**Greetings from the President**

I hope you had a relaxing and memorable summer. It wasn't too hot here in East Texas, only a few days with temps over 100, and we actually had more rain in June than normal. I'm happy that summer is giving way to fall, though. It's my favorite time of year. And it starts with cooler breezes and a tasty concoction from Starbucks called a pumpkin spice latte. Yep, I'm one of *those* people.

You have probably noticed that this email is different from the one containing the usual newsletter, The Next Chapter. Our newsletter editor resigned, and no one has stepped up to take her place, so until someone does, I will try to do a monthly newsy email to try and keep our members in the loop. I hope you'll get some information you can use.

**Report from the August General Meeting**

Mike Wigington brought a fascinating and informative presentation on the use of AI (artificial intelligence) by writers. The following report was submitted by Laura Bentz:

**The AI Primer: Rise of the Machine**

By Mike Wigington

Our meeting was called to order by our President, April Coker. She discussed the many open positions available and what our future held as a club. She was frank that we needed people to step up to these in order for our guild to continue. We had also a brainstorming session at the end of the meeting where we discussed these issues and suggestions further.

Afterward, Mike got up to talk about the rise of AI and the possibilities of its use. Specifically, he mentioned the ChatGPT program and what it could do for writers. The GPT stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer. It has many functions, including writing with a prompt on any subject. Pictures such as the one shown with the Schnauzer are behind a paywall. (See blog.)

The Pros of AI Assistance:

1.      Write anything with just a suggestion, even up to a chapter of a book.

2.      Critique and give feedback on any piece of writing.

3.      Talk to it like you do a real person.

4.      The more specific, the better off you are.

5.      Can rewrite anything even in different dialogs or slang.

If it messes up, it just says “I’m sorry” and you can start working with it again.

**Vendor Opportunities**

East Texas is overflowing with opportunities for authors to get their books in front of readers. I have compiled a list I think you**'**ll find helpful if you're looking for a place to set up a table. Maybe I'll see you out there! The list is below

**Volunteers Needed -- You Can Make a Difference!**

I emailed some hard facts to the membership in late August. The ETWG board of directors is resigning at the end of the year for various reasons, and unless we have folks step up to take leadership positions, the Guild will no longer function. Please take a moment to seriously consider becoming more involved. You don't have to be a published author to be a leader. Anyone interested in writing and is a member in good standing can step up. Click on the [bylaws](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fview.officeapps.live.com%2Fop%2Fview.aspx%3Fsrc%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fetwritersguild.org%252Fwp-content%252Fuploads%252F2023%252F12%252FETWG-Bylaws-2023.docx%26wdOrigin%3DBROWSELINK&data=05%7C02%7C%7C94cef5ed94cd470494d208dcce0a3877%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638611792062771334%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vmC5sDa%2FfDZNuLz5eHCmq%2F7npHUGu44D7xomg73CJDg%3D&reserved=0), which describe each position.

I hope to see you at our next general meeting Monday, September 9 at 6:30 pm when children's book author Louise Jackson will be our speaker.

Have a great weekend!

April

**VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES/EAST TEXAS EVENTS**

I searched East Texas Vendors and East Texas Vendor Events on Facebook for opportunities for authors to sell books. This is by no means a comprehensive list. I suggest joining the Facebook vendor and city groups. As the fall festival season approaches, there will be many more! Happy selling!

September

· 21: Loving Vendors/Trade Days Event, Longview. Contact Irene Johnson 903-235-5779.

· 21: Tamarack POA Arts & Crafts Event, Gun Barrel City. Contact secretary@tamarackpoa.org.

· 20-21: Woofstock 2024, Jefferson, benefits animal rescue. Contact woofstockeventvendors@gmail.com.

· 21: Family Freedom Festival, VFW Post, Palestine. Look for Jamie Lynn Womack Williams on Facebook for vendor registration information.

· 21: Barrels & Brews with Shop-o-Rama. Longview. http://www.montagefestivals.com/Crafted%20and%20Boutique%20Events.html https://www.facebook.com/events/1153649732545381?

· 21: Loving Vendors/Trade Days Event, Longview. Contact Irene Johnson 903-235-5779.

· 21: The Spooky Market, The Platform, Longview. Information at theplatformlongview.com.

· 22: MAGA Market & Parade, Tyler. Contact Lauren Benner at 903-952-8112.

· 22: Tyler Fall Vendor Expo, Tyler. Contact Xaria Carriollo or Gregory Mahan via Facebook.

· 28: Malakoff Cornbread Festival, Malakoff. Contact 903-802-3534. · 28: Christmas at the Chateau, Longview. Email crystal.thechateaugv@gmail.com. · 28: Iron Horse Festival, Mineola. Email admin@mineolachamber.org.

· 28: Euphoria Botanicals 4-Year Anniversary Block Party, Longview. Contact Felicity Gleason via Facebook.

· 28: Spook-Tember Vendor Show & Trunk or Treat, Longview. Email scentsbyemily2023@gmail.com.

· 28: Pets in the Park, Bergfeld Park, Tyler. Text Melva Gordon at 903-921-8335.

· 28: Weekend Bloom Glow Second Anniversary, Tyler. Contact Mar Hernandez via Facebook.

· 28: Deep Routes Coffee 2nd Annual Pumpkin Patch & Fall Bash, Sulphur Springs. Email hellofromDRC@gmail.com.

October · 5: Fall Fest in the Park, Bergfeld Park, Tyler. Contact mlara@eer24.com or 903-522-0859 or 903-707-8041.