

I am so proud of the leadership and direction which the Texas Institute of Letters' Council is providing. They have stood strong in their ideals and their defense of human dignity and equality. They have stood up against racism, sexism, homophobia, classism and all forms of oppression. And when individuals have made deprecatory and homophobic statements, this Council has been of one mind, supporting writers from all walks of life and from all ethnic and gender groups, as long as those individuals do not themselves work for the belittlement of other groups.



I can't speak for every writer who has ever been a member of TIL, nor can I speak for every Council throughout TIL's 82 years of existence, but I can say that I am very proud of where we are now, and what we are working to achieve. Between our officers and our Council, we are fairly distributed between six people of color and five whites, between five women and six men. We cover a wide swath of lifestyles, regions, genres, religions, and socio-economic classes. This is the natural state of affairs that a group of writers, entrusted with speaking the voice of our peoples, SHOULD reflect. It is not artifice, or quotas. It is the ability to see talent and intelligence in human beings. I am sorry that we live in a time period when so much hate is so openly expressed, but perhaps that allows us the vision to see more clearly what lies beneath the surface, and the courage to continue exposing it and decrying it, a role that (most) writers have passionately embraced. It is a challenging and frightening time to be a sensitive human being or a member of a targeted group, but it is an inspiring and urgent time to be a writer. Thank you, TIL Council, for standing as one, to oppose the rampant and venomous human oppression that surrounds us in flippant comments, taunts, propaganda, slander, and insults.

--Carmen Tafolla

President, Texas Institute of Letters

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