEETING**  
**Thursday, September 3, 2019, 7:00 PM**  
**Sentry Box**  
**MINUTES**

**Information Items:**

**New Members:** Ellen Easton, Kelsie Silva, Deanna Waldner, Tasha McLeod

Time	Topic	Person
7:00 PM	<p><b><u>Crits for September</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crit 1: Bryce - companion piece for novel - urban fantasy - Harry Dresden style Crit by Daniel and Chris Jessop</li> <li>• Crit 2: Chris Carolan - first 2 chapters of sequel to paranormal steampunk novel Crit by Celeste and Dale</li> </ul>	Shannon Daniel / Chris  Celeste / Dale
	<p><b><u>Crits for October, 2019</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crit 1: Rick Overwater (short story, alternate history, weird tale with horror elements) Crit by Rex and Chris Carolan</li> </ul>	Shannon
8:00 PM	<p><b><u>Skills Session</u></b>  Turbo-Charging Your Word-Count</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rachel Aaron - How to Write 10K Words a Day</li> <li>• Engineer - analyzed and created solutions</li> <li>• Spent a few minutes sketching out a scene. If she spent more time, she is writing the scene</li> <li>• It spun story in her head.</li> <li>• She knows what is going on, so boom, she goes from 2000 words to 10,000 words. If do nothing else, this will increase your output.</li> <li>• She made spreadsheets to find more efficiencies - writes everything she can about her word count.</li> <li>• Started noticing patterns. Noticed <b><u>when</u></b> she got work done.</li> <li>• She noticed that she got better words when away from home, etc.</li> <li>• Also need enthusiasm - scenes she really liked to write</li> <li>• Need all three: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge - what she will write</li> <li>• Timing - when she will do it for best word count</li> <li>• Enthusiasm - does she want to write it?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• With all three, get up to 10K words per day and she finished her project with weeks to spare.</li> <li>• Gave her time that she did not expect.</li> <li>• Since 2011, Rachel Aaron has written 16 books.</li> <li>• Do not have to write 10K words per day to be successful</li> <li>• Use spreadsheet to gain an idea of metrics - when</li> </ul>	Renee Bennett

	<p>you are most efficient. Someone else might find best time to work is different. Sweet spot might be early morning or late at night. Be able to prove it to yourself.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have fun.</li> <li>• Two parts to Writer's Life: Production (writing) and Administration (social media, marketing, etc).</li> <li>• Don't let Administration take over your Production. If have to get rid of something for Admin, do it instead of sacrificing Production.</li> </ul>	
8:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Call for Agenda Items</u></b></li> <li>• Susan -</li> </ul>	Michael
8:35 PM	<p><b><u>Brag</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susan – 1 - blog post on Mary Robinette Kowal's "My Favorite Bits" 2 - blog post on John Scalzi's "Big Idea" on "Whatever" 3 - Turned in Book 2 (after proofing edits) to publisher 4 - Featured Author at Lethbridge's Word on the Street Sept 21 - 5 - Teaching "Plotting for Planners" at the Alexandra Writers' Center, starting September 17</li> <li>• Ann - novel Sam Hayate at Rights Factory - second read - has another novel out at another agent</li> <li>• Michael - finished novel / second novel is 110K in it and half done</li> <li>• Ellen - Drabble - has 100 words</li> <li>• Brent - printed 54 copies of Writing Better Fiction and almost sold</li> <li>• Adrien - finally finished the first revised draft</li> <li>• Joey - Went to WWC - threw something into slush pile - got well received</li> <li>• Kevin Weir - new play will be workshopped</li> <li>• Suzy - has gotten 2 re-writes of novel done</li> <li>• Sandra - New story in Polar Borealis - Shapeshifter novel should be up and running on Amazon. Free short story prequel up that weekend as well</li> <li>• Bryce - finished script of book 3 done for comic.</li> <li>• Ed - Engineering Employment from Linked In</li> <li>• Calvin – possible agent, new short story invitation, Chinatown Project contract</li> </ul>	Michael

8:40 PM	<p><b><u>Discuss / Decide</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IFWA Logo – RJ Lenicek – Vote to accept new logo – <u>Moved</u>: Shannon, <u>Second</u>: Dan. <u>Vote</u>: unanimous.</li> <li>• Mail List – Prepare to Discuss - should we have paper mail list? Access to it. Paper or electronic.</li> <li>• Susan - Two things that came up - 1) Make sure you don't interrupt business conversations people are having and 2) Skills Sessions - would it make sense for presenters to give a sentence or two about WHY you are best person for presenting. For information? Not mandatory, but might be useful for people.</li> <li>• Contest - Commonwealth Writers . org – 2,500 pounds</li> <li>• Adrian - Websites on Amazon S3 and Lambda - Building websites on Amazon - Websites in general and what are they good for? Author websites.</li> <li>• Sandra - Shared Author's Table - made over \$7,000, most of which was by Square.</li> <li>• Expo Holiday Market - One table \$145 plus GST. Get 2 Tables and get 4 badges to swap. IFWA pays for one table and authors pay for other. Discuss. Suggest IFWA pay for both tables. Said to be a declining market, but Suzy says it is still worth it. <b>Vote</b>: IFWA buys 2 tables at Expo Holiday Market at Christmas (December) <u>Move</u>: Susan; <u>Seconded</u>: Ed; <u>Vote</u>: unanimous, motion carried.</li> <li>• Renee - call for sub - Loft 112 - Calgary-centric fiction - 4-5000 words - if your piece is selected, it has a chance to get into Library short story vending machine, get reading. Deadline is Sept 30. Have stats up.</li> </ul>	Michael
8:55 PM	<p><b><u>Announcements</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aurora Award 2019 Ballot</b> - The voter's package is available for CSFFA members to download. Voting ends September 14, 2019.</li> <li>• <b>Writers in the House</b> – hosted by Randy McCharles – will be held October 12-14, 2019 – Calgary Delta South – 135 Southland Dr. SW. Join local writers for a LONG weekend of writing (three days this time). Drop by any time from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday, October 12, Saturday October 13 and Sunday, October 14.</li> </ul>	Michael

**Next Meeting:** October 3, 2019

**Skills Session:** Michael Gillett – Getting Your Story Read/Critiqued