

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writer's Guild of
Acadiana

September-October 2025

Next WGAcadiana Meeting:

The next meeting on Tuesday, September 30th 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.

“It takes hard writing to make easy reading.”

-Robert Louis Stevenson

Writers Day is upon us!

Only a week away, **Saturday, October 4th** the WGA organized event Writers Day will take place at the Main Branch of Lafayette Library, 2nd floor meeting room. 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 improve your writing and connect with local writers!

Learn more at: Website: <https://www.writersguildacadiana.org/>

Facebook: @writersguildacadiana

Next Meeting: September 30th, 6pm

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	Category
Author's Name	Word Count
Date of contest	

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.



Christina Marrocco "Writing the Ancestors: Saving our Family Stories"

October 14th, from 630-830pm ONLINE, Christina will host a workshop on how to access the full life experiences of our ancestors in or to put them into word. This will include a meditative journey, with time to reflect, share, and record what you learn. Follow the link below to find out more.

<https://rolreadlocal.com/classes/writing-the-ancestors-saving-our-family-stories/>

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>

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

Judy Blume's Advice for Aspiring Writers

This actual author of this piece has combed through all of Judy's work and found a fountain of inspirational and helpful words for fellow writers. Comb through the list and see if anything resonates.

<https://getpocket.com/explore/item/judy-blume-s-advice-for-aspiring-writers>

Barnes and Nobles Newsletter

I promise the sting of betrayal will only tickle if you partake in another newsletter, for one editor alone is incapable of capturing all that is required to nourish a pack of hungry writers. This newsletter in particular offers advice on self-publishing (with them, of course) and promotional opportunities that they can offer.

<https://press.barnesandnoble.com/bnpress-blog/bn-press-september-2025-newsletter/>

BookBub Book Awards

Have you ever wanted an award for your writing? Rhetorical question, of course you have. Well, here is a list of 32 of them! Scour through the list for a way to get your name on a plaque and a label on your front cover

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? _____
