



A note from our president, Gina Nelson October 2010

The story I am writing exists, written in absolutely perfect fashion,
some place, in the air.

All I must do is find it and copy it. ~ Jules Renard

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Finally, the North Texas wind whispers that fall is near. And though I haven't seen any brightly-colored leaves, I know that soon I'll be able to drive home without the fear of frying to a crisp through my windshield. With the change of seasons, our nominating committee begins the search for next year's chapter officers.

Most of you don't know that back when I ran for President-Elect, I expected to get a full-time teaching position at any time. The idea was to ride out my first year in education while serving in the role of second banana so that I would already be a seasoned teacher when the mantle of chapter leadership fell on my shoulders.

Unfortunately, that job didn't arrive until three months before I became president of NTRWA. Suddenly I found myself in the incredible position of teaching full-time with very little previous experience, working simultaneously on my internship assignments and certification exams, driving a hundred miles a day to support my family, and, oh yes, serve as chapter President. Even though I'd hoped and prayed that this year I'd find a position closer to home, it didn't materialize. However, I did earn a promotion and a much needed raise. God's ways are strange, but in these challenging times I am so blessed to have my job, even if it is in Greenville, Texas (smile).

All of that to say, I'd like to thank our President-Elect, Marsha West, for the many ways in which she helps our chapter run smoothly when life has me strung up by the thumbs. Time and time again, she steps into the gap to encourage each of you on the loop, forward announcements from Chaplink, and preside over meetings in my absence. Marsha always finds time to encourage each of us even as she strives to do her very best in her writing and in aiding our chapter. In fact, all of the NTRWA Board and Committee Chairs have done their very best to make our programs a success. Marsha will be a truly dedicated and wonderful President next year. Please take a few moments to consider serving on the Board with this special lady. It's fun. It's challenging. And not only is it a great way to get to know the members of our chapter, but you'll meet other industry professionals as well.

Here's a thought for those of you, like me, slicing and dicing life into slivers of time too slender to savor: If you can't write long and hard, write short...at least you'll whet your appetite for more.

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How vain it is to sit down to write when you have not stood up to live.

~ Henry David Thoreau