

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of
Acadiana

April-May 2025



South Regional Library meeting rooms are OPEN!

The next meeting on Tuesday, April 29th at 6PM is to take place at the South Regional Library auditorium. As we haven't been there in a while, if you are unsure where to go make sure to look extra confused and a fellow WGA member will assist you in finding the meeting hall. You can also take the alternative route and ask at the front desk. For any questions, call John @ 337-257-8665

Board Members

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

"It is the nature of the writer to question the validity of his world and yet rely on his senses to describe it. From what other tension can great literature be born?"

-Jeff VanderMeer, *City of Saints and Madmen*

The WGA book *A Treasury of Louisiana Writers* is LIVE!

20 stories and poems were submitted to the WGA by Louisiana authors to foster a more expanded audience and opportunity for our members. Several members are published authors, and more are working towards publication. The reader will find works in various genres to showcase the variety and diversity of talent.

Dozens of copies have been sold already, with royalties going back to the guild to help bring in guest speakers and host more helpful events. For more information visit our website or click the link below to buy yourself or a loved one this special publication.

A Treasury of Louisiana Writers: Acadiana, Writers Guild, Comeaux, John:
9798313795393: Amazon.com: Books

Next Meeting: April 28th, 6pm

Featured Speaker Andre Guirard performs a live website build demonstration

Previously we discussed leveraging social media. That's good, but social media sites come and go or sometimes plunge downhill at an alarming rate. As a professional writer, it's beneficial to have an online space that you control, where people who are interested specifically in your work and your opinions can reliably follow you, without an algorithm deciding which of your posts they can or can't see, and a way to search for an article you wrote more than three hours ago.

If you think you'd like a website, and don't want to pay a professional to do it, this session demonstrates how to select free prefab parts to snap together the skeleton of your own website in about an hour, and customize it with your color scheme, graphics, and fonts. You would then fill in the content – e.g. actually write your bio on the page you've set up for it. You can do all this at once or start small and build on as you have time and energy for it.

Andre Guirard grew up in the country near St. Martinville, lived in Minnesota for many years working with computers, and returned to Louisiana after retirement to be near family and old friends. Besides writing books, he now occupies himself creating art and managing a worldwide map of Free Little Art Galleries, where anyone can come and leave art for others to admire, or find things they love to bring home. He also designs websites for himself and others, as a volunteer.



May WGA Writing Competition

Topic: "Spring Scents"

Category: Poetry

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

Festival International

As most of you know, Festival International starts **TODAY (Wednesday, April 23rd)**. Though not a writing event, all arts are to be cherished and celebrated. With hundreds of musicians from all corners of the globe performing downtown from Wednesday to Sunday, the festival is a must-see event that is guaranteed to drag you away from your writing desk for at least a few minutes.

WGA and Marketing Opportunities

Member Profiles

The WGA website has a spot just for you! A dedicated Member Profiles page, where your works and accomplishments can be showcased to any who visit the site. If you would like to add your profile to the website, or update your profile if you already have one, contact John @ 337-257-8665 or email @ jpcoman9@gmail.com.

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)

Text our secretary Ed Gauthier @ (337-945-5718) if you're interested in taking part. This booth is how a certain editor ended up writing this newsletter, so don't doubt the booth's (or your) potential!



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 sell 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 talk you into it (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. 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.

Writing Competitions

North Street Book Prize

Deadline July 1st. Submit your self-published or hybrid-published book to this year's North Street contest from Winning Writers. The grand prize winner will receive \$10,000.

Choose from eight categories. \$22,000 in cash will be awarded in all, and the top nine winners will receive additional benefits to help market their books. Books published on all self-publishing and hybrid-publishing platforms are eligible. Any year of publication is eligible. Entry fee: \$85 per book, with free gifts for everyone who enters.

All entrants who submit online can choose to receive a brief commentary from one of the judges (5-10 sentences) at no extra charge. See more about this below.

TOM HOWARD/JOHN H. REID FICTION & ESSAY CONTEST

\$12,000 in prizes, including two top awards of \$3,500 each. \$25 entry fee. Deadline **May 1st**.

Tom Howard/John H. Reid Fiction & Essay Contest - Winning Writers

Austin Film Festival 2025 Script Competitions



Running over 30 years strong, multiple categories with differing prices and deadlines. Deadlines have already started but continue for a couple months.

<https://austinfilmfestival.com/about-aff-script-competitions/>

2025 KBR Boow Awards: The Best of Indie

Cost \$35 to enter, \$600 in cash and prizes to 8 category winners. importantly, a shiny gold star and some publicity.

 [2025 KBR Book Awards - The Kindle Book Review](#)



Most

Useful Links

How Authors Use IngramSpark and KDP Together: A Step-by-Step Guide

This article discusses two different ways to print your book and how they can be used together.

[How Authors Use KDP Print and IngramSpark Together](#)

Medium

A news website with a weekly digest curated to your interest. Can provide ideas, inspiration, or simply fun reads.

<https://medium.com/>

Last Month Recap

Last month we had our bi-monthly writing competition with the prompt "Easter Traditions". Many wonderful stories were read (I enjoyed every single one of them) by some of our talented members, but only one could emerge victorious. Rhonda LaJeune wrote a magical piece about a boy who found

an odd Easter egg during his hunt that turns out to be something else entirely. Make sure to check out her story on our website, it was truly special. A huge thank you to everyone who wrote and read last month, and don't forget to write something for next month as well!

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? _____
