



*A note from the 2011 president,  
Marsha West*

The cursor is blinking. Screaming at me to push the keys. Write something—anything. I'd sat for some time, staring, running various scenarios through my head to include in this article: How achy my feet and ankles are from standing for twelve hours, getting ready for a neighborhood get together, where we stand in each other's kitchens catching up. The terrifying moment I found the missing Scout lying on my bed after everyone had been up and gone for almost an hour, and I couldn't tell if she was breathing or not (she was, just sleeping deeply). The interesting posts on the PRO loop today about head hopping and POV (someone indicated using omniscient POV was okay in some circumstances; isn't that blasphemy?). This last one bears following up on.

That's lots of parentheses and odd sentence structure in the paragraph above. Isn't that what's in our heads sometimes when we're trying to make progress on our WIP? Even for us plotters, we hit that place we don't know what to write. (I haven't experienced this phenomenon in some time, only because I'm still in editing mode and haven't written anything new in almost a year—except for these articles and blogs.)

However, when faced with the blinking cursor this morning, I did what I've heard from every writer on every loop, blog, or in person presentation. Write something. Write anything. Because then you can fix the writing. Without the words on the screen, you're nowhere in terms of making progress in your writing.

One part of me yearns to write new words. My fear of not having set up the story "right" in the first place keeps my fingers from the keys of the next book. "Right" being a relative term here, meaning I don't know if I have the GMC is as strong as it needs to be. I've filled out all my various charts and forms, and I know who the characters are. But what if I get halfway through or three quarters of the way through and find a basic weakness or flaw in the story





structure? I'm still revising books 4 and 5, hoping to capture an e-pub who wants only 3 POVs. (I usually have the H & H, the bad guy, and supporting characters.)

How can I juggle another focus? I know many authors are able and have to do that. I've heard Angi Platt (Angi Morgan) say we should be writing the newest book, editing the last one, and planning for the next one. My mind boggles. And the folks who crank out four books a year? Truly gifted people.

"Keep on keeping on" has been my theme this year, and so I've completed another article. While I haven't written new words on my WIP, I have written. Important according to Henry Wood: If we neglect to exercise any talent, power, or quality, it soon falls away from us. Hopefully, the retreat will jumpstart my WIP. Hope to see many of you there.

