



A note from our president, Gina Nelson November 2010

"Even if something is left undone,
everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn."
~ Elizabeth Lawrence

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Light the fires and uncork the wine, pour the tea and unpack your laptops! It's time for our annual retreat!

If you are one of the lucky members attending our retreat weekend. . . congratulations. Not only have you invested in yourself and your writing, but you've purposed to step out of the hustle bustle and into a time of peaceful reflection. Now that you've committed yourself, I challenge each of you to set a goal for the weekend, *before* you arrive at your cabins. Maybe your only goal is to relax. Hopefully, it's to relax and move forward with your writing. I have to laugh. Each year I challenge myself to write more and talk less. *Write more, talk less. Write more, talk less.* That's my mantra. Of course, you may want to write less and talk more: talk about your story, unravel that gnarly plot, conquer that dreaded synopsis, ramp up your story conflict, or dissect and discuss the most recent critique you received from your critique partners or that contest you entered.

To those of you about to retreat into the wilderness to write, plot and critique. . . Happy Productive Writers Roundup! To our published authors promoting their books that same weekend at the Readers 'n 'ritas conference: Good luck, and may you sell, sell, sell and gather many new fans!

Remember, there will be no regular chapter meeting in November. Watch your email for the special election edition of our newsletter, and vote online for the 2011 Board of Directors in late November/early December. To celebrate the holidays, we'll have our annual festivities at La Hacienda on the second Saturday of the month, December 11th.

As we prepare for this season of thanksgiving, may we all be thankful for our writer friends and critique partners, for positive and constructive comments, for books written and books sold, and for the power of the written word to change our lives and those of our readers for the better.

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"Autumn is the eternal corrective. It is ripeness and color and a time of maturity;
but it is also breadth, and depth, and distance.
What man can stand with autumn on a hilltop and fail to see the span of his world and
the meaning of the rolling hills that reach to the far horizon?"
~ Hal Borland