

“Easy reading is damn hard writing.”
– Nathaniel Hawthorne

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers’ Guild of Acadiana

August 2024

Reminder: New Opportunities for everyone

Here’s your chance to help the WGA move into the next year! Give your name to one of board members to serve the WGA and share what you can do.

- Election committee: Need nominees and selection volunteers.
- Book Review committee: Need members to review and vet entries into our upcoming “Treasury of Louisiana Writers and Artists” publication.
- Archivist/Historian: Serve on the board as our historian.
- Newsletter Editor: Even as a contributor would be helpful.
- Webmaster: You can be a key player in keeping our website updated.
- Speaker: Would you like to address our Guild and relate your writing journey?



John @ 337-257-8665, Ed @ 337-945-5718, email: eggchess@gmail.com

Board Members:

President John Comeaux, Vice President Christopher Fontenot, Treasurer Beth Davis, Publicist Claire Waltner, Secretary Ed Gauthier, Webmaster Guy Kilchrist, Historian (open), Newsletter (open), and all past WGA Presidents in good standing.

Next Meeting: August 27. Members Read and Prompt contest

Our August meeting is “Members read” month. Members AND non-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.

August Prompt: “Fireworks Are Annoying”:
You Choose the Category! Fiction/ Non-fiction / Poetry / 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	Category
Author's Name	Word Count
Date of contest	

Looking Ahead: September is ... Members Read and Prompt contest

We have a special guest speaker for October, so we have switched the Members read night again.

Our September meeting is another "Members read" month.

September Prompt: "My most memorable holiday"

Category: Fiction

The rules for this fun contest are the same as above.

Advice from C.S.Lewis on Writing

TO A SCHOOLGIRL IN AMERICA, who had written (at her teacher's suggestion) to request advice on writing. 14 December 1959

It is very hard to give any general advice about writing. Here's my attempt.

- 1 Turn off the Radio.
- 2 Read all the good books you can, and avoid nearly all magazines.
- 3 Always write (and read) with the ear, not the eye. You should hear every sentence you write as if it was being read aloud or spoken. If it does not sound nice, try again.
- 4 Write about what really interests you, whether it is real things or imaginary things, and nothing else. (Notice this means that if you are interested only in writing you will never be a writer, because you will have nothing to write about ...)
- 5 Take great pains to be clear. Remember that though you start by knowing what you mean, the reader doesn't, and a single ill-chosen word may lead him to a total misunderstanding. In a story it is terribly easy just to forget that you have not told the reader something that he wants to know--the whole picture is so clear in your own mind that you forget that it isn't the same in his.
- 6 When you give up a bit of work don't (unless it is hopelessly bad) throw it away. Put it in a drawer. It may come in useful later. Much of my best work, or what I think my best, is the rewriting of things begun and abandoned years earlier.
- 7 Don't use a typewriter. The noise will destroy your sense of rhythm, which still needs years of training

- 8 Be sure you know the meaning (or meanings) of every word you use.

New Opportunities to market your books

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)

The Lafayette City Art Walk always occurs on the second Saturday of the month, every month. (Next one is July 11, 2024) 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. 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. There is plenty of walking traffic, lots of customers. This is available to anyone, whether a member of the Guild or not. Ed sets up around 520 Jefferson Street. Come by. 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. *If you need and want assistance* on a piece you are writing, and want this kind of assistance, we can advise you. 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 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.

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

John Comeaux is willing to co-author and co-produce the La Plume newsletter for WGA. Send contributions for the newsletter to info@writersguildacadiana.org John is willing to share the responsibility and the accolades, honors, and laurels with you.

ELECTIONS

Our by-laws call for an election of the board once a year, usually occurring in October/November. Our first step is to appoint a nomination committee. The board intends to appoint this committee soon. Any members wishing to serve on such committee, please contact John Comeaux (337-257-8665 JPComan9@gmail.com) or Ed Gauthier (text 337-945-5718 or eggchess@gmail.com)

WEB Page and Facebook

Please visit 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 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? _____
