

LA PLUME

In-Person Meetings will Resume in July

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

June 2021

Board Members:

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

Next Meeting:

July 27, 2021. The South Regional Branch of the Lafayette Library, Auditorium. Address is 6101 Johnston St, Lafayette. Start time is 7:00 p.m. We usually go to 8:15, but we must end by 8:30. The Library currently is limiting us to 25 attendees.

July is members reading month. All WGA members are free 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.

We will have a Door Prize from the books that were donated by authors, a competition for the August prompt (see below), and writers will be able to read from their own works, maximum of 5 minutes per person.

Upcoming Prompts:

This Time Things will be different.
Category: Fiction

Please note that 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 I-phones or any other electronic devices. Furthermore, **all participants must be paid members of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana.**

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 either Sudie at praisemusicpro@cox.net , or John at jpcoman9@gmail.com .

NEWS from John Francois: I'm happy to report that a 1200 word historical article I've written on the Opelousas Post Militia (OPM) of 1779 has been accepted by *Country Roads Magazine* and will appear in their October issue. The article covers the OPM and its role in the American Revolution, a little-known role of which not many people are aware. The Commemoration of OPM 1779 will take place in Opelousas at Le Vieux Village on October 16, 2021 at noon. It's expected to be a fairly large affair, attended by the local populace, invited city, state, and local officials, as well as by the Louisiana Societies of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution and Spanish societies such as Los Granderos y Damas de Gálvez, and local Canary Islander groups.

Congratulations John Francois!

[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 7:00 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**

As found in Writer's Digest:

14 Common Writing Mistakes Writers Make (and How to Fix Them)

- **Waiting for inspiration to strike.** We believe inspiration exists; we just don't believe in waiting around for it to strike before trying to write.
- **Writing oversimplified characters.** Sure, the characters in your fictional story aren't real, but they should feel real to your reader.
- **Talking about the work-in-progress.** It's natural to be excited about what you're writing, but talking about your WIP too much can lead to writer's block.
- **Relying on perfect conditions to write.** Let's face it; the conditions will never be perfect for most people, will they?
- **Worrying about what happens when you make it big.** Don't get caught up fretting about being a famous and wealthy author before you're actually there.
- **Providing a lack of conflict.** We love our characters and want the best for them, but no conflict means no story means bored (or a lack of) readers.
- **Trying to write for everyone.** In the real world, you can't please everyone (you just can't), and the same holds true for readers.

- **Allowing self-doubt to guide you.** This is one of the worst (and most common) mistakes, because self-doubt comes from within, not without.
- **Neglecting research.** Writers don't need to know everything about everything, but they should know a little about what they write.
- **Not knowing when to shelve a project.** Writing is not an "all or nothing" activity; it's OK to put a manuscript to the side while working on other projects.
- **Refraining to revise writing.** Regardless of genre, the writing you read from successful writers is rarely the first draft; it almost always goes through revision.
- **Revising while writing.** That said, many writers who get too focused on revision while writing their first draft are susceptible to never finishing that first draft.
- **Not using your spare 15 minutes.** It can often feel like "real life" doesn't want people to be able to write. So writers have to learn how to use their "spare time" accordingly.
- **Omitting sensory details.** Leaving out sensory details in writing is one of the best ways to make writing feel empty for readers.

We hope this list of writing mistakes and how to fix them is completely alien to you, but we also know most writers have run into at least a few (if not all) of these at some point or another. We also know this list is not complete... (more at [Writer's Digest website.](#))

◆ **CONTESTS, CONFERENCES & FESTIVALS:**

Writer's Digest's 9th Annual Self-Published **E-book Awards** honors the best self-published e-book(s) in eight of the most popular categories.

Here's what you could win:

- \$5,000 in cash
- A feature article about you and your book in the May/June 2022 issue of *Writer's Digest*
- A paid trip to the ever-popular Writer's Digest Conference
- AND more!

Enter by August 16, 2021 to get the early bird discount.

In addition to \$13,000 in total cash prizes, all entrants will receive a brief review of their book from one of Writer's Digest's competition readers.

For the chance to earn the prestige you deserve and watch your career soar to new heights, [enter Writer's Digest's Self-Published E-book Awards.](#)

Would you like to join?

WGA values your membership and we hope that you will give every consideration to renewing it. Membership fee is pending for 2021. In addition, members receive a monthly newsletter along with first notice for workshops, seminars, and conferences put on by the Writers' Guild.

Write to Writers' Guild of Acadiana, Inc., P.O. Box 51532, Lafayette, LA, 70505-1532.

Name _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

Date _____

How did you find out about us? _____
