

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

The Window

Official Newsletter of Panhandle Professional Writers
d/b/a Texas High Plains Writers



HIGH PLAINS WRITERS

November 2015

A Bi-Monthly

Newsletter

From the President

Kimberly Black

Being a part of a community, any community, requires a measure of responsibility. That is true of our country, our state, our city, and our neighborhoods. It is also true of Texas High Plains Writers, our creative community. "Being a part" implies participation. Attending meetings, promoting our association, growing our membership, and volunteering to serve are all ways we can contribute.

I want to encourage every member to be more active in our writing community this next year. Mark your calendar now to be sure not to miss a single meeting in 2016. Save up a few extra dollars and purchase a book from one of our program presenters or other members. Make an effort to connect with other members at our next meeting. Meet our speakers at the THPW social events. Bring something to a critique group. Join the Board of Directors or a committee and help steer the future of our organization.

What do you love about our group? Let the board know. If you have ideas about what can make our organization stronger, be part of that strength by volunteering. Participate. Really participate. Don't be afraid to call me or one of the other Board Members to speak about what you can do for our group. Bring friends to our meetings. (Invited guests can attend their first meeting for free.) Stay for lunch – it's only \$10 for a great box lunch – it's a great way to get to know other writers. Make connections. That's what community is all about.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

November 21 Program

Driven or Driving?

Award-winning author Jan Sikes will be presenting “Driven or Driving?” at the Texas High Plains Writers’ November 21 meeting. Her latest novel *The Convict and the Rose* received first place in Biography Fiction from the Texas Association of Authors. During her presentation, Ms. Sikes will talk about family or ancestral stories and what to do with them, self-publishing pros and cons, and steps to take before self-publishing, and marketing.



Potluck Social

Friday, November 20, 6:30 p.m.

We had such a good time at our last potluck social, so we're doing it again!. You don't have to be a member to come. Just bring a dish and meet our guest speaker, Jan Sikes, The social starts at 6:30 in the evening on Friday, November 20, and is being held in our usual meeting rooms (which are in the southwest corner of the Amarillo Senior Citizens Center, 1217 S. Tyler Street). Plates, cups, napkins, plasticware, and ice tea will be provided.

Just so you know what you missed last time, here are some pictures from September's social.



Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Slight Change in Schedule

Business Meeting Time Change

At the last board meeting, a motion was made and passed to change the time of the business meeting. All future general membership business meetings will be held at 10 a.m. rather than 12:00 p.m.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Youth Writing Contest Raffle

Help Us Raise Funds for Youth Writing Contest

We are holding a raffle for a very cool Samsung Galaxy Tab 4 Nook 10.1 Tablet to raise funds to pay for all of the expenses of the youth writing contest. Raffle tickets are on sale NOW! The tickets are \$5 each or six for \$20. What a deal! If you would like to purchase some tickets or help us sell some tickets, contact Janet Taylor at janetcoopertaylor@gmail.com or 806-282-1227.

Write Reviews, People!

Linda Broday

Ever wonder why writers beg for reviews, why they're so important? Here's the scoop. Statistics show 500k books are uploaded onto Amazon each day and millions across the Internet. A writer gets lost in the midst of those. But, if they get reviews, it bumps them up where they get noticed. After 20-25 reviews, Amazon includes the author's book in the "Also Bought" and "You Might Like" lists. And at 50-75 reviews, they spotlight the book and put it in newsletters they send out. This is HUGE for an author, whether indie or traditionally published.

But I think the best reason for writing reviews is the boost it gives the author. He/She needs to know that what they're doing is worthwhile. Everyone desperately needs validation. So if you read a book and like it, tell them. Reviews don't have to be long. One sentence will do. That just takes a second and it means so much.

Where do you put reviews? Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Goodreads and just about any book site. So, please start doing this. Every review counts!

Back in Amarillo

Molly McKnight

It is exciting to be back in Amarillo and active in PPW (oooooops, THPW) again. I like the new name. It puts us all on a more even level, no matter our writing experience.

There are strong things going on in our organization, and I look forward to watching us grow because of them. Strong programs and great fellowships are planned, and I hope you will want to be a part of them.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

July speaker, who, by the way, gave a great presentation.

Each of you is a tremendous addition to our writing "family," and I hope you put us on your calendar for the future events -- potlucks, other activities, and great programs. See ya!

It's Published!

Vicki Schoen's *Inherit the Texas Earth* is now available on Amazon in both electronic and dead-tree formats.

Inherit the Texas Earth is historical fiction as it was really lived. Set in Dalhart, Texas, during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, it tells the story of those who stayed. Only the strong survived, but they became the backbone of the area. They were the ones who personified the enduring values of the American West.

When, at the age of seventeen, Willy Gil Kellogg inherited his grandfather's wheat farm, he thought he was set for life. Then the decade-long drought began and a Comanche, his former friend, returned to the area to solve a long-suppressed mystery.

Frontiers in Writing awarded Vicki's novel first place in mainstream fiction, and UpAuthor selected it as a finalist in the first chapter contest, historical division.

If you choose to read *Inherit the Texas Earth* and enjoy it, Vicki would appreciate a short review on Amazon. Don't forget to check out her [website](#).

Travel Time with Janda

Janda Raker has posted a new travel article on Examiner.com. This one is titled "Tour the Nazca Lines in Peru: budget or luxury." You can access this article, with many intriguing photos, by clicking [here](#). This is Janda's 24th article posted on Examiner.com. All articles can be accessed by going to her [website](#). Links are provided there. And, you can click on the "subscribe" button on any of the articles, and you'll then be notified when she posts new ones. If you enjoy these, be sure to share with others.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Writing Contests

Member's Contest

The subject matter of our next members' writing contest is a "holidays". Your entry can be short story of any genre or poetry. Submissions for the January bi-monthly meeting's contest must be postmarked by January 4, 2016. Contest rules can be found [here](#).

If you are not a member and would like to submit an entry, please go to the Membership page on our website, print the Membership Registration - Renewal Form 2016.pdf (link to the form is located at the bottom of the webpage), and mail it in with your submission.

Scintillating Starts Contest

Information on this contest was emailed to us, so we thought we'd share. A portion of the email read: "Enter Writer Advice's Fourth SCINTILLATING STARTS Contest. Grab and hold us with your opening paragraphs. Submit up to 1500 words of any unpublished memoir or novel by 11/10/15. Additional details and link to Submittable at www.writeradvice.com."

Upcoming Guest Speakers

Chimp Robertson out of Hooker, Oklahoma, will be our January guest speaker.

Robertson is a storyteller of rodeos, the old west, and cowboys. Dusty Richards, a Western novel author, will speak at our March bi-monthly meeting.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

President: Kimberly Black - pennie@steepdog.com
President-Elect: vacant
Secretary: vacant
Treasurer: Karen Gammage - kgamm@earthlink.net
Technical Support: Mike Akins - mike7166@gmail.com
Membership: Molly McKnight - mmc222@ymail.com
Hospitality: Carol Smith - carolsnowsmith@gmail.com
Publicity and Newsletter: Janet Taylor - janetcoopertaylor@gmail.com
Conferences and Workshops: vacant
Programs: Linda Broday - lindabroday@aol.com

Critique Session Guidelines

To participate in the critique session, you do not need to have a piece to be critiqued. The sessions begin at 1 p.m. and, depending on the number of those who have a story or a poem needing to be critiqued, can last up to a couple of hours. We suggest that your material not exceed approximately 750 to 1,000 words. Please bring at about five copies of your story or poem. If possible, it is helpful if you bring a short synopsis of your story so those critiquing have some background. We ask that you format your manuscript as follows:

- 1. Use white 8.5 by 11-inch paper.*
- 2. Double space using either Times New Roman 12 or similar font.*
- 3. In the header, give your last name, a slash (/), and a short title on the left and the page number on the right (at the top of each page).*
- 4. Use one-inch margins.*
- 5. Use one side of the paper only.*
- 6. If possible, use line numbering.*
- 7. Note: Your synopsis may be single-spaced.*

Each person, in turn, will read 1,000 words or less (15 to 20 minutes) or the author will read their own writing, based on preference; then, the group facilitator will ask for discussion from the group. While each person is reading, we urge all other participants to offer written comments on the manuscript. All copies will be returned to each author.

The goal of every critique is: "How can we make it better."

Meetings are held on the third Saturday in odd-numbered months: January, March, May, July, September, and November.

The public and Texas High Plains Writers members are invited to hear speakers on selected writing or related topics.

You may order a box lunch from our Hospitality Director between 9:30 and 10:15 or bring a sack lunch. Box lunches are \$10.

Unless otherwise specified, meeting

Our meetings/programs follow this schedule:

*Check-In and Meet & Greet
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.*

*Business Meeting
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.*

*Program/Presentation
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.*

*Box Lunch
12:15 - 1 p.m.*

Critique Session

Subscribe	Past Issues	Translate ▼
<p><i>Amarillo, Texas (Note: We must occasionally switch our meeting location, or we may need to change the date to avoid conflicts. So, please check the address and date for each meeting.)</i></p>		<p><i>You can write to us at: Texas High Plains Writers P. O. Box 19303 Amarillo, TX 79114 or email us at: panhandlewriters@gmail.com</i></p>

Copyright © *2015* *Panhandle Professional Writers*, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

