

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of
Acadiana

June-July 2025

Next WGAcadiana Meeting:

The next meeting on Tuesday, June 24th 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.

“When all else fails, give up and go to the library.”

-Stephen King

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

A reminder that The WGA book is for sale and awaiting your hungry eyes. 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 genre to showcase the variety and diversity of talent. All royalties go 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.

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

Also, the second volume is in the works, so guild members are encouraged to submit their work for consideration. Complete details regarding rules and guidelines can be found on the WGA website, www.writersguildacadiana.org, under the “Events and Opportunities” tab.

Next Meeting: June 24th, 6pm

Guest Speaker John Cavalier, owner of Cavalier House Books.

John, alongside his wife Michelle, owns and operates Cavalier House Books. John mostly operates on the business side of things, but he has a hand in everything that goes on there. He would rather read a book about the science of sound than a New York Times bestseller any day.



The Cavaliers have owned and operated Cavalier House Books in Denham Springs, a new and used indie bookstore, since the fall of 2009. They have recently acquired Beausoleil Books in Lafayette and have rebranded it as a second CHB bookstore. They are dedicated to maintaining the love for literature and Louisiana culture in the store and welcome everyone to visit for a book or just a chat about them.

July WGA Writing Competition!

Topic: "Summer Memories"
Category: Memoirs

Cool off inside with your pen (or keyboard) and write about a summer memory. Stories can be fiction or non-fiction, so bring your unique writing styles to the table. 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 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

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.

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>

Useful Links

Kindlepreneur

Last month's newsletter included a Kindlepreneur article about how to get published. This article discusses how to start a publishing company. Even if you only plan on self-publishing, creating an LLC to publish under allows you to legally and legitimately separate your personal life from your business, which can protect your personal assets in the event of any future legal issues.

<https://kindlepreneur.com/how-to-start-a-publishing-company>

Last Month Recap

Last month we tapped into the poetic side of the WGA through the May Writing Competition. The prompt was “Spring Scents”, and the co-winners John Francois and Vana Plaisance showed us what it really means to smell spring through two very different poetry styles. John kept it playful and humorous, while Vana dove into the consequences of war. Both stories will be featured in our winner’s book at the end of the year. Thank you to all who participated, and hope to hear more of your writing in future competitions.



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 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? _____
