

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of
Acadiana

March-April 2025



South Regional Library meeting rooms closed, but not for long!

With a show of shocking efficiency, construction at the South Regional Library has been completed early. Meetings will pick back up in the regular meeting room there starting next month. However, this month's meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 29th** at the **West Regional Library**.

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.

"The pen is mightier than the sword if the sword is very short, and the pen is very sharp."

*-Sir Terry Pratchett, **The Light Fantastic***

Next Meeting: March 25th, 6pm Members read and Writing Competition

If it wasn't already known, the guild is a safe space to share your work. Whether you wish to shine your creative light or are seeking feedback, whether it be a few words or a heap, bring and share them. Your fire could be the one to ignite another's or brighten someone's day. Our March 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 acappella or acoustic numbers; however, there is a limit of one song per performer and the song must also be no longer than five minutes.

March WGA Writing Competition

Prompt: "Easter Traditions"

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. It's not too late to type a few words. The more the merrier, so get to writing!



Title	Category
Author's Name	Word Count
Date of contest	

Last Month Recap

Last month's speaker Jade Landry shared a slice of insight into the world of marketing your work, primarily through social media. As the general manager of Excaliber Publishing, an independent book publishing company, she has gained valuable experience and knowledge about book marketing, printing, editing, and illustrating. A highlight of her presentation was the importance of networking, and not just with agents and editors but with each other. She showed that connecting our circles of influence can exponentially expand the audience any announcement you make reaches. She also showed ways make your advertisements pop and stick.

Thanks again, Jade, for giving a great presentation. Looking forward to implementing your teachings in future projects.



Upcoming Events

Books Along the Teche Literary Festival: April 4th, 5th, and 6th

The Books Along the Teche Literary Festival is fast approaching. The festival will be held on April 4, 5, and 6 this year. The Author's Book Fair will be held on Saturday, April 5 from 9am to 3pm. The Children's Book Fair will be held on Saturday, April 5 from 10am to 2pm. The author applications are posted on the website Book Fair Application. Please fill it out and read all the instructions/information carefully. Be sure to note if you are a Children's Book Author. Deadline for applications and payment is March 24, 2025.



Each author is allowed one (1) eight-foot maximum table. No table or tent poles must block an entrance to a business. The table number locations will be available April 3, 2025, by calling the bookstore at 337-367-7621, ask for Howard. On Saturday morning you can unload in front of the Daily Iberian Office on Main Street. We will have volunteers to help you unload and find your spot. One author from each table will be given a complimentary ticket to the “Jazz It Up” opening reception Friday night. You must call and reserve your ticket by March 24.

We are looking forward to another great festival. Follow the website for any updates.

If you have any questions, please call the bookstore at (337-367-7621) or email hkingston3@bellsouth.net. <https://booksalongthetecheliteraryfestival.com/>

Saturday, April 5th meet New York Times Best-Selling Author, Mary Kay Andrews, at the Books Along the Teche Literary Festival in New Iberia, LA. She has written over 30 novels and will share her expertise and what inspires her with the crowd. Don't miss out on this rare event, tickets on sale now! Visit ExploreLouisiana.com to plan your trip today.

2025 New Orleans Book Festival

Another month closer 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. <https://bookfest.tulane.edu/>

WGA and Marketing Opportunities

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 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)

Text our industrious secretary Ed Gauthier @ (337-945-5718) if you're interested in taking part. This booth is how a certain editor ended up writing this newsletter, so don't doubt the booth's (or your) potential!



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** (see, industrious) and he'll talk you into it (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. If interested, contact our secretary (he can't be stopped!) 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.

Other Writing Competitions

WERGLE FLOMP HUMOR POETRY CONTEST - NO FEE

Free to enter, \$3,750 in prizes, including a top award of \$2,000. **The deadline is April 1st**, so don't delay!

Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest (no fee) - Winning Writers

TOM HOWARD/JOHN H. REID FICTION & ESSAY CONTEST

\$12,000 in prizes, including two top awards of \$3,500 each. \$25 entry fee. Deadline **May 1st**.

Tom Howard/John H. Reid Fiction & Essay Contest - Winning Writers

Austin Film Festival 2025 Script Competitions



Running over 30 years strong, multiple categories with differing prices and deadlines. Deadlines start **March 25th**, but go on for a couple months.

<https://austinfilmfestival.com/about-aff-script-competitions/>

2025 KBR Boow Awards: The Best of Indie

Cost \$35 to enter, \$600 in cash and prizes to 8 category winners. Most importantly, a shiny gold star and some publicity.

[🔗 2025 KBR Book Awards - The Kindle Book Review](#)



Useful Links

Medium

A news website with a weekly digest curated to your interest. Can provide ideas, inspiration, or simply fun reads.

<https://medium.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 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? _____
