

What does “NaNo” mean to you? 50,000+ words of novel writing in November, exciting word wars, the joy of creating a story while having fun with like-minded writers who are pursuing writing (or editing) their creative works.

There is a difference between “NaNo” and National Novel Writing Month (aka NaNoWriMo). “NaNo” is an idea, a community-driven event to motivate writers; NaNoWriMo is a 501c3 non-profit organization that originated the event, supporting it with forums, a progress tracker, and many volunteers. Unfortunately, NaNoWriMo is under new management after a regrettable incident last fall, and they have taken several actions that have alienated many of their volunteer Municipal Liaisons.*

We still believe in the original idea of “NaNo”; it has inspired us to create our own writing challenge Novel Quest (*replace this with your own event name*). We hope you will join us in pursuing your novel writing dreams.

The Longer Write-up (from something we sent to our region just before resigning as MLs)

As some may know, last November became somewhat tumultuous with events in and out of the forums. While this e-mail is not meant to open new discussion around those topics (and if you do not know what we are talking about, please see the forum post by [NaNo HQ](#)), there are impacts to our region’s ML status for this November.

NaNo HQ, under new management, is making adjustments to the ML program. These include extra criteria to become a regional leader and an updated agreement that increases the ML responsibilities and liabilities while restricting our ability to coordinate events. While we wish NaNo HQ well in its efforts, we have made the choice to step down as official Municipal Liaison volunteers. This was not an easy or light decision, as we all love NaNo, but we believe it's the one we needed to make.

Our decision has no impact on our desire to still be part of the writing community - or participate in challenges like NaNo. While some former MLs do not feel comfortable associating with the NaNoWriMo name, others may continue to be active on the website and forum as general participants. Please know that these are all very individual choices. We simply can no longer lead it or take action as official representatives.

As a member of our writing community, it's up to you to make your own decision, but know we will respect it.

***EmpressTheodora's version of the second and third paragraphs of the first writeup, with additions in italics and deletions in brackets:**

There is a difference between “NaNo” (*the 50,000-word writing challenge*) and National Novel Writing Month ([aka] NaNoWriMo). “NaNo” is an idea, a community-driven event to motivate writers; NaNoWriMo is a 501c3 non-profit organization that originated the event, supporting it

with forums, a progress tracker, and many volunteers. Unfortunately, NaNoWriMo is under new management after *having mismanaged multiple unsafe interactions between staff members and minors in their online spaces* [a regrettable incident last fall], and they have taken several actions that have alienated many of their volunteer Municipal Liaisons. *These actions included implementing extra criteria to become a regional leader and an updated agreement that increases the ML responsibilities and liabilities while restricting their ability to coordinate events. The current situation has rendered it undesirable, if not unethical, for us to continue to affiliate with NaNoWriMo.*

We still believe in the original idea of “NaNo” as a *madcap, 30-day frenzy of pure creativity*; it has inspired us to create our own writing challenge Novel Quest (*replace this with your own event name*). We hope you will join us in pursuing your novel writing dreams.