

June 2009
The President's Corner
by Angi Platt

"So 2009 is my year. It's my time to get that story on the page and finish projects that deserve to be finished. It can be your year, too. Let's grab it together and do all we can to help ourselves further along the road to publication." ~ January President's Corner



**Goals. Encouragement. Take Action. Keep Writing. Distractions.
And the next step – Recognition.**

I didn't know if I was going to write about recognition since writing is such a subjective world. And by recognition I'm not only referring to contest finalists. You can't have recognition without putting your writing out into the world for criticism. Ooo...criticism.

Novices, experienced writers and published authors all receive harsh criticism or praise of their work. It's part of the writing (art) world. There are several reasons to enter a contest, the most important to get your work in front of an editor. But that's not a goal a writer can control. You have to get past the first round judges, and their criticism. Good or bad, whether you agree with the interpretation of your work or ignore all the advice, you have to be prepared that a stranger may not understand the words you agonized to get on the page. I'd like to tell you that it gets easier, but I don't think that's the case.

Back to recognition. Once found, it's super nice and makes you feel awesome. For me, it's definitely the stroke to my ego that keeps me submitting. Even the contests where I don't final, if there's one judge who really loves the story, who took the time to tell me they want to see the book on a shelf at a book store...well, let's just say that it justifies letting the clothes sit in the dryer a little longer while I write another paragraph.

Bottom line... Recognition comes with a price and it's part of a writing career. But you'll never get good or bad recognition if you don't write or share your work.

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