

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of
Acadiana

February-March 2025

South Regional Library meeting rooms closed

For the next few months, we will meet at the West Regional branch of the Lafayette Library in Scott. The intersection of Old Spanish Trail and Apollo road. The next meet is February 25 at 6 p.m. Always free and open to the public and visitors. Bring a guest.

John @ 337-257-8665

Introductions Are In Order!

This is the WGA's brand-new newsletter editor coming to you live from my humble writing desk, and I wanted to take a paragraph to shout hello and ask for your assistance. While the board members and I will be keeping our eyes out for any upcoming events and news of interest, your help is always welcome. Whether it be book signings, news about recent publishings, charity events, or simply an article that you found helpful, don't be shy and send your information to the email address provided below. I look forward to networking and growing with all of you. Now enough of this, shouldn't you be writing?

Email: Brandon.scott.russell93@gmail.com

Board Members

President John Comeaux, Vice President Christopher Fontenot, Treasurer Beth Davis, Publicist Claire Waltner, Secretary Ed Gauthier, Webmaster Zachary Strother, Historian James (Jim) McDonald, Newsletter Editor Brandon Russell, and all past WGA Presidents in good standing.

"Never fear quarrels, but seek hazardous adventures."

-Alexander Dumas, *The Three Musketeers*



Next Meeting: February 25th, 6pm

Featured speaker Jade Landry on the topic of: “How can social media benefit your exposure and sales.”

About Jade Landry:

Jade Landry is the president and general manager of Excaliber Publishing, an independent book publishing company. She began her career as a professional photographer and business owner. Working alongside her husband of over forty years, Jade has expanded her role of entrepreneur to include marketing, illustrating and social media development. Her most recent role as publishing manager has also vastly broadened her knowledge of book printing, editing and illustrating. Jade's hobbies include photography, traveling and fishing.

Ms. Landry will explain how social media can expand the reach of your audience as well as gaining exposure as an author, primarily focusing on networking with the Writers Guild and other authors/artist in the organization to promote events, publicity and author information.



March WGA Writing Competition

Prompt: “Easter Traditions”

Category: Memoirs

This is a fun competition for members. Non-members may also read their entries, but won't be eligible for the token prize. 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. All entries must be typed and double-spaced. The story must have the word count, category, 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. An email to eggchess@gmail.com with the entry will help ensure accuracy. Check your finished work for accuracy, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. You may be the one to be published!

Title
 Author's Name
 Date of contest

Category
 Word Count



Upcoming Events

Books Along the Teche Literary Festival: April 4th, 5th, and 6th

The Books Along the Teche Literary Festival is fast approaching. The festival will be held on April 4, 5, and 6 this year. The Author's Book Fair will be held on Saturday, April 5 from 9am to 3pm. The Children's Book Fair will be held on Saturday, April 5 from 10am to 2pm. The author applications are posted on the website Book Fair Application. Please fill it out and read all the instructions/information carefully. Be sure to note if you are a Children's Book Author. Deadline for applications and payment is March 24, 2025.

Each author is allowed one (1) eight foot maximum table. No table or tent poles must block an entrance to a business. The table number locations will be available April 3, 2025 by calling the bookstore at 337-367-7621, ask for Howard.

On Saturday morning you can unload in front of the Daily Iberian Office on Main Street. We will have volunteers to help you unload and find your spot.

One author from each table will be given a complimentary ticket to the "Jazz It Up" opening reception Friday night. You must call and reserve your ticket by March 24.

We are looking forward to another great festival. Follow the website for any updates.

If you have any questions, please call the bookstore at (337-367-7621) or email hkingston3@bellsouth.net. <https://booksalongthetecheliteraryfestival.com/>

Saturday, April 5th meet New York Times Best-Selling Author, Mary Kay Andrews, at the Books Along the Teche Literary Festival in New Iberia, LA. She has written over 30 novels and will share her expertise and what inspires her with the crowd. Don't miss out on this rare event, tickets on sale now! Visit ExploreLouisiana.com to plan your trip today.



2025 New Orleans Book Festival

Another month closer to the 2025 New Orleans Book Festival, with a lineup that promises unforgettable conversations and inspiring stories. Mark your calendar for March 27-29, when we'll gather on Tulane University's uptown campus for a weekend of literary celebration.

This year's lineup features Hanif Abdurraqib, Connie Chung, Anthony Fauci, MD; Roxane Gay, Doris Kearns Goodwin, John Grisham, Walter Isaacson, Sharon McMahon, Casey McQuiston, Gen. David H. Petraeus, Nate Silver, Bryan Stevenson, Tara Westover, and Bob Woodward and many more. <https://bookfest.tulane.edu/>

WGA and Marketing Opportunities

Moncus Park Saturday Market

Writer's Guild is inviting members AND non-members to participate in vending at Moncus Park. The requested fee is \$10.00 per sales day. We hold a sales booth on the 2nd and last Saturday of each month. The \$10. is to defray the cost that the Writer's Guild has to pay for the vending booth location. (\$35.00 per Saturday)



Lafayette Downtown Artwalk

The Lafayette City Art Walk always occurs on the second Saturday of the month, every month, weather permitting. If you wish to vend your books at Art Walk, free space is available. This occurs on Jefferson Street, from around 4:00 pm and goes to 8:30 or 9:00 pm. Text Ed and he'll give more explanation. (337-945-5718).

WGA Critique Group

WGAcadiana Critique meets online using Google groups and Google Meet on the second and fourth Thursday evening of each month at 7:00 pm. Our purpose is to assist our writers in discovering the strong and weak points of their writing styles. Critique groups usually follow a careful format to develop trust amongst its members. That too is 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, which is free.

Other Writing Competitions

WERGLE FLOMP HUMOR POETRY CONTEST - NO FEE

Free to enter, \$3,750 in prizes, including a top award of \$2,000.

TOM HOWARD/JOHN H. REID FICTION & ESSAY CONTEST

\$12,000 in prizes, including two top awards of \$3,500 each. \$25 entry fee.

Useful Articles and Links

Canva

Canva was mentioned during last month's meeting, so here is an article again about using the online tool. It can be used to design graphics for things like ads and book covers.

<https://insights.bookbub.com/ways-authors-use-canva-book-marketing/>

Good Story Company

A free resource with articles on tips and tricks for any type of writing. Sign up for the newsletter or get their free ebook on "how to write a book." <https://www.goodstorycompany.com>

WGA Website and Facebook

Please visit our refreshed website 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 from the date you renew. 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? _____
