

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of
Acadiana

October-November 2025

Next WGAcadiana Meeting:

The next meeting on Tuesday, October 28th 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 Andre Guirard, Historian James (Jim) McDonald, Newsletter Editor Brandon Russell, and all past WGA Presidents in good standing.

“Writing a book is a horrible, exhausting struggle, like a long bout with some painful illness. One would never undertake such a thing if one were not driven on by some demon whom one can neither resist nor understand.”

-George Orwell, Why I Write

New Website is LIVE !

The WGA's new, talented webmaster (not spiderman, no relation) has helped to update and improve the Guild's website. Easy to navigate and filled with information and pictures, it will serve as a beacon to draw in the masses to our fold. Things are still being updated, including starting next month the monthly newsletter will be posted

there. A calendar will be updated with upcoming events, so if you know of anything good then send it our way! Take some time to check out and enjoy the website.

Next Meeting: October 28th, 6pm Guest Speaker Jan Risher!

Jan Risher is a journalist who is currently the Louisiana Culture Editor for Georges Media and columnist at *The Advocate*. She is also an author, her most recent work being “Q of the D: Encouraging Conversation and Connection” which came out in November of 2024.

Reading her columns on the advocate and you’ll find everything Acadiana, including local businesses, people of note, traditions, culture, and even personal experiences that resonate with people across the area. Her experience in the field is vast, so come along to the meeting and here what she has to teach. If you want to browse her profile on *The Advocate* website, the link is below.

[Jan Risher | theadvocate.com](https://theadvocate.com)



November WGA Writing Competition

Topic: “You have got to be kidding me!”

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
Author’s Name
Date of contest

Category
Word Count

WGA Board Member Elections

The elections for the board members to serve in 2026 are to be held during the Guild meeting on **November 25th**. A sample ballot has been provided below, with all the current members listed and a blank for any potential nominations. Anyone can be nominated, granted that they agree, so feel free to list anyone you feel is right for the job and show up to vote.

Writers' Guild of Acadiana Sample Ballot

You may vote for the incumbent, for a person you nominate (with their permission) or self-nominate.

| Position | Incumbent | Nominee |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------|
| President | John Comeaux | |
| Vice President | Christopher Fontenot | |
| Secretary | Edward Gauthier | |
| Treasurer | Beth Davis | |
| Historian | James McDonald | |
| Publicist | Claire Waltner | |
| Newsletter Editor | Brandon Russell | |
| Web Administrator | Andre Guirard | |

Voting will take place at the November 25 meeting. You may send in your ballot ahead of time if you will not be attending. Please sign and print your name, and put the date of your entry.

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. 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.



Evangeline Parish Library Christmas Fest, December 6th

Join Evangeline Parish Library for a day filled with family-friendly holiday fun. The event will feature local authors and book sales, a community garage sale, and vendor booths perfect for holiday shopping. The event is on **December 6th** from 9am to 1pm. Contact Suzy Lemoine or Keishia Ford @ 337-363-1369 for your vending spot.

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

WGA Acadiana 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

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/>

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? _____
