

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

December 2023

Board Members:

President John Comeaux, Vice President Christopher Fontenot, Treasurer Beth Davis, Publicist Ellen Threatts, Secretary Ed Gauthier, Webmaster Guy Kilchrist, Historian Pamela Harrington, Newsletter (open) temp: John Comeaux, and all past WGA Presidents in good standing.



Announcement: 2024 will be BIG

All current and previous members of WGA are receiving this newsletter. We want to be sure you don't miss out on the big events planned for 2024. We will have workshops, guest speakers, and more contests. The Guild is growing, and we want you to participate. Next meet is January 30th.

Next Meeting: January 30

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.

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

January Guest Speaker: Ed Gauthier

The honorable Mr. Edward Gauthier is our Guild secretary, and has published two novels. On January 30, he will speak on artist colonies. Ever wanted to get away and take time to just finish the last chapters of that unpublished novel? To complete those four poems? To finish your family's memoirs? This lecture will go over methods to get acceptance into a writer's colony and amaze you with how many writer's colonies are available for us writers. Dairy Hollow Writer's Colony in Eureka Springs, Arkansas will be featured, and will include pictures.

LOOKING AHEAD: February: Prompt “Unexpected Treasures in the attic”

Category: Memoirs

This is a fun competition for members. The prompt **MUST APPEAR** somewhere within the work, and entries must be no longer than 500 words. The author must be present, but may allow another to read the piece aloud. 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 vice-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.

No Meeting in December.

Opportunities to market your books

Grand Theatre writer's and artisan's market. We've contacted the management at the Grand Theatre and obtained their agreement to sponsor a Saturday or Sunday vending market during the spring of 2024. Beth Davis and Ed Gauthier will draw up a proposal to present to the Grand theatre management to acquire permission to use their property. If / When such a sales opportunity arises, members will be able to schedule taking part by contacting our secretary by texting 337-945-5718 or emailing eggchess@gmail.com. More on this as arrangements progress.

Beginning in January 2024, Writer's Guild members vending at Moncus Park will be asked to pay \$10.00 per sales day. That is a \$5.00 increase from what was charged in 2023. This is to defray the cost that the Writer's Guild has to pay for the vending booth location. (\$35.00 per Saturday)

The Lafayette City Art Walk always occurs on the second Saturday of the month, every month. (Next one is December 9th) If you, as an individual, wish to vend your books at Art Walk, free space is available. This occurs on Jefferson Street. (From the underpass to the corner of Lee street and Jefferson.) It begins around 4:00 pm and goes to 8:30 or 9:00 pm. (Or until you are tired) Ed Gauthier recommends setting up on the sidewalk in front of a store that is out of business, or that doesn't charge a fee for being in front of their store. There is plenty of walking traffic, lots of customers. Basically, no one will oversee your location. You can take part in this event whether you are a member of our guild or not. Ed tends to set up around 520 Jefferson Street. Come by. Text Ed and he'll give more explanation. (337-945-5718)

Christmas season is ahead of us. In December, there will be an extra sales day for vending at Moncus Park on December 7th, a Thursday night. This is an evening event with decorative lighting. We'll begin around 3:30 Pm and end around 9:00. More specific timelines will be provided closer to the event. SIGN UP NOW! Only ONE slot left!

Critique Group

WGA has formed its own critique group. We are officially WGAcadiana Critique. This will meet online using Google groups and Google Meet. We have eight WGA members that have signed up and we'll be

meeting every two weeks, the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. *If you need and want assistance* on a piece you are writing, and want to find its strong and weak points, we can advise you. We have plenty we can teach in that area. Genres eligible for critique are chapters of a novel, short story, poetry, fiction or non-fiction and others. Critique groups usually follow a careful format to develop trust amongst its members. That too would be taught. IF interested, contact our secretary by text (337-945-5718) or email at eggchess@gmail.com. Joining this group will require that you have an active Google account.

Winners of the competition will be published in a booklet

Every other month, our guild sponsors a writing competition. Members read their submissions. (The author Must attend the meeting and read their submission in 5 minutes or less. Must mention the writing prompt. 500 words or less. Must bring a printed copy which the guild keeps.) We always vote to decide the winner. A Creative Writing Competition Winners booklet will be printed containing all the winners of the bi-monthly writing competition in the next month or two. We're working on it now.

WGA tote bags are for sale (\$10.00) at our meetings or at our vending table.

Writing Tips, Hints, and How-to's.

How to Outline a Novel, by Scott McCormick on BookBaby.

<https://blog.bookbaby.com/how-to-write/good-writing-habits/how-to-outline-a-novel>

How to Pants a Novel, by Scott McCormick on BookBaby.

<https://blog.bookbaby.com/featured-posts/pants-a-novel>

John Comeaux will no longer produce the La Plume newsletter after December 2023 for WGA. We need a replacement. If you are a paid member, can handle newsletter prose, and want to become a board member, please let John Comeaux know. Phone: 337-257-8665 Or contact any board member. John is willing to share the responsibility with you.

The WGA Board wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



WEB Page and Facebook

Our NEW and Improved website is here: <https://www.writersguildacadiana.org/>

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

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](https://www.writersguildacadiana.org)

Name_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone/Email_____

Date_____

How did you find out about us? _____
