

“Have more mistakes than regrets. Mistakes are just doing something and wishing you did it differently; regrets are not doing it at all.”

Cordae

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

June 2023

Board Members:

President John Comeaux, Vice President Christopher Fontenot, Treasurer Beth Davis, Publicist Ellen Threatts, Secretary Ed Gauthier, Webmaster Rhonda Lejeune, Historian Pamela Harrington, Newsletter John Comeaux, and all past WGA Presidents in good standing.



Announcement: Newsletter Editor position will be open

Starting September 2023 the position of the editor of La Plume will be available. If you have a desire to be our next board member and newsletter editor, please apply in person at the June/July meeting, or by email to JPComan9@gmail.com. The responsibilities are to inform members of upcoming events and meetings, and to comb the vast amount of information available and distill it for our members.

Next Meeting: June 27

June 27, 2023. All meetings are open to the public. The South Regional Branch of the Lafayette Library, Auditorium. Address is 6101 Johnston St, Lafayette. Start time is **6:00 p.m.** We usually go to 7:15, but we must end by 7:30.



June Guest Speaker Michelle Kreamer

Dr. H. Michelle Kreamer is an Assistant Professor of Educational Curriculum and Instruction at UL Lafayette. Prior to this, she was a high school English Language Arts teacher. Dr. Kreamer serves as Site Director for the National Writing Project of Acadiana (NWP-A) and enjoys engaging with students and teachers to support writing and writing instruction. In this role, she works with students, teachers, and community members through various writing events and initiatives. Though most of her

writing is currently academic in nature, she is continually inspired by the written word and believes everyone is a writer!

We will have a Door Prize from the books that were donated by authors.

July Prompt

“The Lost Card”

Category: Fiction

This is a fun competition for members. The prompt **MUST APPEAR** somewhere within the work, and entries must be no longer than 500 words. When the prompt category is poetry, both traditional and free verse poems are acceptable. All entries must be typed and double-spaced. The story or poem must have the word count, title, author’s name, and date of the competition written at the top of the first page, and a paper copy of the winner and runner-up is to be handed in to the president after the judging. Contest participants are not allowed to enter the contest with works that are typed on iPhones or any other electronic devices.

WEB Page and Facebook

Our web page is here: <https://www.writersguildacadiana.org/>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/writersguildacadiana.org/>

The Writers’ Guild is always willing to share the success stories of its members. Be sure to let us know about your writing. We will put your blurb on our website, on our Facebook page, and on this newsletter. Let’s highlight and showcase our writers! Send us a synopsis or your own paragraph about the work you are working on or have published, and how to get it. Send to John at jpcoman9@gmail.com.

◆ **Member Announcements**

New Feature! La Plume will allow our authors to submit a teaser or extended passage from their upcoming or existing work, one page or less. Send your submission to JPComan9@gmail.com

Book: Thoughtful Places
Author: Louis K Broussard

This is the foreword for my book of poetry called, "Thoughtful Places."

Foreword

Who is it that when in a pensive mood does not revive past events, old friends, and happy times, to bring these into the present lest they be lost into the void of forgotten places? Let me breathe the air of my yesterdays, let me trace the paths I can no longer walk, let me

be near to the places time has made distant. It is these thoughtful places which I seek so that a part of my today can be relived in the places of my yesterdays. The book can be purchased at Amazon.com.

◆ **Writing Inspiration**

A Writer's Guide to Breaking the Rules

by Sarah Penner from Writer Unboxed

All writing advice, I ultimately decided, should be taken with a grain of salt. Writing is art, and art doesn't mix with rules. Take what works for you as the creator, and leave the rest behind. Below are six conventional writing "rules" I'd encourage writers to think twice about.

Rule #6 worth breaking: Don't use a thesaurus

Oh, how I despise this rule! I use a thesaurus every day. Every hour, almost. I've used a thesaurus several times just while writing this article. (A peek at my recent Google search history: "Synonym slew," "Synonym advice," "Synonym minutiae.")

Some well-established authors advise writers to use the simplest word possible—the word most readily available and quick to come to mind. Admittedly, I understand the sentiment here. No one likes ostentatious prose; it feels highbrow and pretentious. But I don't think I'm alone when I say that sometimes, my (very tired, very taxed) mind cannot always recall the precise word for which I'm searching. It's then that the thesaurus is my best friend.

Another perk? Using a thesaurus has expanded my vocabulary! So, go forth and seek the synonyms. You have my permission.

◆ **Ask Google**

I asked Google: "How many writers are in the US?"
As of 2021, there were approximately 49,410 writers and authors in the US. This has grown by 20.72% since 2011.

◆ **Helpful Websites**

[Writing Like a Boss](#) is a website with many tips and hints for improving your work. This article from June 2019 is called "10 Warning Signs of Amateurish Writing & How to Fix Them."

I here post the 10 bullet points, but the article goes into detail on what they mean and a suggested fix. I found this very useful today.

10 warning signs of amateurish writing:

1. excessive punctuation
2. showing off your knowledge
3. head-hopping (unintentionally)
4. unrealistic character actions
5. opening every chapter the same way
6. unnecessary scenes
7. unnecessary word choice
8. imbalanced dialogue
9. poor pacing
10. identical characters

writinglikeaboss.com

◆ **Publishing**

Editor's note: I have used the AI, ChatGPT ,BARD tools to get ideas and get past a mental roadblock. But when I read this article about people using AI to create and sell books on Amazon by the thousands in just a few months, I get the shivers.

<https://justpublishingadvice.com/chatgpt-authors-on-amazon/>

◆ **Word of the month**

Indomitable - adjective

A formal word used to describe something that is impossible to defeat or discourage.

◆ **Contests**

<https://screencraft.org/action/>

Action and Adventure Screenplay competition. Deadline is June 30. An entry fee is required.

<https://screencraft.org/fund/>

Film Fund Grant Program. Deadline is June 30. A submission fee is required. Grants up to \$30,000 are available if selected.

https://winningwriters.com/templates/contest_results

This website has almost four dozen excellent free poetry and prose contests with deadlines between June 15-July 31.

Flash Fiction Writing Contest, LSUA

LSU Alexandria is sponsoring its annual Flash Fiction Writing Contest. Write a story in a minimum of 6 words and a maximum of 1,500 words. Tell a story about what happened, who it happened to, and why.

Details: Poetry and essays will not be considered. No more than 2 submissions per person. Include a cover letter with your name and address, but do not put any personal information in your story document (convert to a PDF).

Email your submission by July 15, 2023 to flashfiction@lsua.edu

There is no entry fee. Winners will be announced on August 15, 2023.

◆ **Events**

BOOK Sales at Moncus Park

Sales Opportunity! WGA members have the opportunity to join us at Moncus Park Farmers and Artisan Market on the **second and last Saturday** of the month. We display our books and meet with people to discuss writing and publishing. Usually hundreds of people go by the booth, and our huge WGA banner attracts many to see and meet the authors.

Writer's Guild of Acadiana vending table regulations:

The following applies to Moncus Park WGA vending table, *or any other WGA vending event*.

You must be a *paid member* of Writers Guild of Acadiana

You'll need to confer with the Secretary of the board (Ed Gauthier) and arrange a date to sell ***a month in advance***. You do that by calling or texting Ed (337-945-5718) or emailing him at eggchess@gmail.com to make arrangements.

You are *not scheduled unless* you receive a confirmation from him, via text, email or phone call. Ed sends out updates to the entire membership list each month. Full details are on that email.

Would you like to join or renew?

Thank you for your interest in the Guild. Submit the form below to register to become a new or renew a membership with Writers' Guild of Acadiana. Annual membership fee is \$25.00. Your dues are good for one year of remittance. Thus, if you join in mid-year, you are a paid member through the following mid-year. You will receive this monthly newsletter "La Plume", which will keep you informed of events and news of the Guild. Be sure to check your email junk folder if you are not getting the newsletter from jpcoman9@gmail.com When submitting the form, please mail your check or money order to:

**Writers' Guild of Acadiana
P O Box 51532
Lafayette, LA 70505**

Email questions to: info@writersguildacadiana.org
Cash payments can be made at the monthly meeting – do not mail.

This form is also online: writersguildacadiana.org

Name _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

Date _____

How did you find out about us? _____
