



*Welcome  
to  
HeartLa!*



### HEARTLA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail form to: Jo Templeton, 37653 Rue de Lac, Denham Springs, LA 70706

DUES are payable in January and are \$25 per year regardless of when you join.

**Contact Information - Fill in the blanks on your computer before printing.**

Name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
Country	
Home Phone	
Cell Phone	
E-Mail Address	
Membership - check one	<input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Long Distance (Unable to attend meetings)

RWA #		<input type="checkbox"/> Published	<input type="checkbox"/> Unpublished
Newsletter (choose one)		<input type="checkbox"/> PRO	<input type="checkbox"/> Snail Mail
		<input type="checkbox"/> Email	

#### ABOUT YOURSELF:

Writing as ... aka	
Recent Books	
URL	
Website URL	
Blog URL	
Genre I am writing	
Interested in volunteering? If yes:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops <input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Query Contest - we ask all members to judge if they can	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity <input type="checkbox"/> Critiquing <input type="checkbox"/> Anything else? <input type="checkbox"/> No
Genre I prefer to Judge	
Genre I prefer NOT to Judge	

Dues are non-refundable and not tax deductible under *charity* expenses.

#### Mission Statement

Heart of Louisiana, also known as HeartLa, is a professional organization for published and unpublished authors. The group offers support, encouragement and education to aspiring writers of all genres.



ROMANCE WRITERS  
OF AMERICA

## About RWA®

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Romance Writers of America® (RWA) is the national association for published and aspiring romance writers. Through education, networking, and advocacy, RWA® supports the professional interests of its over 9,500 members. With more than 140 local and special-interest chapters, RWA® provides opportunities for members to come together to discuss the industry, build connections and find support. The camaraderie and friendship members find within RWA® are invaluable.

As one of the largest writers' associations, Romance Writers of America® is proud to help its members pursue a career in romance fiction by hosting a national conference each summer which provides the perfect opportunity for authors to grow their knowledge of the business. The annual conference offers more than 100 workshops with topics ranging from beginning writing skills to the business side of being a working writer. Romance fiction editors and literary agents search for new talent in scheduled one-on-one interviews.

RWA® is also the sponsor of the industry's premier awards for published and unpublished romance writers — The RITA® Award and the Golden Heart® Contest. These contests recognize the best in romance fiction.



## Interested in HeartLA?

\_\_\_\_\_ I'd like a membership application.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'd like someone to contact me to answer additional questions.

\_\_\_\_\_ I need information on speakers from your group.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Mail to:

Heart of Louisiana  
37653 Rue de Lac, Denham Springs, LA 70706

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HeartLA usually meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month except November and December at the Bluebonnet Regional Library from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

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**Visit on the web:**

[www.heartla.com](http://www.heartla.com)  
[www.rwanational.org](http://www.rwanational.org)

## Heart of Louisiana

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Romance  
Writers  
of  
America®

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**Baton Rouge Chapter**

# About HeartLA

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**Heart of Louisiana, or HeartLA**, a professional organization for published and unpublished authors, offers support, encouragement and education to aspiring writers of all genres. Monthly meetings include speakers on diverse topics; workshops to hone writing skills; market information from the publishing industry; and networking with other authors.



Our speakers have included authors of all types – romance (Lynn Emery, Erica Spindler); mystery (Dixie Kane, Barbara Colley); mainstream (John Tarlton and TV personality Leo Honeycutt); award winning documentary filmmaker and screen writer Ted Baldwin; literary agents (Pam Ahearn and Jean Price) as well as people from other walks of life – historians, detectives, coroner, psychologist, civil war reenactors, and a Victorian medicine expert, to name a few.

Our members are currently writing romance (contemporary, historical, and paranormal); romantic suspense; mystery; science fiction; young adult and children's literature; short stories; and poetry. Members enjoy an informative monthly newsletter; email loop for up to the minute news and writing chat; and much more!

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## HeartBeat Contest

Our chapter sponsors an annual query letter contest, HeartBeat. A number of contest winners from our former writing contest, Labor of Love, have gone on to be published. While we don't claim credit for these talented authors' success, we hope our critiques helped in the polishing of that first sale! See website for further details.

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## Readers Luncheon

Our Fall in Love with Romance Readers Luncheon offers area readers a chance to mix and mingle with some of their favorite romance authors. We're very proud to host this annual event, and strive to provide guests with a memorable afternoon of fun, food, and romance!

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## Did You Know...

- ♥ Romance fiction generated \$1.2 billion in sales in 2004.
- ♥ 54.9% of paperback sales in 2004 were romance fiction — almost half of all paperback fiction sold!
- ♥ 39.3% of all fiction sold is romance.

No doubt about it...the romance industry is thriving! If you're interested in learning more about this exciting field, please see the back of this brochure for chapter meeting times and membership information.

# Published Authors of HeartLA

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HeartLA boasts an extensive roster of multi-published, award-winning authors.. Published in a variety of genres, this list is growing in leaps and bounds! We are proud to include in our membership authors such as:

Nancy Brandt  
(also published as Honor Cummings)

Cherie Claire

Eleanor Cocreham

Elaine Grant

Rhonda Leah

Connie Rachal

Tammy Riviere

Sylvia Rochester

Lynn Shurr

Josephine Templeton

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Please visit  
[www.heartla.com](http://www.heartla.com) for a  
complete list of our  
author's works, as well as  
links to their websites!

## ROMANCE WRITERS OF AMERICA® MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<b>Member Information</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if renewing/reinstating RWA membership
<b>Name:</b>		<b>Company:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>				
Street	City	State	Zip/postal code	
<b>Country:</b>		<b>Phone number:</b>		
<b>E-mail address:</b>		<b>Pseudonym:</b>		
<b>Membership Classification</b>				
Please check one membership type below. By checking either General or Associate membership, you affirm you qualify for that membership classification.				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>General Membership</b> General membership shall be open to all persons <i>seriously pursuing a romance fiction-writing career</i> . Only General members shall have all rights of membership and only General members shall have the right to vote and the right to hold office in RWA. <i>General membership is not available to:</i> non-writers who work in the publishing industry, writers pursuing a writing career in something other than romance fiction, or writers who are seriously pursuing a career in romance fiction but also work as an editor or reader for a publisher or agent, and whose responsibilities <i>in any way</i> affect whether or not a submitting writer's work is accepted or rejected by that publisher or agent. These individuals must apply for Associate membership within the association.		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Associate Membership</b> Associate membership shall be open to <i>all other individuals</i> , including employees of RWA and its contractors, who support the organization and its purposes but who do not meet the requirements for General membership or who are not permitted to participate on RWA's general discussion forums by reason of being publishers, acquiring editors, or agents who actively acquire* romance fiction or actively offer representation to writers of romance fiction, as further described in RWA policy. Associate members shall not have any voting rights or the right to hold office in RWA.		
**Acquisition process" means the process by which manuscripts are reviewed and evaluated by any individual who is employed or contracted by a publisher that actively acquires romance fiction or by a literary agency that represents authors of romance fiction, for the purpose of either recommending that a manuscript be considered for acquisition or representation, or be rejected and removed from consideration by that publisher or literary agency.				
<b>Dues &amp; Fees effective Jan 1, 2012</b>				
Please select one membership package below				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>U.S. Membership Package: \$120</b> (Package includes \$95 dues, \$25 processing fee, and delivery of <i>RWR</i> to U.S. residents at the periodicals rate.)				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>U.S. Membership Package with First Class <i>RWR</i> Delivery: \$135</b> (Package includes \$95 dues, \$25 processing fee, and \$15 for first class delivery of <i>RWR</i> to U.S. residents.)				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Canada/Mexico Membership Package: \$130</b> (Package includes \$95 dues, \$25 processing fee, and \$10 for delivery of <i>RWR</i> .)				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-North American Membership Package with <i>RWR</i> Delivery: \$165</b> (Package includes \$95 dues, \$25 processing fee, and \$45 for delivery of <i>RWR</i> .)				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-North American Membership Package without <i>RWR</i> Delivery: \$120</b> (Package includes \$95 dues and \$25 processing fee. Please note: this member package does not include delivery of the <i>RWR</i> . The <i>RWR</i> may be accessed online.)				
<b>Payment</b>				
<b>Total Payment Enclosed:</b> _____				
Please allow up to 1 week for processing. Make check or money order [U.S. funds] payable to "Romance Writers of America." Mail payment and application to: Romance Writers of America, 14615 Benfer Rd., Houston, TX 77069. Applications with credit card payments may be faxed to: 832-717-5201. <i>Non-U.S. members must send payment by credit card or International Money Order, in U.S. funds, drawn on a bank with a branch in the U.S. through which the transaction can be made.</i> Dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution but may qualify as a business expense.				
<b>Type of Card:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover				
<b>Credit Card #:</b> _____				<b>Exp. Date:</b> _____
<b>Signature:</b> _____				
By submitting this application, you acknowledge that you have attained the age of majority in the state in which you reside, will embrace the purpose of RWA, agree to be bound by its Bylaws, and observe faithfully the provisions thereof.				
Administrative use only: Date received _____ RWA membership # _____				