

There's a trick to playing a villain. The villain never thinks they are a villain. They think the world is against them.  
*Carol Burnett*

# LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

September 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 John Comeaux, and all past WGA Presidents in good standing.



## ***Announcement: Newsletter Editor position is open***

The position of the editor of La Plume is available. If you have a desire to be our next board member and newsletter editor, please apply in person at the **September** meeting, or by email to [JPComan9@gmail.com](mailto: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.

***Announcement: Member Guy Kilchrist has accepted the awesome and interesting position of Webmaster! Visit our new and improved website.***

**[www.writersguildacadiana.org](http://www.writersguildacadiana.org)**

## **Next Meeting: September 26**

**September 26**, 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.

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

September Prompt **“Hurricane Watch”**

Category: Memoirs or real events

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 September 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.

## Looking Ahead: October Meet TBA

### WEB Page and Facebook

Our web page is here: <https://www.writersguildacadiana.org/>

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

#### ◆ **Guild News**

**News:** WGA has now established a critique group. We meet bi-weekly online via Google Group Meets. 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](mailto:eggchess@gmail.com)

#### ◆ **Writing Advice**

### Moral Dilemmas That Make Stories Better

Before our characters can face difficult moral decisions, we need to give them beliefs that matter: The assassin has his own moral code not to harm women or

children, the missionary would rather die than renounce his faith, the father would sacrifice everything to pay the ransom to save his daughter.

A character without an attitude, without a spine, without convictions, is one who will be hard for readers to cheer for and easy for them to forget. So, to create an intriguing character facing meaningful and difficult choices, give her two equally strong convictions that can be placed in opposition to each other.

## **5 Moral Dilemmas That Make Characters (& Stories) Better**

- Give Your Character Dueling Desires.
- Put Your Character's Convictions to the Test.
- Force Your Character Into a Corner.
- Let the Dilemmas Grow From the Genre.
- Look for the Third Way.

Read the full article in Writer's Digest

<https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-fiction/5-moral-dilemmas-that-make-characters-stories-better>

Check the NEW website for Events and prior months' newsletters.

[www.writersguildacadiana.org](http://www.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](mailto: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](mailto:info@writersguildacadiana.org)  
Cash payments can be made at the monthly meeting – do not mail.

This form is also online: [writersguildacadiana.org](http://writersguildacadiana.org)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone/Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you find out about us?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_