



# Suburban Scribe

The Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC)

[sactowriters.org](http://sactowriters.org)

---

**Join us on Monday, February 9, at our monthly meeting for a presentation by Al Vopata. We meet in a wonderful community room at a local church at 5501 Dewey Drive, near the intersection of Dewey and Madison**

## Rocky Memoirs

Al Vopata will be guiding us through the process of writing a memoir by following his “Rocky Road to Writing Memoirs” using his vast life experiences as the canvas.

He has published three books and has five more ready.

### Bio:

Al was born in 1940 in Frankfort, Kansas. He went to a rural school that had only three students...including his brother. Twists and turns in his life made for some interesting stories:

- Locked in an asylum for one year before graduating from Washburn University.
- Earned two master’s degrees and a Ph.D. from Western Michigan, California State, and Pacific Western Universities.
- Taught English in the Bronx for two years before becoming a special education professional in seven states for over 45 years.



## Introducing our new Treasurer

My name is Jake Armstrong, and I'll be serving as treasurer. While there are many online educational resources for writers, I feel that it's also important to meet other writers, in order to learn from others' motivations and challenges in a candid setting.

I joined SSWC in early 2024, and I've appreciated the opportunity to meet you all.

My own sense of creativity was first piqued by the video games I'd played throughout the nineties, and I've always carried around a mishmash of half-baked story concepts. As a creative outlet, I began writing about five years ago with the goal of completing a fantasy trilogy.

As for the treasurer role, I plan to keep the finances running smoothly as I get up to speed. In the absence of trouble, the treasurer role should be mostly invisible—so hopefully you won't hear much from me outside of the monthly treasurer report.



*Jake*

### Next MINGLE February 21, Saturday

*Did you miss the last Mingle Meeting?*

If so, you were missed by us, but it is not too late to join us this month for an exciting and informative discussion on Your Story's Past: Backstory. Remember, the Mingle is held every third Saturday!

**Mingle Meeting**  
**Saturday, February 21, 2026**  
**9:00AM to 11:00AM**  
**Denney's Restaurant**  
**122 Sunrise Ave, Roseville, CA 95661**

*We welcome seasoned and novice writers alike!*



## Which Club Members Have Published?

You can find a list of members and their books on our club's website:

[Books by Our Members <sactowriters.org/books-by-our-members>](http://sactowriters.org/books-by-our-members)

If you are a member and have published material, send the information to Wes, including any links to your own website or to a site that sells your books (e.g. Amazon). His email is listed in our club roster, and he will add your info to the list.

### R U Done Yet?

Have you finished another book? Have you had an article published recently?

Are you holding a Book Launch to let the world know what you have accomplished?

Let the other members and readers know with an article in the newsletter.

Working on a book?

Where do you stand in the progress?

- Still just an idea?
- Building the plot?
- Starting writing?
- 50,000 words in?
- Almost done?
- Searching for a publisher?

Let us know!

### Members—Wanna be Published?

Submit your own short story, article, poem, or excerpt of your own book to the newsletter for publication. (Please keep it under 450 or so words...or it will have to be serialized.)

It would give you bragging rights as being published if you are going to be in contact with an agent or publisher.

Note that the article to the left is directed to *members*.

So, if you do *wanna be published* in future newsletters, make sure your dues are up to date.



### HELP!!! Volunteers Needed

Calling all members—SSWC is in need of volunteers. You do have a few extra minutes once in a while, right? Well, there is need for:

- Nominations
- Snacks/Refreshments
- Publicity
- Historian
- See last page for all the other opportunities

No individual job takes a lot of time, and you learn a lot about the club, our members, and even more about writing by helping out.

Contact the president or any other board member listed on the last page.

**(if you noticed a few blank places in the newsletter this month, it could be that *you* could help there, too!)**

### Join the Club!

We are a vibrant club with active writers, have several critique groups (with room for more), and stay wonderfully supportive of each other.

SSWC supports local writers and encourages everyone to write and publish. Attending meetings is free, but membership brings benefits, such as publication in the newsletter and anthology, use of our club's library, qualification for grants to attend conferences, and the ability to join one of our first-class critique groups.

Membership is based on the calendar year, so if joining after April, ask us about prorating your dues by the quarter.

- Individual ..... \$40
- Couple ..... \$55
- Full-Time Student ..... \$30
- Platinum Senior (70+).....\$30

More information is on our website on the [Membership page <sactowriters.org/about-us/members>](http://sactowriters.org/about-us/members)

**(You might want to act quickly as the idea of raising the rates was discussed at the last board meeting!)**

### OFFICERS

#### Elected Officers:

President	Ron S
Vice President	Brittany L
Secretary	
Treasurer	Jake A

#### Chairs:

Coffee/Treats	Britt L
Conferences	
Crit Groups	Britt L
Historian	
Librarian	Ron S
Membership	Cathy M
Mingle	
Newsletter	
Nominations	
Speakers	
Publicity	
Raffle	Cathy M
Scholarship	Karen S
Sunshine	Nan R
Website	Wes T
Workshops	Mary Lou A

**There's a spot in the list above for YOU!**

### WRITING PROMPT

This month's writing prompt is asking you to list the ways you could help the club.

We have several opportunities available. If you have ANY interest at all in helping the club continue to succeed as well as it has over the past 70 years, search your brain and decide how you can help.



### MEETING INFORMATION

**February 9  
7:00 – 9:00PM**

**Future Meetings:  
March 9  
April 13**

We meet the second Monday of each month.  
Same time. Same place:  
5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks, CA  
All writers are encouraged to attend.  
Membership is not mandatory but brings privileges...

**...such as publication in the newsletter!**

