

“When I started writing seriously, I made the major discovery of my life—that I am right and everybody else is wrong if they disagree with me.”

– Ray Bradbury

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers’ Guild of Acadiana

September 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: Full information is included below.
- Book Review committee: Need members to review and vet entries into our upcoming “*Treasury of South Louisiana Writers*” 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: September 24. Members Read and Prompt contest

Our September 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.

September Prompt: “My most memorable holiday”

Category: Fiction

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	

WRITERS' DAY: October 5

"Unlock Your Story"

Join Us at the WGA Writers' Day **Open House** for Inspiration, Insight, and Connection!

At this free event, friendly authors and publishing reps will be on hand to chat about everything from writing, editing, publishing, and marketing. If you're curious about any part of the writing journey, we'd love to have you join us!

This event was created especially for YOU, our friends who cannot easily make the Tuesday evening meetings. Drop in anytime during the event and meet us.

There will be no book sales or promotions here, just friendly fellow writers and authors to discuss the craft.

Saturday, Oct 5, 2024, 10:00-3:00
2nd Floor, Lafayette Public Library, Main Branch
Questions? Call John @ 337-257-8665

Looking Ahead: October 29 is Speaker Night.

Jack Townsend is a storyteller, blogger, professional fearmonger, former child, amateur person, co-recipient of Time Magazine's 2006 Person of the Year, and (despite what you may have heard) totally not a secret demon in a human suit. He rose to internet notoriety when his series of horror-comedy short stories collectively known as 'Tales from the Gas Station' received the award for 'Best series of 2017' from NoSleep, an online forum with over 14 million subscribers. He is the author of four novels, two novellas, and countless short stories, with more on the way soon.

Contest

Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest

The October 1 deadline is less than a month away for the 22nd annual [Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest](#). The Tom Howard Prize of \$3,500 for a poem in

any style or genre, and the Margaret Reid Prize of \$3,500 for a poem that rhymes or has a traditional style.

The entry fee is \$22 for each submission of 1-3 poems. Ten Honorable Mentions will receive \$300 each (any style). The top 12 entries will be published online. The top two winners will also receive two-year gift certificates from our co-sponsor, [Duotrope](#).

Submit published or unpublished work online via [Submittable](#). Length limit per poem: 250 lines.

<https://winningwriters.cmail20.com/t/d-l-ekrhkly-diiidrkdiu-d/>

Online articles to read for free, from Kindlepreneur

Dave Chesson offers these free items. (*The WGA takes no responsibility for the contents of these articles. They are provided as a convenience only. Editor.*)

 Article: [How To Format A Book: The Ultimate Guide](#)

 Article: [Best Book Writing Software 2024](#)

 Article: [How to Get EPUB Books on Kindle](#)

 Article: [Amazon Book Keyword Rules Explained \(2024 Update\)](#)

 Article: [How to Change Your Kindle Keywords and Why You Should](#)

Article on Content Marketing

What is content marketing?

For authors, content marketing is attracting an audience to your books and brand by creating and sharing original content online. It's a long game with an end goal of enticing some of that audience to take an action that's good for your author business, like signing up for your newsletter or buying your books or other products.

(This link is to a comprehensive article on marketing your books. Editor.)

<https://insights.bookbub.com/content-marketing-authors-how-to-get-started/>

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. 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.

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

ELECTIONS

Call for Nominations: WAG Officers for 2025

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Publicist, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster

As we look ahead to another exciting year of literary growth and collaboration, it's time to start thinking about the leadership that will guide our organization in 2025.

Consider nominating someone (or yourself) who:

- Demonstrates a passion for literary pursuits and the development of artistic talent.
- Actively engages with fellow members and promotes a spirit of cooperation.
- Is committed to upholding the mission of the WGA and contributing to the literary community.

Send inquiries and nominations to info@writersguildacadiana.org

Together, we can make 2025 a year of extraordinary literary achievements.

WEB Page 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? _____
