

“I try to leave out the parts
that people skip.”
– Elmore Leonard

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

October 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.

- Elections for WGA Board: Nominate someone you love
- Now accepting entries to "*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.

WRITERS' DAY: Recap

The measure of success is how people enjoyed the day. Those who came, stayed and talked. They appreciated the one-on-one attention. Many thanks to Whole Foods who donated drinks and snacks. And also to the WGA members who came to the event and showed their support.

Next Meeting: 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.

<https://www.gasstationjack.com>

Looking Ahead: November 26. Members Read and Prompt contest

Our November 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.

November Prompt: “My new car”

Category: 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	

◆ Contest: Next Generation Short Story Awards

The 2025 Next Generation Short Story Awards is open to all authors, even first time authors, in the U.S., Canada, or internationally who have an original short story (5,000 words or less) written in English that has not been previously published at the time of entry.

According to the rules page, Middle School and High School students are eligible to enter the contest. <https://shortstoryawards.com/rules.php>

<https://shortstoryawards.com/guidelines.php>

(The WGA takes no responsibility for these contest announcements. They are provided as a convenience only. Editor)

◆ Online short novels free to read, from Jack Caldwell

Welcome to Austen Variations! We're a group of writers of Austen-inspired fiction who love to interact with readers about our stories and to share our experiences and love of Jane Austen.

<https://austenvariations.com/free-books/>

(Jack Caldwell spoke to the WGA several years ago, and I was inspired by his presentation. They are provided as a convenience only. Editor.)

◆ Article on Summary Books

(Editor's note: I didn't know what a summary book was until I read this.)

Many global retail partners are taking steps to remove summary books from their store shelves, regardless of genre. Draft2Digital will no longer accept the publication of new summary books.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

There are many factors that have led to this decision by the retailers. In fact, some retailers stopped accepting summary books years ago. If we were to boil it down to the top three reasons, they would be:

- **Reader trust:** Summary works often lead to reader confusion, as summary books can be mistaken for original works. Consumers can feel misled, which damages their shopping experience and can lead to mistrust of the retailer.
- **Copyright concerns:** A high percentage of summary books are produced without written permission from the original rights holder, raising concerns about copyright compliance.
- **Excessive inventory:** The relative ease with which summary books can be produced, published, and distributed has led to an overabundance of summary books on retail shelves. This excess glut can significantly diminish the browsing and discovery experience for readers.

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.

WEB Page and Facebook

Please visit our refreshed website here: <https://www.writersguildacadiana.org/>

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

ELECTIONS November 2024

Call for Nominations: WGA 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.



WRITERS' GUILD OF ACADIANA



WGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTION BALLOT

POSTION	CURRENT OFFICER	NOMINATION
President	John Comeaux	_____
Vice-President	Christopher Fontenot	_____
Secretary	Edward Gauthier	_____
Treasurer	Julia (Beth) Davis	_____
Publicist	Claire Waltner-Decker	_____
Editor (Newsletter)	John Comeaux	_____
Historian	"Vacant"	_____
Webmaster	Guy Kilchrist (retiring position)	_____

Notes:

Ballot should be sent to: WGA Board _____ by: November 15, 2024 _____

Mailing address: PO Box 51532, Lafayette, LA 70505

e-mail address: _____

Description of duties for each position is available upon request.

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? _____
