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



HIGH PLAINS WRITERS

March 2021

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

ZOOM into March

March 20 Program- Ask The Authors

Join us at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 20th, for a panel of Authors ready to answer all your burning questions about the writing craft, including research, plotting, editing, publishing, marketing, and more.

Our panel consists of both traditional and indie-published authors, representing a wide range of genre fiction.

[Visit the THPW Facebook page to submit questions in advance.](#)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89959441078?
pwd=SkVrUmJ6aUVCYzkrNmhzUzdIUUdkUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89959441078?pwd=SkVrUmJ6aUVCYzkrNmhzUzdIUUdkUT09)

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Passcode: 709756

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdjWEwoBDV>

10:00am Brief Business Meeting - Followed by Panel Q&A

THPW Board of Directors meeting to follow



Linda Broday is a New York Times and USA Today best-selling author of Historical Western Romance, with five multi-book series and contributions to a dozen anthologies. She has a list of accolades too numerous to count here, including the THPW 2018 Writer of the Year. [For more about Linda, CLICK HERE.](#)



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female leads. [For more about Kim, CLICK HERE.](#)



Ryan McSwain is an indie-author of reality-bending fiction featuring monsters, cosmic horror, comic book heroes, and twisty suspense. He's also a master of short-story humor and nostalgia. [For more about Ryan, CLICK HERE.](#)



Rick Treon is a newspaper journalist turned award-winning Mystery/ Suspense author. His novels are rich with the grit and gravel of the Texas Panhandle. [For more about Rick, CLICK HERE.](#)

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With Words We Weave

Challenges

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- **March 20** - virtual bi-monthly meeting & program via Zoom, *Ask The Author* w/ Lindy Brody, Kim Black, Ryan McSwain, Rick Treon
- **May 15** - virtual bi-monthly meeting via Zoom w/ Tex Thompson, *Juice Box Hero; Squeezing Plot From Character*
- **July 17** - to be determined
- **September 18** - guest speaker Taylor Moore
- **November 20** - to be determined

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.

From the Editor's Desk:

Is A Writer's Group For Me?

"...writing is antisocial. Disturb a writer when he is in the throes of creation, and he is likely to turn and bite right to the bone... and not even know that he's doing it.

...the only solution known to science is to provide the patient with an isolation room, where he can endure the acute stages in private, and where food can be poked in to him with a stick."

~ Robert Heinlen

With the far-reaching tentacles of the internet, why would anyone need to join a local writer's group? Hasn't 2020 taught us that everything is just a click away? Or maybe, just maybe, we've discovered virtual isn't "just as good."

Here are a few reasons why a writer's group might be for you.

Connections:

Like it or not, humans are herd animals. Writing groups allow us the opportunity to gather with like critters. "Same kind of different as me." When you are talking plot, craft, story theory, or character arc at a monthly meeting, no eyes glass over like they do at Aunt Gert's funeral.

Survivors of NaNoWriMo and 2020 know we must eventually emerge from our hermit holes, squint into the brutal sun, and yes, groom with soap AND water, and join the herd. No writer is an island.

Networking:

This is a different kind of connecting. Your father's brother's nephew's cousin's former roommate just happens to be the vice president in charge of alien communications for Elon Musk's rival, and the writer sitting across from you is working on a story about messages from space.



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to develop as your craft and mentoring. Learning may take, we are an apprenticeship in a craft where no one ever becomes a master."

We may never be masters, but within the ranks of writing groups, there is a vast wealth of knowledge across genres, publishing paths, and writing tips. We don't have to learn by trial and error and error and error.

Self- confidence & Motivation:

Creativity feeds creativity. If I can do it, you can do it. Meeting with fellow writers, sharing projects, talking about problem scenes or chapters, celebrating "the end" all of these keep us writing. Writing groups can inspire us when we struggle or doubt and make those hours or days in the writing cave existing on Cheetos and Diet Coke worth it.... what? Just me?

You know you wanna. Join today.

Memberships is just a few clicks away.
Annual Dues \$40/Student \$20

Texas High Plains Writers

Happy Writing,
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).*
- 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

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.

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	<p>apply to nonmembers.</p> <p><i>(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>12:15 - 1 p.m. Critique Session, if Announced 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p><i>Need to contact us?</i></p> <p>Write to us at: <i>Texas High Plains Writers</i> P. O. Box 19303 Amarillo, TX 79114</p> <p>Email us: info@texashighplainswriters.com</p>	



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.

Kristine R. Brorman - Publicity Chair/Newsletter Editor
 email - theblondekb@gmail.com
 website - <http://stilettosstoliandscribbles.com>

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