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|  |  **Call for Short Story Submissions** |

The Network of Writers & Authors (NOWA), a not-for-profit organization supporting local writers, is sponsoring an upcoming anthology of short fiction.

The theme is “Road Signs,” which is intended to be a very loose and flexible theme. Each story should have something related to a road or street sign, even if only tangentially. The association can be literal, metaphorical or ironic.

Some of those possible signs include, but are not limited to:

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| * “Stop”
* “One Way”
* “Left Turn”
* “Dead End”
* “Do Not Enter”
* “Speed Limit”
* “Yield”
* “Road Work Ahead”
 | * “Ice Ahead”
* “Traffic Circle”
* “Slow Children”
* “Intersection”
* “Keep Right”
* “No Shoulder”
* “Deer Crossing”
* “Duck Crossing”
 | * “Exit Only”
* “No Parking”
* “School Zone”
* “Speed Limit Enforced”
* “Merge”
* “Curve Ahead”
* “No Trucks”
* “Slippery When Wet”
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A street sign is also acceptable, e.g.: “Snake Hill Road”

Authors should let NOWA know which sign they plan to use, as soon as possible.
We want to avoid duplicates. **Note:** “U-Turn,” “Keep Right,” “Walk This Way,” Danger Ahead” “One Way,” “Cross Road” and “Bear Crossing” have already been taken.

**Submission Process**

1. Authors should let NOWA know which sign they want to use in their story, as soon as possible.
2. Authors must submit a completed story as a Word document by June 1, 2025.
3. Word count should be between 1000 and 6000 words.
4. Submissions should include “NOWA submission” in the subject line.

Submissions and inquiries should go to **info@nowa.org**.

The NOWA Anthology Committee will decide on submissions. Submissions may be accepted, rejected or returned for editing. Submissions with significant typos, misspellings, and/or grammatical errors will likely be rejected.

The anthology will include brief bios of the authors, including a list of published works and the author’s website address.

There is no submission fee.

**Compensation**

* Authors will not receive direct compensation for this work.
* NOWA Member-Authors may purchase copies of the anthology at the NOWA cost and may resell them at book signings or other marketing events.
* Non-NOWA authors may purchase copies at NOWA cost plus 5% and may resell them at book signings or other marketing events.
* All Authors will be allowed to download a digital copy of the anthology for free.
* Participating authors may join NOWA with a 20% discount (Full dues are $25/year.)

**Proceeds**

Proceeds from online sales of the anthology will go to NOWA, a non-profit organization. NOWA will bear the responsibility and cost of editing, formatting and cover design.

**Rights**

Upon submission, the author grants NOWA will have the right to publish the author’s submitted story as part of this anthology.

Authors must certify and guarantee they own all rights and have the right to submit their story, and there are no legal restrictions in doing so. NOWA will not restrict the author's right to publish the same story elsewhere, provided it does restrict the publication and distribution of the NOWA anthology.

**Benefits of Joining NOWA**

* Contributors who are NOWA members will receive a free copy of the paperback version of the anthology.
* All NOWA members will be allowed to download a digital copy of the anthology for free.
* An author’s bio, a list of published works and a link to your website will appear on NOWA website ([www.nowa.org](http://www.nowa.org))
* Members’ books will be listed on the NOWA website with links to Amazon and other sales websites.
* Members who opt-in will be listed in the upcoming NOWA Speakers Bureau. (Personal appearances are a great way to promote books and generate sales.)
* Preferred participation in NOWA’s anthology project, used to promote authors, and their works, as well as generating additional author revenue.
* In general, NOWA membership will provide opportunities to network and cross-promote with other authors.