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The Window

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

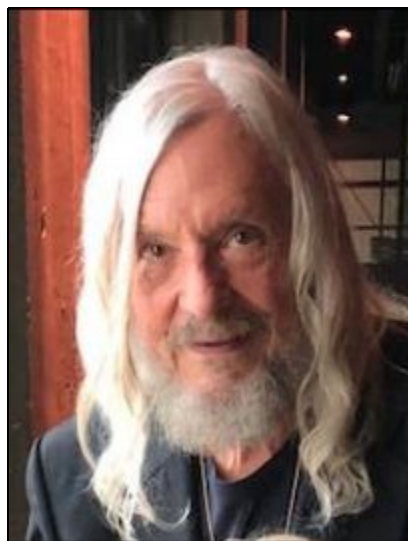


HIGH PLAINS WRITERS

January 2021

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

From our Presidents...



Dear Texas High Plains Writers
Members:

The close of 2020 coincided with the
end of my term as your president.

When I assumed this office in
September, 2019, due to the
resignation of the current president, I
looked forward to serving the very
special year of 2020, which marked the
centenary milestone of THPW.

A special celebration was planned to coincide with ArtFest at Amarillo College and
scheduled for April. The highlight for this organization was to be a dinner theater
featuring a one-woman play, written by Mike Akins, about the founder of this
organization.

As we know, a microbe had different plans for our community and our world. And,
while other organizations have folded, THPW has sustained an enviable record of
accomplishments,
some of which I will note.

- Although our last in-person meeting was in January, we quickly switched to

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making these possible and Misti Walser for much of the scheduling.

- Financially the organization is solvent and solid, well-prepared for 2021. A great deal of gratitude to Janet Taylor for her scrupulous attention to these matters.
- As evidence of ongoing writing, several members have successfully published, while this club has disseminated one anthology and a second is in final editing.
- A youth writing contest was held, and several winners received college scholarships.
- The newsletter, thanks to Kristine Brorman, kept members apprised of events of interest to local writers.

I will, one last time, thank our Board for their commitment to making the best decisions for THPW as together we navigated the Covid-dominated challenges of 2020. A new board, with some returning members, and led by Ricky Treon, President and Wayne Hughes, President-Elect, promises very strong and effective leadership.

I thank you for the privilege of serving this enhanced term, and I wish you, and all Texas High Plains Writers, a banner year for your writing in 2021.

Dr. Rick DeVoe

Fellow members of the Texas High Plains Writers,

We writers are a unique breed. We spend hours in solitude talking with our imaginary friends.

We agonize over words and phrases and the rhythm they create.



And, perhaps strangest of all, many of us enjoy laying bare our most intimate feelings and posting them for public scrutiny and comment.

Perhaps that's why finding a community of other writers is so important. Discussing the craft and business with others in the trenches can be cathartic, reinforcing, and energizing — something I only learned after discovering the Texas High Plains Writers.

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reporter, as part of a news story for the paper. But that first meeting inspired me. I was already tinkering with writing fiction and was working on the roughest of drafts of what became my first novel.

It's no exaggeration to say the manuscript would not have been completed, or revised, or polished enough for publication without this incredible organization.

So, when I was approached to serve as a member of the board in 2021-2022, I was overjoyed to have a hand in helping continue the century-old tradition that is the THPW. I was then saddened when my post as President-Elect was hastened by the tragic passing of Suzana Sandoval, and it's with a heavy heart that I humbly inherit the position of President.

It is an incredible honor and a privilege to serve as the leader of this important organization. And as we enter another year — something many of us are eagerly anticipating — I find myself excited about the possibilities 2021 holds for all of us.

Thank you,
Rick Treon
President, Texas High Plains Writers

Save the Date! Get the year Started Right!

**January Zoom meeting
Saturday, January 16, 2021
10:00am**

**Program presented by THPW President Rick Treon.
Information and Zoom link coming soon!**

2021 Dues

Membership \$40/yr - Students \$20/yr
Become a member/renew through the website [HERE](#).
OR
Mail to

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From the Editor's Desk:

My favorite part of writing isn't the first draft. It's the revisions. It's the hard changes after brutal critiques that make me a better writer and the stories stronger.

Last year I closed 2019 with this note, "2020 is going to be an exciting year for THPW. Let's all grab this comet, make our mark, and ensure that in 2120 writers, poets and artists are as inspired by us as we are of those first women who gathered for tea and a love of writing." Some might suggest I am in need of serious revisions. However, I stand by my 2019 closing.

In a hundred years they *will* look back and be inspired by us. They will see we continued to create. They will see we adapted to new technology and new ways to gather, share and communicate. They will see we "*could*" meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same."**

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve another term on the board. I am constantly awed and inspired by this community.

Wishing you a wonderful, healthy and prosperous 2021.
KRB

**Rudyard Kipling, *If*



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."

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*****PLEASE NOTE** All in person meetings are suspended at this time.***

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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