

## North Carolina Writers' Network to Begin "Writing the New South"

Written by Administrator

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"Writing the New South is a brilliant, exciting, and NECESSARY project---sign me up, count me in! The 'New South' is a cauldron of change, a fertile field of art, a proving ground for new possibilities. I can't wait to see what everyone has to say, and in what genres. This is a real opportunity for us all to deepen our understanding of where we live, who we are, and what we believe in."

--Lee Smith

Like it or not, North Carolinians are living in momentous times.

The state is home to two of the world's largest military bases, as wars continue in Iraq and Afghanistan. The state was home to two of the nation's largest banks, until one was sold to keep it from collapsing. The state once known as a bulwark for Republican presidential candidates voted Democratic in a record-setting election.

A state long known for explosive growth is in danger of losing jobs and population. A state long Red turned Blue, and elected its first female governor.

While no one can predict what will happen, every North Carolinian can and should record what has happened, and how it felt as it happened – especially North Carolina's writers. It has been said that one cannot spit in North Carolina without hitting a writer. Here is an opportunity for all those writers to do something for the people of this state, something that can provide understanding and perhaps even comfort during these tumultuous times.

With the coming of the New Year, the North Carolina Writers' Network will launch a program called "Writing the New South," offering its members a platform to record and share their experiences and interpretations of living in North Carolina as North Carolina changes

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dramatically.

"Whether they do so through essays, short stories, poetry, or even letters or journals, we want our members to grapple with what's going on in the state and in the world," Ed Southern, executive director of the North Carolina Writers' Network, said. "We are North Carolina writers living in a historic moment for North Carolina. We need to be writing about what's happening around us, to us, to our families and friends and neighbors."

The Network has created a special section on its website – <http://www.ncwriters.org/features/writing-the-new-south> - for

submissions to Writing the New South. Network members can upload their poems, stories, essays, or other submissions. Each submission will be reviewed by qualified editors, and the best of the submissions will be displayed online. The Network is also in discussions to have the submissions compiled and published in book form.

"We're looking for submissions, in whatever genre, that will approach the world around us with imagination, depth, and responsibility," Southern said.

The first Writing the New South work, by award-winning novelist (and Network member) Lee Smith, is a "postcard" from Hillsborough, where Smith lives.

"Writing the New South is a brilliant, exciting, and necessary project ... The 'New South' is a cauldron of change, a fertile field of art, a proving ground for new possibilities," Smith said. "I can't wait to see what everyone has to say, and in what genres. This is a real opportunity for us all to deepen our understanding of where we live, who we are, and what we believe in."

Southern said, "In the tradition of the New Deal-era WPA Writers' Project, the goal of Writing the New South is to show the essential and public value of our writers, while creating a record of, and a frame for understanding, our times."

### □ "Writing the New South" Submission Guidelines

- Authors must be current members of the North Carolina Writers' Network.
  
- Submissions must be no longer than 5,000 words.
  
- Submissions may be in any genre: fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, drama, journalism, etc.
  
- Submissions must deal with one (or both) of two themes:
  1. Current or recent events of historical significance (for example: gas shortage of fall 2008, 2008 election, 2008 financial crisis, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, etc.) as they relate to life in present-day North Carolina;
  
  2. Snapshots of life in a particular city or region of North Carolina, in 500 words or less.
  
- Submissions do not have to be objective; however, submissions may not proselytize or attempt to convert readers to any particular viewpoint, political affiliation, or religion.
  
- Submissions must be original and unpublished.
  
- The Network reserves the right to reject any submission.

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- Accepted submissions will be considered for publication in a possible anthology. By submitting their work to Writing the New South, authors agree to execute whatever steps are necessary in the event that their work is selected for such an anthology.

### About the North Carolina Writers' Network

Founded in 1985, the nonprofit North Carolina Writers' Network is one of the largest statewide literary arts organization in the country. The mission of the North Carolina Writers' Network is to connect, promote, and lead emerging writers and established writers through workshops, conferences, and other programs and services. The Network builds audiences for literature, advocates for the literary arts and for literacy, and provides information and support services for writers of all kinds and at all levels.