

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writer's Guild of
Acadiana

August-September 2025

Next WGAcadiana Meeting:

The next meeting on Tuesday, August 26th at 6PM is to take place at the South Regional Library in the auditorium.

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.

**“WRITE A STORY A WEEK. IT’S NOT POSSIBLE TO
WRITE 52 BAD SHORT STORIES IN A ROW.”**

-RAY BRADBURY

The WGA book *A Treasury of Louisiana Writers Vol II* wants YOU!

The second volume of a treasury of Louisiana Writers is in the works and accepting applications until September. Works can be anything from short fiction to plays, with no required themes or styles. If you have a bit of writing you've always dreamed of having published, submit it and the guild will get it out there for you. Complete details regarding rules and guidelines can be found on the WGA website, www.writersquildacadiana.org, under the “Events and Opportunities” tab.

Volume 1 is still available for purchase on Amazon at the link below:

<https://a.co/d/237GdNE>

Next Meeting: August 26th, 6pm

Guest Speaker Dr. Holcombe

August Speaker is Dr. David Holcombe

Dr. Holcombe will share his writing journey with the Guild on Tuesday, August 26, at 6:00 p.m.



Dr. David Holcombe recently retired after 37 years of medical and public health practice. During that time, he published 16 books, mostly short plays and stories. Spectral Sisters Productions, a developmental theatre group in Alexandria, put on 12 of his plays over the last 20 years. He also paints and teaches Czech folk dancing. He remains a passionate advocate of French, but also speaks Spanish in his work with immigrants. He and his Belgian wife, Nicole have lived and raised four sons in Alexandria, the Heart of Louisiana.

September WGA Writing Competition!

Topic: "It wasn't my fault!"

Category: Fiction

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

Louisiana Book Festival, Saturday November 1st

The 2025 Louisiana Book Festival is on Saturday, November 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in downtown Baton Rouge. The festival is about celebrating readers, writers, and their books. The festival will host speakers, featured authors, and exhibitors. More information will be published soon, and this newsletter will keep you up to date. Several members of WGA will be attending this year, so ask around at the meetings who all is going and make plans to be there yourself.



WGA Writers Day, October 4th

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Main Branch of the Lafayette Library, 2nd floor meeting room.
Writers Day 2025: Celebrate the Art of Writing!

October 4, 2025

Join the Writers Guild of Acadiana for a special day dedicated to writers and the craft of writing!

What to Expect:

- Connect with Fellow Writers & Published Authors: Network with experienced and emerging writers, and gain insights from published authors.
- Inspiring Talks: Hear engaging talks about the writing journey, learn from their successes and challenges.
- Quick Contests: Test your writing skills and win prizes!
- Learn About the Writers Guild of Acadiana: Discover the benefits of joining our vibrant community and how we can support your writing journey.

Don't miss this opportunity to grow your writing and connect with local writers!

Learn more at:

- Website: <https://www.writersguildacadiana.org/>
- Facebook: @writersguildacadiana

#WritersDay #WritersGuildOfAcadiana #WritingCommunity #AcadianaWriters

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 via 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 for members and \$15 for non-members per sales day. We hold a sales booth on the 2nd and last Saturday of each month. The fee 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.

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 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 for more questions (337-945-5718) or stroll on by the evening of as he's usually seen there.

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

TWFest Writing Contest

The annual writing contests for the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival (TWFest) and Saints + Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival (SASFest) are open to submissions now until October in fiction, poetry, and one-act plays.

Deadlines October 15th.

This is the 40th annual TWFest, which will take place March 25-29, 2026. Prizes range from \$500-\$1,500 and include free passes, publication, staged readings, and the ever coveted *publicity*. This sounds like one to plan ahead for!

<https://tennesseewilliamsfestival.submittable.com/submit>



Southern Screen Short Story Competition

Deadline September 2nd. The theme for 2025 is "Read Between the Lines". Entry fee is \$10 at the time of submission, stories are to be between 1,000 and 1,500

words and can be any genre but should be in the form of fiction prose. Submissions are to include a title page and a 1-2 sentence synopsis and no identifying author information. The winner is to receive: \$150 cash prize; Published in Louisiana Literature Magazine; Story read aloud at Festival event either by the writer or by a special guest of Southern Screen. The award recipient will have the option and can participate in a Q & A following the reading; A Festival Pass and Food + Drink Wristband for the remainder of the festival. More prizes TBA. Ask James

McDonald for further information, as he is one of the judges (and he does not accept bribes, no matter how many zeros!)

<https://www.southernscreen.org/writing-challenge>

Acorn Publishing Debut Author Prize

This contest is open to unpublished fiction and memoir writers across the U.S. who have completed manuscripts of 95,000 words or less. The winner will receive a full-service professional publishing and national launch package valued at over \$11,000, completely free. The winner will also be announced live on stage at the 2026 San Diego Writers Festival. Submissions open **August 15 and close November 15, 2025**, so time is limited. Full contest details and eligibility:

<https://www.acornpublishingllc.com/>

Useful Links

Elmore Leonard: The Beloved Author's 10 Rules of Writing

A writing legend who first gave this short piece outlining his ten rules of writing to the New York Times back in 2001. It has since been made into a slim, illustrated book, though just the rules can be found online. <https://amzn.to/4jJ9ddk>.

Reedsy

This is a service that can connect you with editors, publishers, designers, or anyone else in the writing business that you might need. Resources are upfront and prices are transparent. <https://reedsy.com/>

WGA Website and Facebook

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

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

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 Writer’s 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:

**Writer’s 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? _____
