

"Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place." – Zora Neale Hurston

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

July 2024 *REVISED*

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: July 30 Paul Schexnayder

Paul Schexnayder has been a professional color-blind artist for more than 30 years. He graduated with a BFA in Painting and Drawing from LSU in 1988. Paul has been selected as the official artist for many local and state festivals.

Paul is also an award-winning children's book writer. He has three picture books published with University of Louisiana Press and one by Pelican Publishing. His first children's board book, *I Know My Louisiana Colors* was release in 2024, and *The Gumbo Gators and the Swamp Circus* will be out in 2025. He has a twice a month segment called *The Writers Block* on KADN-TV-15 morning program, reviewing and interviewing authors.

Paul and his wife, Lee, live in New Iberia, Louisiana and have three kids. They have owned A & E Gallery for 13 years which features over 10 local artists. He has taught art for over 30 years and is currently a visual arts teacher in the Talent Program in Iberia parish.

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	

Anthology: Writers Competition Winners

A Creative Writing Competition Winners booklet was printed containing all the winners of the bi-monthly writing competition. The 2021-23 collection is available now, and copies are available to purchase. www.mixam.com/print-on-demand/books4you Copies will also be available to purchase at the WGA meets.

Louisiana Book Festival

Registration for the 2024 Louisiana Book Festival opens JULY 15, 2024. Last year, this Baton Rouge event hosted more than 2,000 people! Your book is going to not only make a lot of sales at this event, but it is also going to get the exposure and attention it deserves. To learn more about the festival and to register, click the link below:

<https://louisianabookfestival.org/>

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 the underpass to the corner of Lee Street and Jefferson. It begins around 4:00 pm and goes to 8:30 or 9:00 pm. (Or until you are tired) 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).

From: BookBub.com, some great websites with great tips

If you're looking for something to read, here are a few recent posts you might enjoy:

- [17 Authors on YouTube with Writing & Publishing Tips](#)
- [50 Stellar Examples of Author Facebook Cover Photo Designs](#)
- [BookBub Ads Strategies for Any New Release Goal](#)
- [How to Write Attention-Grabbing Promo Copy for Books](#)
- [Book Awards You Should Know About](#)

Best wishes,
The BookBub Partners Team

Best Online Self-Publishing Courses Reviewed

Editor's note: This is from Dave Chesson, and he has reviewed many of the courses available and is sharing the pros and cons of the three best.

[Best Self-Publishing Courses.](#)

New Orleans Literary Festival at Tulane

The New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University will be held in-person from Thursday, March 27 through Saturday, March 29, 2025. Join 150-200 authors, artists, and thought leaders from New Orleans and beyond and engage with a vibrant literary community. Selected authors will be featured in at least one session,

with most sessions being panels and conversations with multiple panelists. Invited authors will also have an opportunity to engage with readers at a book signing during the festival.

What We're Looking For:

- Books of high literary merit that fit within a balanced lineup of genres and age groups.
- First releases rather than reprints, especially those published in the 12 months preceding the festival.
- Diverse, vibrant, and engaging books across various genres including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's literature, and more.

Important Details:

- **Submission Deadline:** Completed submissions must be received by September 15, 2024.
- **Selection Notification:** Authors selected will be notified by November 2024.
- **How to Apply:** Please read all submission guidelines and complete the application form available on our website.

[Apply for the 2025 Festival](#)

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)

Grant Writers

Our Guild is in great need of grant writers. The guild needs to make effort to accomplish grant writing, which would bolster our guild economy. Anyone willing to take on this important task, please contact a board member.

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 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 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? _____
