

*"First, find out what your hero wants,
then just follow him."
— Ray Bradbury*

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

July 2022

Sudie Landry, past president for the last 12 years has resigned, and John Comeaux was elected the new president by the Board.

Thank you, Sudie, for guiding WGA through its most difficult years.



Board Members:

President John Comeaux, Vice President Christopher Fontenot, Treasurer Beth Davis, Publicist Ellen Threatts, Secretary Ed Gauthier, Webmaster & Newsletter John Comeaux, and all past WGA Presidents in good standing.

Next Meeting: July

July 26, 2022. The South Regional Branch of the Lafayette Library, Auditorium. Address is 6101 Johnston St, Lafayette. Start time is **6:00 p.m.** We usually go to 7:15, but we must end by 7:30.

July Guest Speaker: **Derek James**

Derek James, from Austin, Texas, has sold several short stories and has self-published over a dozen novels under various pen names. He's a veteran of the Clarion Writers Workshop, the Turkey City Writers Workshop, and now runs the Lafayette Speculative Fiction Writers group here. He primarily writes science fiction, but enjoys reading and writing in every genre.

We will have a Door Prize from the books that were donated by authors.

Next Month's Prompt: **August**

"Sunrise"

Category: Poetry

This is a fun competition for members. The prompt **MUST APPEAR** somewhere within the work, and entries must be no longer than 500 words. When the prompt category is poetry, both traditional and free verse poems are acceptable. All entries must be typed and double-spaced. The story or poem must have the word count, 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 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.

Looking Ahead: *August Meeting*

August is members reading month. WGA members may to bring written material to share with the group, and 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.

WEB Page and Facebook

Our web page is here: <https://www.writersguildacadiana.org/>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/writersguildacadiana.org/>

The Writers' Guild is always willing to share the success stories of its members. Be sure to let us know about your writing. We will put your blurb on our website, on our Facebook page, and on this newsletter. Let's highlight and showcase our writers! Send us a synopsis or your own paragraph about the work you are working on or have published, and how to get it. Send to John at jpcoman9@gmail.com .

◆ **Member Announcements**

Christopher Fontenot announces two new novels in the Haven series:

Heaven's Children

Doomed to die in earthquake of 1842, twenty men, women, and children awake, fully clothed, in narrow beds in rooms carved from stone. Astounded, they learn that their earthly lives are over, but a new life stretches before them, a challenging life with a noble purpose in the community called Heaven.

Saving Paradise

Coming of age in the deep caves of Heaven, Trese Bonnet had enough drama in her life before the arrival of Thomas Ralls, petty thief from Brighton. Their quarrel would profoundly influence the development of the community even as their very survival was threatened by the secret plans set in place by a saboteur.

◆ Writing Tips

2. What Should You Do When the Book is Done?

After you've finished writing, the next part is tough. There are no mincing words about it. Ask anyone who's already published, and they will say that the part after you've finished the first draft can be torture. We're talking about... editing.

So how do you edit your finished book? You first take a break. Take a walk, take a day, take a weekend or a week, just give yourself some space. You've been cooped up with this book in your home for however long and you just need a moment. Your book will thank you, too. Because by allowing it to settle, you will be able to look at it again with fresh eyes and an open mind.

When you come back to your book, you will also need to try to separate the way you feel about your writing with what is necessary to tell your story. This can be painful because it means being ruthless. Cut what doesn't need to be there. Then cut more of what doesn't need to be there. Take out overly flowery language and strip all those adverb-heavy dialog tags.

BUT NEVER THROW ANYTHING AWAY. Keep everything you cut in a separate document, so you have the chance to return to your ideas in the future, just in case.

And remember to be patient. Editing will take a few rounds. And even once you're satisfied with your final draft, send it to a friend or family member to get their perspective. If you have a bit of money to spend, you can also use a trusted editing service like Reedsy for a more professional review.

(Editor's note: Friends and family might be inclined to withhold critique for fear of upsetting you. If they cannot be objective and impersonal, join a writer's group and get into the critiques.)

(To be continued each month)

◆ Humor

"Write a wise saying and your name will live forever." *Author Unknown*

◆ Technical

So you have a great idea for a movie script. You have plot, characters, action, romance, and it's all in your head. How do you get it on paper?

You will have to read books on formatting movie scripts... because that's what agents expect to see. Otherwise you are an amateur like tens of thousands of others. If you correctly format and submit your screenplay, you may at least get to first base.

Agents are busy, so they need to see quickly if your idea has merit. Here are two quotes (as seen on Amazon.com) from the book "**Save the Cat**":

"The number one thing a good logline must have, the single most important element is: irony."

"The second most important element that a good logline has is that you must be able to see a whole movie in it."

◆ Publishing

I have mentioned Reedsy.com before. I find a lot (a great deal, quite a bit, a huge amount) of helpful advice there for free. Just take the time to look it over. There is an article “How to Publish a Book in 2022: 10 Steps to Success.”

Well, I started reading (skimming, glancing, zipping) through it and I find it extremely (quite, definitely) helpful. It even has ideas on editing, of which this article needs desperately.

Take the time to look over this article:

<https://blog.reedsy.com/how-to-publish-a-book/>

◆ Ask Google

I asked Google: “What is the life of a writer?”

If you want to be a writer, you need to **develop disciplined writing habits**. Even if you have another day job, if you want to be a writer then writing is your job. If you haven't written today, you haven't done your job. Researching, reading about writing, talking about writing — all nice and maybe even necessary.

◆ Word of the month

Prerogative - noun

A right, privilege, etc. limited to specific persons of a particular category

◆ Events

Sales Opportunity! WGA members have the opportunity to join us at Moncus Park Artisan Market on the last Saturday of the month. We display our books and meet with people to discuss writing and publishing. Usually hundreds of people go by the booth, and our huge WGA banner attracts many to see and meet the authors.

Paid up members who wish to sell their books or other published material must now contact Ed Gauthier to reserve their place at the vending tent. Cell: 337-945-5718
Email: eggchess@gmail.com

Authors attending Moncus park market should arrive by 7:15 a.m. and have table displays and books for sale set up by 7:45 a.m. Customers start to show up by 8:00. Bring your own table (4 ft. or less) and chair.

For July 30 Bob Bienvenu will be at the vending booth. Ed Gauthier will set up and take down but won't be attending this month.

If you would like to sell your books at the market WGA vending table, here are the qualifications to do so:

- 1 You must be a *paid member* of WGA

- 2 You'll need to confer with the board and arrange a date to sell *a month in advance*. Call or text Ed Gauthier (337-945-5718) or email him at eggchess@gmail.com to make arrangements.
- 3 As of now, slots are available for July, August, September, etc., each being the last Saturday of the month. Contact Ed Gauthier if interested.

◆ **Contests**

No new contest announcements have been announced that I know of.

Would you like to join?

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. You will receive this monthly newsletter "La Plume", which will keep you informed of events and news of the Guild. WGA annual dues are due January 1st of each year, late after March 1st. 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? _____
