

“When you get quiet inside, the right words
come a little easier.” *Maya Angelou*

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

November-December 2024 : ELECTION MONTH (for WGA)!

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.

- Now accepting entries to “*Treasury of Louisiana Writers and Artists*” publication.
- Newsletter Editor: Even as a contributor would be helpful.
- 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: WGA Elections

Send in your form, or attend the meeting to elect the WGA Board for 2025.

Next Meeting: 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	

No Meeting in December. See you January 28.

◆ Article on Using Canva

(Editor's note: I didn't know how to use Canva, but many people do.)

Here is an article on using Canva, an online tool to design graphics for things like ads and book covers.

<https://insights.bookbub.com/ways-authors-use-canva-book-marketing/>

Contests

WERGLE FLOMP HUMOR POETRY CONTEST - NO FEE

Free to enter, \$3,750 in prizes, including a top award of \$2,000.

TOM HOWARD/JOHN H. REID FICTION & ESSAY CONTEST

\$12,000 in prizes, including two top awards of \$3,500 each. \$25 entry fee.

New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University

2025 Author Lineup Announced!

We're excited to kick off the journey to the 2025 New Orleans Book Festival with a lineup that promises unforgettable conversations and inspiring stories. Mark your calendar for March 27-29, when we'll gather on Tulane University's uptown campus for a weekend of literary celebration.

This year's lineup features Hanif Abdurraqib, Connie Chung, Anthony Fauci, MD; Roxane Gay, Doris Kearns Goodwin, John Grisham, Walter Isaacson, Sharon McMahon, Casey McQuiston, Gen. David H. Petraeus, Nate Silver, Bryan Stevenson, Tara Westover, and Bob Woodward and many more.

Details: [Click Here.](#)

BookBub offers 11 ideas for marketing your book before you've written "the end."

<https://insights.bookbub.com/marketing-ideas-before-finishing-your-first-book/>

(Editor's note: I read this article, and you may wish to pick one or two ideas to try. It is inspirational to know about marketing before publishing.)

Highlighting our Members

WGA is happy to announce the latest books and releases from our members. Here's Ed Gauthier's third novel, *Dragon's Eye Black Hole*.

The Kirkus Review has an extended summary, but here's an excerpt.

In Gauthier's novel, when a tiny black hole enters our solar system, the destructive consequences for Earth quickly become frighteningly apparent.

In the cloistered astronomy department of the University of California, Santa Cruz, Dr. Patrice Gailart is first among widespread global observers to witness via telescope the distortion and destruction of Pluto and its moon. The cause: a miniature black hole traveling through the solar system. The thrill of discovery of this rare phenomenon is short-lived as the realization dawns that the black hole—dubbed Dragon's Eye, after an advanced Chinese telescope that captures the best images—is zooming toward the central planets and will therefore affect Earth.

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, weather permitting. 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.

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 The election form is attached.

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

STORIES and ARTWORK

Do you want to put your story, article, or artwork into our upcoming book: *A Treasury of Louisiana Writers and Artists*? Submit your work, up to 7500 words for a story, or your poem or artwork to wgatreasury@gmail.com. Full details are in the attachment. Send it in by Jan. 1, 2025.

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? _____
