

October 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. Recognition.
Write some more. Submitting. Waiting. And the next step – Writing Again.

You've finished. You've submitted. And now you're waiting.

What's the next step? Well one path may be to enter the RWA® Golden Heart contest with your finished manuscript. It's that time of year. Don't forget to join RWA PRO® since you've finished a manuscript and submitted. But the writing step we need to take is to plot, research, plan, and start writing again.

After all the revision this past year, it's difficult to put new ideas and new words on the page. But it's a must. Try joining a book in a week loop and just writing on anything. Get as many new words on the page as possible.

Need a new idea? Try some writing exercises to see if that gets your muse jump-started. Review old manuscripts (but I advise to review only if you're pursuing publication on that particular work). Start a completely new story by free writing. Take your fresh ideas from wherever they're given. Are you keeping a notebook (physical or electronic) of ideas? Writing down great character names, situations, or locales?

Last month I attended the Baylor game with my daughter. Each freshman that attends the week-long orientation receives a "Line" shirt. Each shirt has a name printed on the back. After half-time, several freshman walked by and I noticed the name on a shirt: Malcatraz. Woah! I was immediately hit with a new hero--had the full picture of him in my head. His friends call him Traz, but the heroine calls him Mal (for malcontent). By Monday, this guy was Jack Malcatraz Jr. He goes by Traz because his family calls him "Little Jack," which of course drives him crazy.

At this time, I'm writing a historical...so Traz is impatiently waiting in his own story file. Hopefully my subconscious writer is working on the perfect situation and imperfect heroine for him.



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