Happy New Year!
As we begin our 15th year, we are grateful to you, our network of teacher leaders dedicated to exemplary instruction of writing in every classroom. Without you, we could not realize the NWPNH vision, which states access to high quality educational experiences is a basic right of all learners and a cornerstone of equity.

Please join us again this year to keep the conversation, teaching, and writing going.

Summer Institute Applications Due Now
While summer is months away, the deadline to apply for a fellowship at the 2015 Summer Institute (June 29 to July 30) is not. Fellows receive between six and nine graduate credits at a reduced rate. They also receive a stipend. **New fellows:** Applications accepted until March 31, but those received by Feb. 15 will be given priority. **Returning fellows:** Applications accepted until Jan. 31, although those received by Jan. 7 will be given priority. Visit https://our website for an online application. Scroll to the bottom of the page.
One Pen Can Change the World contest

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. roused a nation to change its laws with his “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” a commentary on the injustice of racial segregation. What injustices would inspire your students to speak out today?

The One Pen contest offers K-12 students three writing prompts: They can write their own letter that addresses an injustice they’d like to change. They may write about a current event that affects them personally. Or, they can choose a personal story that illustrates a person being treated unfairly.

Entries are due by Feb. 28. For rules, prompts, and entry form visit: our website

An excerpt from 2014’s Grade 8 winner, Gabby Lejeunesse of Hopkinton. Gabby’s aunt, a surgeon, was injured in a shooting that left a doctor and the shooter dead.

“With an unconcealed shotgun, the gunman had entered the hospital where my aunt has her offices. He proceeded to walk to the third floor. People saw him but did not think it was unusual for someone to be walking around with a gun. Therefore no one said anything. What troubles me is that a person can walk into a building with a gun, and people find that normal.”

Galas in Concord & Bethlehem

For the first time, NWPNH is hosting two winter galas for members to socialize and introduce a colleague to NWPNH. Presentations and prizes will be offered at both. The first is Jan. 22, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the PSU Graduate Center in Concord. The second is Jan. 30, 5 p.m. at the White Mountain School in Bethlehem. Visit our website.

Still time: Scholastic deadline is Jan. 15

NWPNH is again collaborating with the Scholastic Writing Contest for students in grades 7-12. The deadline for entries is Jan. 15. Categories include, humor, short story, flash fiction, critical essay, journalism and more. For details, visit our website.

Meg Petersen honored for distinguished teaching

NWPNH Director Meg Petersen was named the Stevens-Bristow Distinguished Professor at PSU in November. In her acceptance speech, she celebrated the hard work of teaching and highlighted Erika Martinez’s summer blog series “40 Days of Teacher Lore.” Erika, a facilitator of the 2014 Summer Institute, launched the collection of teaching stories in celebration of NWP’s 40th anniversary. You can find the series on Erika’s blog or our Facebook page.

Summer writing camps, special institutes

We are finalizing our summer writing camp and special institutes schedule, so stay tuned for those dates. We could use your help recruiting students for our summer camps, which are held across the state for a wide variety of ages. We will have fliers for posting and sharing soon.