

"Nobody has ever measured, even poets,  
how much a heart can hold." –  
*Zelda Fitzgerald*

# LA PLUME

## Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

June 2024

### 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.



### Some New Opportunities

Keep reading and checking the WGA website for new opportunities for your Guild. The more people who contribute to the activities, the more successful we will be.

### Next Meeting in June: Guest Speaker Dan Klefstad

Our June 25 meeting will be a remote conference Zoom-type meeting. Dan Klefstad is a longtime radio host and newscaster. His latest novel, *Fiona's Guardians*, is about humans who work for a beautiful vampire named Fiona. The book was adapted by Artists' Ensemble Theater for their Mysterious Journey podcast. A short film adaptation is currently in pre-production with a release date in 2024.

"Greetings. How often have your members resorted to paid promo services? Have some fallen for scams? My Amazon best-seller, *DIY Book Promo: How to Find Readers without Spending Money*, teaches authors that devoting a set amount of time for promotion, every day, will help them achieve their sales goals. My book incorporates lessons from the successful campaign for my novel, *Fiona's Guardians*, including how to co-brand with indie bookstores. I also teach interviewing tips from my 30-year radio career.

I'll be speaking at major conferences this summer and fall, but I actually prefer meeting smaller groups of authors (in person or via Zoom) and taking their questions after I finish my PowerPoint. And, keeping with the spirit of my book, I charge no fee."

He now writes in Louisville, Kentucky.

### Looking Ahead: July

Our July 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.

**July 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. Contest participants are not allowed to enter the contest with works that are typed on iPhones or any other electronic devices. 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](http://www.mixam.com/print-on-demand/books4you)  
Copies will also be available to purchase at the WGA meets.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

## Board Positions Open

We invite our readers to consider joining our board of directors in one of two positions that are open: Historian and Newsletter Editor.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:JPComan9@gmail.com) ) or Ed Gauthier (text 337-945-5718 or [eggchess@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@writersguildacadiana.org)

Cash payments can be made at the monthly meeting – do not mail.

This form is also online: [writersguildacadiana.org](http://writersguildacadiana.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about us? \_\_\_\_\_

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