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The Window

Official eNewsletter of Texas High Plains Writers



HIGH PLAINS WRITERS

November 2017

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Saturday, Nov. 18

The Oasis, Canyon E-Way
Amarillo

9:30 Registration, 10:00 Meeting

B. Alan Bourgeois

**How Do You Sell
What You've
Written?**

Founder and Director of Texas Authors, Inc, from Austin, will talk about new ideas to market and promote books, and the programs and events available for authors.



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Kimberly Black

11.1.17

The last two years serving as President for THPW has been incredible. Really, my entire six years on the Board of Directors has changed my life.

It all began one day when I was watching the morning news, getting dressed, and a segment about a local writing group caught my attention. Bobbette Doerrie spoke about this organization and its activities. Their next meeting was going to be at the Holiday Inn, and I couldn't wait. Two years later I joined the board, taking over mid-term as secretary when there had been a surprise life-event with a past president. I've been on the board ever since.

This group has given me more than I could ever give back. I have found mentors, made friends, won a few awards, pitched to an agent (without passing out), made amazing contacts in the industry, published seven books, and learned more than my brain can handle.

This next meeting will be my last official day as President. I will take this next year off from the board, but I am leaving the office and the board in very good hands. Mike Akins will be a remarkable President, and I know everyone in THPW will support him. Every member of this Board of Directors is working in the best interest of the organization. This next year will bring opportunity for every member of our group to get involved. Workshops are being planned, speakers are being contacted, and our Centennial Event is being created.

Every organization relies heavily on membership participation, especially ours. My message to you all

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guest, or meet and greet members at the door of our next meeting. The more you give to our group, the more you will receive. And that, I can tell you, is a blessing.

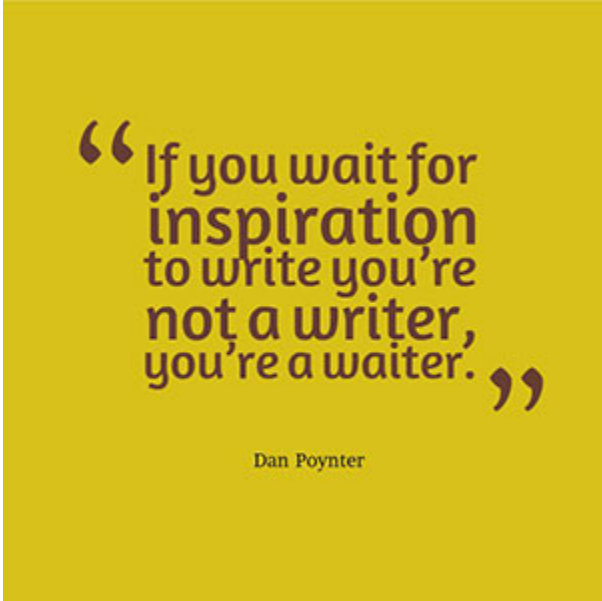
Kimberly

Thank you, Kimberly, for your time and leadership!

Attention AUTHORS!

Not My 9 to 5 Event

An opportunity to show & sell your books!
An Event to ***Cultivate Creative Expression***
Sunday, **November 5** from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
www.notmy9to5.org
email Kirk or Nan for a place at the table
kirkmanton@tfc.org or ndrinella@gmail.com



“If you wait for
inspiration
to write you’re
not a writer,
you’re a waiter.”

Dan Poynter

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Are You Kidding Me?

by Richard Brown, THPW Membership Chair

Netflix, Amazon Prime, the Kia Soul. No! None of those are the best deal in America today. The biggest bargain, the most bang for the buck, the steal of the century is membership in the Texas High Plains Writers.

Right now, for a mere \$30 bucks, you can listen to some of the most successful professional authors in the country, have access to inspiring and educational workshops, rub shoulders with other aspiring or professional creatives just like you. Surprise, some of the most successful writers in America are locals, in part due to 100 years of continuous nurturing of local writers by this wonderful organization. Yes, the second highest selling author of Romance novels in the country lives in Amarillo. You would know that if you attended THPW meetings. Do you want to make over a million dollars a year writing—we have members that do that. Do you want to be on the New York Times best sellers list—we have members that do that. Do you want to write Christian fiction, horror, sci-fi, mysteries, short stories, westerns, memoirs, screen plays, poetry—we have members that do all of that and then some. Whatever your interest, whatever your goals, membership in THPW will inspire you and help you develop and promote your talent. Take advantage of the November through January special and renew or join for only \$30. You will soon agree, there is absolutely no other place such a meager sum can make such a massive difference in your writing life.

Join now.

THPW Membership Chair, Rick Brown, welcomes inquiries and questions about membership via his email, rick.brown.properties@gmail.com

Annual Dues Early Bird Special!

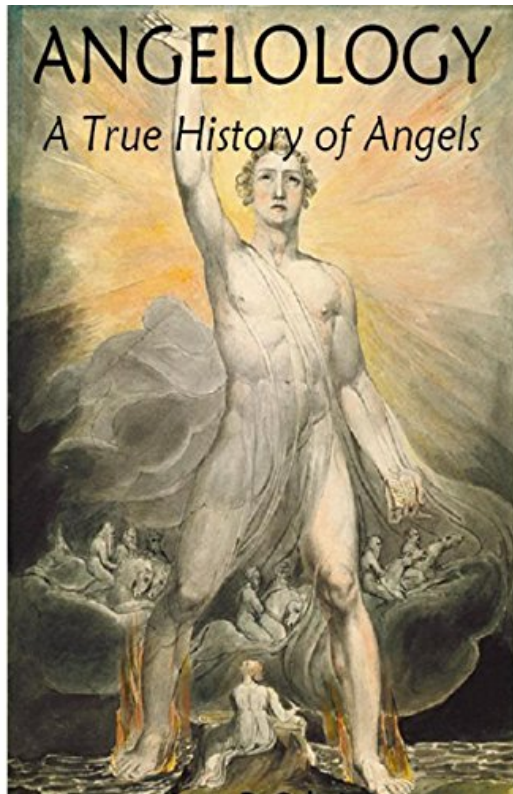
**Only \$30 if paid before Feb. 1
2018 Dues are \$36 after January**

Looking for a critique group?

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area, or can't commit to a specific in person meet time. Anyone interested can contact Donna Rosson, at dejavu13@sbcglobal.net for more information and guidelines.

Thank you, Donna, for the work you do in coordinating these opportunities for writers!



THPW member James D. Quiggle announces his book is now available in print, Kindle, Nook and ePub formats:

ANGELOLOGY ***A True History of Angels***

Angelology discusses the history of the angelic community from their creation, the fall of some, their character and attributes, and the works and appearances of holy and fallen angels. Special attention is given to the controversial passages Genesis 6, Isaiah 14, and Ezekiel 28. Numerous traditional views of what angels are like in appearance, nature, purpose, and organizational structure are challenged by Scripture. Myths thought to be Biblical are exposed. Five appendices list every appearance, work, and mention of the holy and fallen angels. A sample may be accessed at smashwords.com.

James D. Quiggle holds Master's degrees in religion and theology, and has been teaching and writing about the Bible for over forty years.

*"For years I had in mind
the need for association
of those who write or try
to write or who wish to
write."*

Laura Hamner
Panhandle Pen-Points

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Founder, The Panhandle Pen
Women of Amarillo



A long-time resident of the Texas Panhandle recalls his school paper assignment. For his topic he chose local historian and author, Laura Hamner, and journeyed to the Herring Hotel in downtown Amarillo for an interview. He remembers being enthralled by her apartment located in the hotel, where every room was full of books and research papers. She loved the history and the people of this area, and she talked his ear off. His only regret is that he never accepted her invitation to visit again.

As one of the founders of our organization, **Laura Hamner**, did not begin her writing career with earnest until age 50. Arriving to the Texas Panhandle as a young woman in her 20's, Amarillo was only four years old at the time. Raised on a family-owned plantation near Memphis, she earned a teaching degree from Peabody College and left her sheltered life for Texas. She stepped off the train in Amarillo, "experienced the blowing wind and observed the coarseness of Panhandle residents", and thought seriously of buying a return ticket. After the first initial shock, she stayed. Her parents health, death of a sister who left an infant son to raise, teaching, and eventually working for her father who moved to Claude to run the newspaper, filled the first 30 years of her life.

When Hamner finally embraced writing, she did so with exuberance, writing daily and weekly newspaper columns, radio scripts, nine books of poetry and nonfiction. Over the next 40 years she received numerous awards and accolades. She served as poet laureate of Texas, and at the age of 92, received the Texas Heritage Foundation Medal.

Back in April 20, 1919, two journalists, Hamner and Phoebe Warner, waited in the Amarillo Hotel lobby, hoping to form an organization of women who aspired to write. The invitation had been extended through the Panhandle Press Club. Four women showed up, and the planning meeting was officially underway. On that day, their work became the seed that would encourage and serve area writers for decades. Panhandle Pen Women boasted 48 members by 1925 who all earned money from their work.

As PPW grew, members included a wide variety representing the arts, and the need for organization began with written by-laws which established a Board of Directors and standing committees for conducting business. Members outside Amarillo traveled to the highly anticipated quarterly meetings by train. Meetings were conducted in a very formal manner beginning with roll call, and included morning, afternoon and evening sessions. Applicants for membership required two member sponsors along with samples of published works. In the years that followed there were many events to encourage area writers; critiques, contests, lectures, week-long workshops, and a club newsletter.

"We do not wait until our fellow-member collapses from discouragement, but we pat each other on the back and urge that we try on, regardless of apparent failure..."

LAURA HAMNER

REF various sources, including *Lone Star Chapters* by Betty Holland Wiesepage (2004, Texas A&M University Press)

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A local writing critique group, WordsmithSix, announces their upcoming anthology set on the famous highway, Route 66. This collection will feature stories by Rory C. Keel, Nandy Ekle, Adam Huddleston, Joe Nichols, Cait Collins, and Natalie Bright.

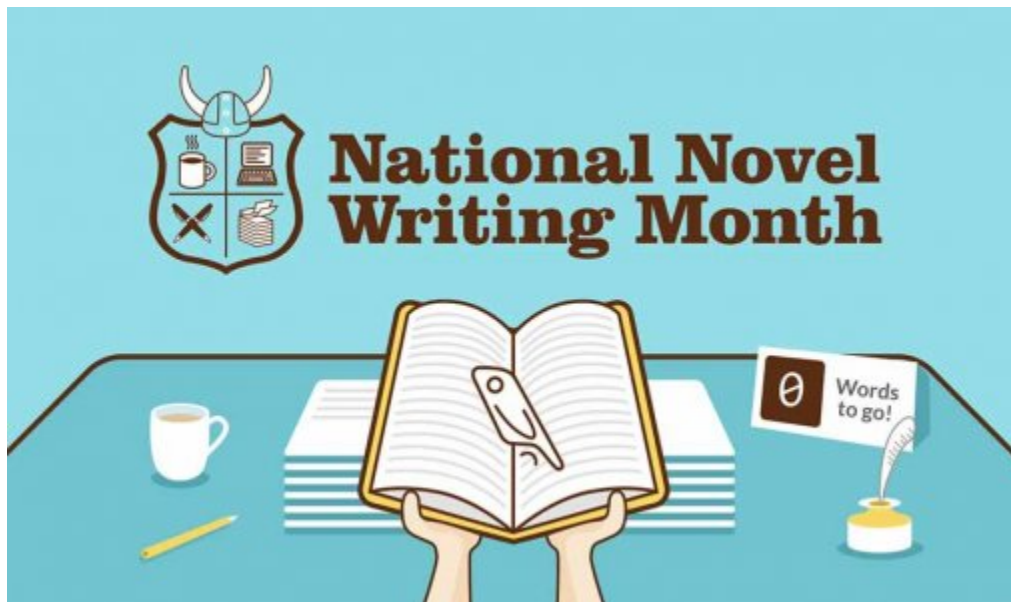
"Our Time on Route 66"

It started as a dirt path connecting neighbors, communities, states and finally a nation. Route 66 was an overland highway traveled by pioneers, migrant farmers, and anyone going west looking for the American dream. From wagon ruts to asphalt, it has connected generations of people.

Join us as we travel through time from the early days and well into the future on the Mother Road.

OUR TIME ON ROUTE 66 is a collection of stories that tell of good times and bad, love and heartache, from the past to beyond tomorrow, and all of them connected by one stop, the Tower Station and U-Drop Inn in Shamrock, Texas.

Coming soon to print and eBook formats.



Notes from the Editor's Desk

1) It's Day #2 for November Novel writing month! If you are participating in NaNoWriMo, send me a blurb about your work-in-progress along with your word count and I will include your name in the next BUZZ. I have yet to finish anything that I've started in the past, but it's a great lesson in self-discipline, learning about your writing process, and what you are capable of. I promise you this, if anything can go crazy wrong with day-job or family issues, it WILL happen during this month.

2) NaNoWriMo Events: **Saturday, Nov. 4, 10-2 at Palace Coffee, 34th and Coulter. Back room is reserved.** Also, Thursdays, the 9th, 16th, and 30th at Palace Coffee from 6-8:30

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Sunday events TBA on the Regional Forum Boards through your NaNoWriMo home page. Sign up today at NaNoWriMo.org or email Donna Rosson with questions, dejavu13@sbcglobal.net

3) In celebration of the upcoming 100th year anniversary for the existence of our organization, I've written an article about one of our founding members, Laura Hamner. In Part 2, I'll write about the inner workings of the early organization, Panhandle Pen Women became Panhandle Professional Writers, and most recently Texas High Plains Writers. We are one of the oldest, continuous existing clubs for writers in the country. Your Board is already brainstorming ideas to celebrate in 2020! We will need volunteers and your participation.

4) Please forward our newsletter to all of your writerly friends and invite them to our next meeting.

"Write like it matters and it will."
LIBBA BRAY

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.

Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. There is no fee for members of Texas High Plains Writers to attend our regular bi-monthly meetings. A \$10 fee may apply to nonmembers.

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.

Lunch On Your Own

12:15 - 1 p.m.

Critique Session, if Announced

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8201 Canyon Drive
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.)

Write to us at:
Texas High Plains Writers
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Amarillo, TX 79114

Email us:
info@texashighplainswriters.com



Byline and credited articles represent the views of the authors. Publication neither implies approval of the opinion or the accuracy of the facts stated. We welcome submission, news, member announcements, and any information that might be of interest to the writing community. We will happily promote new releases and book signing events for THPW members only.

Natalie Bright, Newsletter Editor/Publicity Chair
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