

Don't be afraid it won't be perfect.
The only thing to be afraid of, really,
is that it won't be.
— Stephen Sondheim

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

February 2022

Special Reminder from the Editor: You are receiving this newsletter because you paid your 2022 dues, OR because you are on a grace period. If you wish to continue, and you haven't sent in the dues, you may not get any more newsletters. Don't be left out! Send in by March 1 to stay on the mailing list!

Board Members:

President Sudie Landry, 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: February

February 22, 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. The Library currently is limiting us to 25 attendees.

February is members reading month. WGA members may 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.

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

Upcoming Prompts: February

"Why do I always do that?"

Category: Fiction

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: March Meeting

Our guest speaker for March is member Carrie Simon.

Carrie's production company, Ardent Flame, produced the movie trailer for member Bob Bienvenu's novel "*The Time Traveler*" which he hopes will be made into a motion picture. We will be watching the movie trailer and Bob will discuss how his novel came to be.

WGA member Carrie Simon is the author of two acclaimed Christian fiction thrillers, *Save Them All, A Novel*, and *Just Find Me*. Her third novel, *Maker of Difference* was released in the spring of 2020. She is a member of Ardent Flame Media Group, LLC, where she devotes additional time for filming projects, and is also the founder of Save Them All, Inc. a 501c(3) non-profit organization dedicated to addressing serious issues affecting future generations, raising awareness and promoting hope and recovery for children/youth who have been abused and neglected. As such, she remains a strong advocate for their rights and is dedicated to encouraging others to speak out and stand up for such a passionate cause. She is involved in national book signings, in mentoring teenagers, is active in her church, and enjoys spending time with her children above all else.

She resides in both Louisiana and South Carolina with her family. Her website is found by [clicking here](#).

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

Novels by Bob Boese available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Books-a-Million.

The Amethyst Spider

College freshman and environmental detective Casey Cook and her BFF, Lisa, are challenged to solve an enigma involving a presumptively endangered species. Their task is complicated by the disappearance of two renowned scientists. Follow the detectives on their first deadly case in a natural paradise.

The Deadly Tide

Environmental detectives Casey Cook and Lisa confront federal agents and cold blooded killers while trying to find the mysterious source of toxic algae that threatens Florida's coast. The detectives must deal with difficult federal agents and exposure to toxins which may have originated off-planet.

The Coded Scrap

Two American secret agents Jena and Katerina, must protect a courier and the coded message she carries on a tiny paper scrap. Jena is a clever daredevil, anxious to go, to do, to be anything but

passive, and is skilled at fighting. Katerina is a thoughtful, cold-blooded Serbian witch. Their duties bring them into the line of fire from domestic and foreign governments, terrorists and dark magic.

The Secret Life of Mr. Cunningham

A covert ex-mercenary assassin is lonely and is recruited by his widowed sister for his most challenging mission--coaching middle school girls' basketball. Balancing his continuing assassin duties with the difficulties presented by sensitive children, their parents and school administrators proves that love can come at the strangest times.

Coming in February 2022

The Florida Snow

Environmental detective Casey Cook's newest adventure fills her Spring Break. Someone is poisoning the Florida cocaine supply with vibrio vulnificus, a flesh-eating bacteria that results in quick and certain death for users. Casey's best friend, Lisa, whose wild imagination is susceptible to supernatural beliefs, assumes a series of coincidences during the investigation relate to vampires.

Request for Donations:

The WGA Board accepts donations of books written by our published authors to offer as door prizes at our monthly meetings. Tickets will be given to all members who arrive before 6:00 PM, and one lucky winner will receive a copy of whichever work has been donated for that month. If you are a published author and would like to contribute an extra copy of one or more of your books, please contact Sudie Landry at praisemusicpro@cox.net.

◆ **Writing Tips**

From Jerry Jenkins, author of the “Left Behind” series.

[How to Create a Character Profile: A Step-by-Step Guide For Beginners](#)

[Editor's note: These 6 steps are listed in great detail in the linked article on his website. Be sure to look it over and see if it is helpful.]

1. Determine the character's role
2. Decide on the basics
3. Establish physical characteristics
4. Layer in emotional characteristics
5. Create a past
6. How is this character involved in the story

◆ **Humor**

How to include Humor in your writing.

An interesting website, The Writing Cooperative, has articles on writing that are fun and easy to read, not ponderous rule-ridden paragraphs of prose.

Here are the key points, and the link. *Perhaps humorously, the numbering in the actual article is wrong, there are three #3s.*

1. Do the Unexpected (the element of surprise)
 2. Say Something Impossible
 3. Use Excessively Detailed Details (and so on and so forth)
 4. Make Fun of Yourself
 5. Combine Silly, Unrelated Things
 6. Make the Third item in the list the most Ludicrous
 7. Play with Words
 8. Remember: Comedic Timing is Everything
- Final Tips: Live a Funny Life

The link is: <https://writingcooperative.com/7-ways-to-become-a-master-humor-writer-when-you-dont-think-you-have-a-funnybone-3f10edc98a23>

◆ **Technical**

Hyphen? Em-dash? En-dash?

(Editor's note: I just found out the [Merriam-Webster](#) website has a big section on grammar and usage. Linked here is a page with lots of examples of correct usage.)

Here are just 3:

- Em dashes set off or introduce defining phrases and lists.
A regular selection of three kinds of croissants—plain, almond, and chocolate—was heartening, both Mabel and Harry agreed.
- En dash is most often used between numbers, dates, or other notations to signify “(up) to and including.”
The bakery will be closed August 1–August 31.
- Hyphens are used to link elements in compound words.
the bakery fan club’s secretary-treasurer

◆ **Publishing**

3 Really Good Self-Publishing Ideas and 5 Hilariously Bad Ones

(Editor's note: Here is an excerpt from an article about Self-publishing. It's actually 10 years old, but the advice is still true.)

1. Have a selling / marketing plan
2. Hire a professional book cover designer
3. Hire a professional editor and proofreader

The full article is here: <https://www.thebookdesigner.com/2012/08/alan-petersen/>

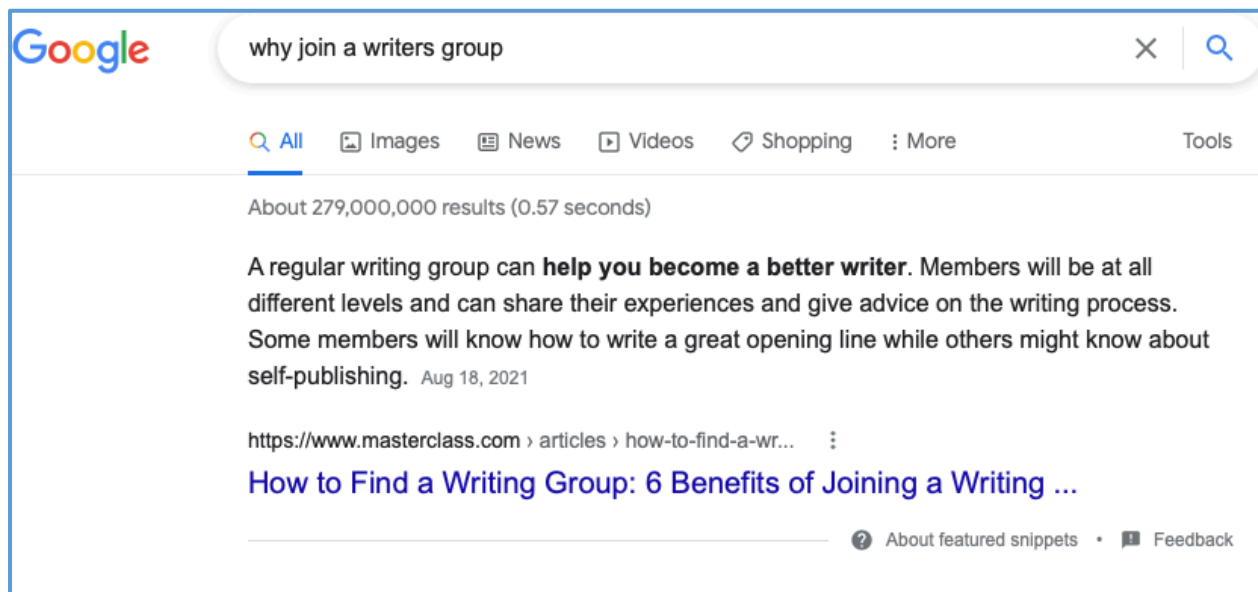
To summarize, paraphrase, abridge, condense, encapsulate, and synthesize...

Do not skimp on these three important steps if you wish to sell copies. Without a marketing plan, you'll be asking people in line at Wal-Mart "Do you like to read novels?" People do judge books by the cover, so get help. Typos and errors in your book will be an immediate turn-off for social media buzz and future sales.

◆ **Ask Google**

I asked Google: why join a writers group

Here is what it told me...



◆ **Word of the month**

Tchotchke: A small object that is decorative rather than strictly functional; a trinket.

◆ **Events**

Reminder: The Sixth Annual [Books Along the Teche Literary Festival](#): Celebrating New Iberia, Dave Robicheaux's Hometown and Great Southern Writers April 1-3, 2022.

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? _____
