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The Window

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



HIGH PLAINS WRITERS

March 2019

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

March Meeting

Saturday, March 16, 2019

The Edward Davis Room

9th Floor

First Bank Southwest Tower (formerly Chase Tower)

600 S Tyler St., Amarillo, TX 79101

9:30 Registration 10:00 Meeting

Board member meeting to follow

Freelance Writing with Dee Burks

Image may contain: 1 person, smiling, eyeglasses, text that says 'HIGH PLAINS WRITERS FEATURED SPEAKER: Dee Burks'

Dee Burks has worked in publishing more than 25 years and owned a publishing company in Texas for ten years that specialized in personal development and business books. Dee has worked with authors such as Bob Proctor, Joe Vitale, Mark Victor Hanson, David Oreck, John Maxwell and many others. Dee is a #1 bestselling author and taught continuing education classes on writing at Amarillo College for several years. She now concentrates most of her time on her own books many of which are set in beautiful Northern New Mexico. She also freelances and teaches writing classes.

This publishing professional will speak with us about the exciting world of freelance writing. Whether you're currently freelancing or are interested in new ways to expand your writing income, join us

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The drawing for the Kindle Paperwhite was held during our January meeting and the big winner was....

Stephanie Pearson

Congratulations Stephanie!!



From the President

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fiction, whodunit's, text books, magazine articles, news stories, academic treatises. Most of them are represented by one or more of our members. For each type of writing, there exists such a thing as best practices, the preferred method, the writing approach that best captures the attention of the reader and best conveys the message of the author.

Like most of our members, I primarily write fiction. It's early days in my journey, and as I study the craft, I marvel at what the masters have to teach. During one of his presentations, Stephen King casually stated that relying on plot is the last resort of a poor writer. His comment drove home for me what I have had to learn and re-learn during my own pilgrimage. His words resonated. They mirrored what another teacher said, that a reader will pick up a book because of the cover, start reading because of the genre, but lose themselves in the story because of the characters.

Readers want and need to identify with the emotions of the characters, their joys and pains, their sorrows and hopes. Without that empathy, the book becomes a hollow study in plot, lacking emotional substance, unable to sustain the interest from opening line to the last syllable, never to reverberate in the mind of the reader, or leave them wanting more. A great work makes the reader feel as if the characters are members of their family, or, even better, transports them to another world almost as real as our own.

In 2019, we have the opportunity as members of THPW to improve ourselves as writers, to network with one another and listen to the countless lessons learned from each other. We have opportunities to attend workshops sponsored by our group (the first being in Canadian in April) and to absorb knowledge from speakers representing both the craft and business aspects of our field. Please mark your calendars for the third Saturday of every odd month so you don't miss a thing. I look forward to seeing you soon.

2019 Programs

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Barbara Brannon, Executive Director of Texas Plains Trail Region, will speak on marketing and book promotion.

March 16

Dee Burks will speak about developing a freelance writing career and writing nonfiction.

April 12-14 2019 ~ Canadian Retreat

2nd Annual Writers Workshop in Canadian. THPW will be co-sponsoring the event again this year with the Canadian Arts Alliance. Save the Date!

May 11

Celebrating Amarillo Arts at the Sunset Art Center in conjunction with The Crouch Foundation. We'll post more information as plans for this event are finalized on how you can participate.

2019's 60 Day Free Trial is Up!

Kristine(KR) Brorman

Is it March?

Spring Break?

Is that a forgotten Christmas ornament on the bookshelf? Maybe if I tuck it in beside the stone Easter rabbits no one will notice....

The truth is, time is always flying by or sneaking up. Unless, like me you find yourself in a jury pool then time burns like a tire fire, long, slow, hot and a lot of smoke.

However, time is NOT an untameable beast. Here are are my five favorites -

1. **To-Do Lists** - To beat the satisfaction of crossing out completed tasks one must venture into the chocolate-lottery win-potato chip-wine pleasure category.
2. **Work when no one else is** - This from a lifelong sleep master. I've discovered my highest productivity time is before 6am OR after midnight. It's quiet, no one is calling, emailing, or needing food. The same is true for work weeks. Before 8 am & after 5 pm (or whatever clock your work schedule runs on) demands for time and attention on work are less and author business can be the focus.
3. **Distraction free zone** - No phone, email, social media. Put the kids/spouse/pets/dueling bajo buddy on notice - it's writing time. Or it's blog & newsletter day.
4. **Rewards** - Sometimes crossing off the To Dos isn't enough. Walk the dog, watch a movie, scroll through facebook in the bath....

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socks. Thanks for driving the kids to Wednesday night youth group this week. Thank you Linday Broday for manning the Twitter account when the new gal dropped the ball.

There are hundreds of tips and trick and apps and books and TED talks on time management for authors. It doesn't matter if you use these five, or a ten point strategy or just ONE thing to wrangle your time beast - just stick to it! Make time the pet not a snarling monster we sacrifice our writing life to.

Happy Writing!



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hard on their train.

It's available in bookstores and online.

Amazon - <https://amzn.to/2EHSFk5>

B&N - <http://bit.ly/2HdMvtH>

iTunes - <https://apple.co/2GUimAB>

We are delighted to announce Donna Rossen has accepted the role of Membership Chair on the THPW Board! Thank you Donna for taking on this position and contributing your time and energy to this organization.

From the Editor's Desk:

The sidewalk is wet this morning. Praying it's the beginning of a wonderful wet Spring for our farms, pastures and gardens. Just as our soil needs the precious rains, our stories need to be told. Creativity feeds creativity. Every story we share sparks another. Every book we publish gives hope to our fellow members for the possibilities.

We never know how high we are
Till we are called to rise;
And then, if we are true to plan,
Our statures touch the skies—

The Heroism we recite
Would be a daily thing,
Did not ourselves the Cubits warp
For fear to be a King— Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Keep sending in your announcements for BUZZ Notes and content for The Window eNewsletter. Never hesitate to shoot me an email or reach out on social media.

Write fearlessly,
KRB



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).*

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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.

(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.)

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

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Need to contact us?

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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.

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