



*A note from the 2011 president,
Marsha West*

I'm writing this with another full week left in April but can hardly believe this is for the May issue.

I've continued with the mammoth editing of my third book—the one I went back to after writing two others. There was a huge discussion on one of the loops I'm on about the value of going back to an old book and revising it. The consensus seemed to be this wasn't a good idea. For me it's working. (Well, I guess I'll only know that if an agent likes it. LOL) Seriously, it's been a learning process for me. (What about writing isn't?) Last month I was in the throes of a word search, which thankfully I completed.

Then I started reading it backwards—the bottom half of the last page followed by the top half of that page and so on. What a useful strategy, and I thought I'd caught every little thing. However, after getting Staples to print it, I've started to read it forward in hard copy. You guessed it. I've found a few more little things needing to be tweaked. So I continue onward in the quest to have the best possible book I can have before sending it off to the agents who requested partials and a full from conferences. I gotta believe before I write the next installment of the newsletter article I will finally have been able to push send. Fingers crossed.

Let me tell you how excited I am about all the new members we had join since the new year. We have some traditions in the chapter, and I want to remind members who've been around for a longer time as well as our newer ones of a couple of them. (That was the long way of saying "older members." LOL)

An announcement goes out about a member's birthday, and we respond to that with wishes. Some people put those on the loop, and others send a message directly to the birthday girl or boy. I remember being shy about doing that right after I joined. I mean, I didn't know these people, and they sure didn't know me, but I forced myself and I'm so glad I did. Not all our members attend meetings—hey, not everyone lives in the Metroplex, and even some of those





who do have reasons they can't attend the meetings. So if we don't open ourselves up on the loop, we'll never make the connection. (I'm probably preaching to the choir here. The NT loop was really the first one I was on.) The other tradition is to celebrate with each other over contest finals, wins, and sales. So whether or not you've met the person face to face or not, join in the activities of the NT Loop.

No gains without pains.
~ Ben Franklin

Now or never was the time.
~ Lawrence Sterne

