

“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

July 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: July 25

July 25, 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.

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. 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 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.

Our July meeting is "Members read" month. Members may bring work that they have created and share with the attendees. It may be a work in progress or a completed work. Five minutes will be allotted for each reader. Singers and songwriters within the organization are invited to share their work as a cappella or acoustic numbers; however, there is a limit of one song per performer and the song must also be no longer than five minutes.

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

August Guest Speaker: Diana Cash Lennon

Diana Cash Lennon comes from a family of published writers and loves to share her gift of writing with others. In her diverse work life, (she's held 20+ jobs in 10+ industries), she has written and edited a variety of material: business communications, website content, advertising copy, educational pieces, Christian instructional lessons for kids, teens and adults, technical works, and speeches, as well as promotional and research materials.

For pleasure, she has written articles for local magazines and newspapers. She also co-created a fundraiser for a local multiple sclerosis charity, Justice Grillin' for MS. She currently works part-time in the legal field, has started a blog on Facebook - LivingLovingLearningLife.

She has a BA in Public Relations from the University of [Southwestern] Louisiana at Lafayette. She has been married for nearly 40 years to Rocky Lennon and they have two daughters, Mackenzie (recently married to Connor Lagneaux of Lagneaux's Restaurant) and Savannah, a Senior at LSU in elementary education. They live in Lafayette, Louisiana, the heart of Cajun food, culture, music and fun.

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 .

◆ **Guild News**

Reminder: The WGA will be participating in the Festival of Words and Acadiana Writing Project. Member Dixie Simon inspired us to seek out student writing competitions in the area, and will be contributing. This competition will be in autumn, and should be an exciting event for all involved.

Reminder: WGA is associated with a critique group, and is interested in forming its own. If you need assistance on a piece you are writing, and want to find its strong and weak points, we're here for you. We have plenty we can teach in that area. Genres eligible for critique could be 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. IF interested, contact our secretary by text (337-945-5718) or email at eggchess@gmail.com

◆ **Member Announcements**

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

Upcoming work: Cajun Gumbo for the Soul, by member Betsy Richard.

Cajun Gumbo for the Soul, Praying for Travelers on their Journeys, My Airbnb Experiences

Children

It warmed this Cajun's soul to see children embracing childhood—playing in the treehouse, swinging on the swings, cuddling and being read to, and being given treats now and then. They are more authentic and transparent than any of us. We can learn so much from them.

Thank you so much for little children. Thank you for allowing children to bring a fresh perspective and wonder to our lives. Thank you for their inquisitiveness and unconditional love. Forgive us when we disregard the thoughts and feelings of children, for we sometimes forget about their innocence. Lord, please keep them safe from physical, mental, and spiritual abuse, and safe from the lies of the enemy. Keep filters over their ears and brightness in their eyes. Give them good caretakers who provide for them through monetary means, actions, and thoughts. Keep them surrounded by your angels, always feeling and knowing your love. Amen.

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Luke 18:16 NIV).

◆ Ask Google

I asked Google: Which is better, texting or writing?
The thoughts written in letters compared to those in texts come off more genuinely because the amount of time committed to making the message more personal is expressed through the context. Letters are also tactile and can be kept forever, whereas texts can simply disappear by a simple click of a button.

◆ Marketing

The South Regional Library is again hosting “Author’s Alley” on Saturday August 19, 2023 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Contact the library after August 4th at 337-981-1028. The library allows vending tables in the main hallway and authors may display and sell their books.

Reminder: The Lafayette city Art Walk always occurs on the second Saturday of the month, every month. If you, as an individual, wish to vend your books at Art Walk, free space is available. 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.

◆ Word of the month

Schmooze - verb

To chat idly, gossip. (Yiddish) Also, To befriend for the purpose of selling

◆ 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? _____
