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The Window

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



HIGH PLAINS WRITERS

April 2021

Newsletter



From The President

Dear Texas High Plains Writers family,

If you are reading this letter, I want to thank you for sticking with us. After more than 100 years, to imagine life in the Panhandle without the THPW seems absurd. However, if I've learned anything from the last year, it's that our world is capable of seismic shifts that happen on a dime.

But the one thing that remained constant, even as we changed the way we meet every other month, was that we all stayed thirsty for the connection that writers can share.

Already in 2021, we've discussed the frustration and joy that comes from chipping away the unnecessary words from a manuscript, answered your questions on craft, and been introduced to many new ideas that I hope have inspired and challenged us all.

And I hope you find the rest of this year even more informative, engaging, and — perhaps most importantly — fun.

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influential instructors in my career so far: Tex Thompson, MD (Manuscript doctor).

Those of us who've been to one of her lectures already know how she breaks down any subject so it's understandable to writers of any level, then gives us all real-world exercises and techniques we can use immediately.

She's also one of the funniest people I've ever met.

May's meeting also significant because — barring unforeseen circumstances — we are planning on it being the last virtual gathering of the Texas High Plains Writers.

While the specifics have not yet been nailed down (due to the fluid nature of things as we climb out of the pandemic), we are excited at the prospect of truly seeing everyone in July with guest speaker and local marketing guru Kenja Purkey. I'm particularly looking forward to learning her techniques for walking up to people at conferences and talking about myself and my work — a personal nightmare for many of us introverted scribes.

In September, we've lined up Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan ... I mean, local thriller author (and former CIA intelligence officer) Taylor Moore. His debut novel, *Down Range*, will be one of major publishing's biggest releases of the year in August. A month later, Taylor's going to share with us just how long it takes to become an "overnight" success.

I hope Taylor's story will inspire you as it has inspired me. We all need that from time to time, and perhaps now more than ever.

Riding out this storm is taking an incredible amount of patience, but I sincerely hope you're as excited about the rest of 2021 as I am.

Rick Treon
President

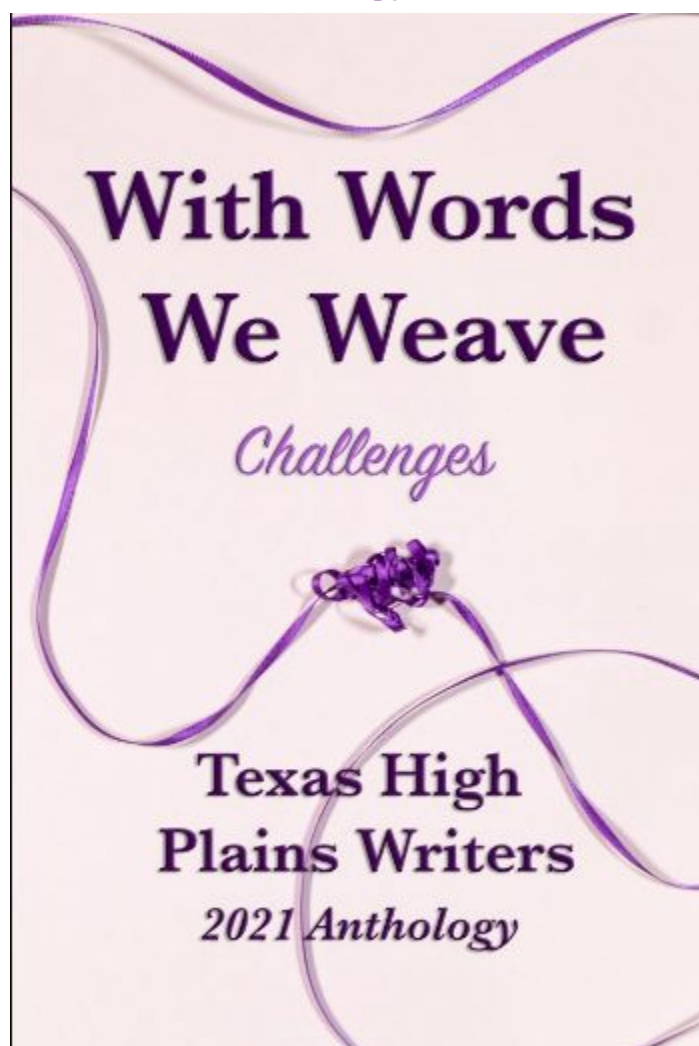
THPW 2021 Calendar

- **May 15** - virtual bi-monthly meeting via Zoom w/ Tex Thompson, *Juice Box Hero*; *Squeezing Plot From Character*
- **July 17** - Kenja Purkey, marketing guru

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Your Board is working diligently to bring great programs that meet the needs and desires of our members. We are as ready as you to safely resume in-person meetings. Please let us know if you have any program ideas or requests. We always welcome input from our members.

2021 Anthology Available

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Open Seats



We are still searching for a Programs Director, Events and Workshops Director and Historian for the 2021-2022 term. Volunteering is a fulfilling way to serve this writing community and build working relationships with our fellow authors.

From the Editor's Desk:

Don't Trash Those Emails Too Fast

Wading through the sea of emails shouting what "every author must do," there sat one nugget worth saving from the junk pile, from non other than The Great and Powerful Zon (your humble editor has a love-hate relationship).

KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing) is jumping on to the serial/episodic story publishing wagon with Kindle Vella. Look out Wattpad. According to the email, Kindle Vella will be available in a few months via the Kindle iOS app and Amazon.com.

It's easy to guess why The Zon is interested in serial publishing, *cha-ching*, but why should authors embrace this publishing avenue?

Fans of online publishing find it's a good way to build and engage with our audience. Authors can test story ideas, get feedback and find beat readers for the eventual novel. Sounds pretty good to me.

WattPad and Smashwords are probably the sites we are all most familiar with. WattPad is currently the largest reader/writer community with 65 million users.

Want to know more? Here's a great piece from Nicholas Belardes, [Serial Storytelling: Is It Worth It?](#)

Check out this article from [Self Publishing Hub](#) for an in-depth look at popular websites.

"Writing is about engaging the world around you. So get out there and do it." ~ Nicholas Belardes



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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.

(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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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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