

# LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of  
Acadiana

May-June 2025



## **South Regional Library meeting rooms are OPEN!**

The next meeting on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM is to take place at the South Regional Library in the meeting room down the hall.

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.

“IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE, A GOOD NAME. I ALWAYS IN WRITING START WITH A NAME. GIVE ME A NAME AND IT PRODUCES A STORY, NOT THE OTHER WAY ABOUT NORMALLY.”

-J.R.R. TOLKIEN

## **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. Contact John for more information on rules and guidelines.

## Next Meeting: May 27th, 6pm Members Read and Writing Competition

### May WGA Writing Competition!

Topic: "Spring Scents"

Category: Poetry

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](mailto: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

### 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](mailto: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 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)

**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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup>.** 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 15<sup>th</sup>.**

This is the 40<sup>th</sup> 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>



### Austin Film Festival 2025 Script Competitions

Running over 30 years strong, multiple categories with differing prices and deadlines. Only late deadlines are still open, so if you have something to submit you better get to it!

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



## Useful Links

### Tertulia

This is another site that can help you create and maintain a website for a fee. It is easy to start and has been used by members of the guild.

<https://authors.tertulia.com>

### Kindlepreneur

An in-depth guide by kindlepreneur on how to get published. They have updated the article to include modern publishing techniques and up-to-date tips on the traditional route as well.

<https://kindlepreneur.com/get-published/>

### Paperravenbooks

This article discusses one of the most important and, thanks to the universes sense of humor, trickiest aspects of a story to nail: character development. Dive into how to build a character with depth and voice and make the reader fall in love with your next character.

<https://paperravenbooks.com/the-heart-of-every-story-character-development-tips-for-every-genre/>

## Last Month Recap

Last month Andre showed the guild how to create a website that can be used for advertising and marketing your work. Though I was not able to attend, I will definitely be asking about all the secrets he shared when it comes time to make my own page.

A correction to the April Newsletter:

A mistake was made with the announcement of the March WGA writing competition, as the winner was actually Stephanie Riley for her entry about an egg that hatched into something magical. It was an amazing piece and no offense was meant by the mix up. Her story will be featured along with the other competition winners at the end of the year in the 2025 Anthology of Winners for WGA. Anyone who competes and wins will be featured and provided with a copy when it is published, so join in for your chance to win!

## 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](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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