



Suburban Scribe

The Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC)

sactowriters.org

Join us on Monday, April 13, at our monthly meeting for a lively discussion of writing history in the Sacto area directed by Kim Edwards and Al González.

We meet in a wonderful community room at a local church at 5501 Dewey Drive, near the intersection of Dewey and Madison

FROM DOG TO BLOG: Early Sacramento Writing & Publishing, and What We Stand to Learn

When a literary wave swept the Bay Area in the late 1800s and early 1900's, and the Eastern establishment of writers and publishers hungered for a western perspective, Sacramento caught on quickly. Kim and Al will present a power point showing how Sacramento was no slouch when it came to writing and publishing beginning in the early 1900s. This enthusiasm led to the formation of the California Writers Club and eventually, the Sacramento Suburban Writers.

Many writers here were women, but in the early days in the Bay Area, many talented women were relegated to the role of behind-the-scenes editorial and writing workhorses. Through a landscape presentation of decades in time, Kim and Al will show how early writers here were as driven to write as we are today. What can we learn from this? Sacramento Suburban Writers will be proud to learn that they are part of the Sacramento historical tradition.

Bios

Kimberly A. Edwards has written hundreds of pieces for different audiences. She has been a columnist and was founding publisher of Writer's Update, a subscription newsletter for writers seeking tips, sources, and insights from prominent editors, publishers, and agents. In the 1980s, she studied under Jean Giovannoni, a co-founder of SSW. Two of her pieces have appeared in Writer's Digest. She taught writing personal histories and is an alumna of the Kenyon Review Writers Workshop (Creative Non-fiction and Hybrid) and the Squaw Valley Community of Writers (fiction). She has written one book for the History Press. She believes that a good story never gets old; it just waits for the writer to learn to tell it right. She maintains a significant stash in her inventory, and plans to live long enough to improve them. Recently she won the "Memorial Bob Irelan Award" from NCPA for exceptional storytelling, an achievement of which she is most proud.



Al González is a local native technical producer and director with more than 30 years of experience producing and directing award shows and special events. His career spans roles in stage management, live engineers, and camera operation. Al's production credits include high-profile events such as the Latin Grammy Awards After-Parties, the Grammy Awards After-Parties, and a wide range of civic and community ceremonies across California. His passion for live events are matched by his enthusiasm. As the founder of Quad Air Communications, Al leads a multi-media production and event company that combines videography, creative production, and strategic messaging. His team crafts independent films to social media campaigns for business and entrepreneurs. When not in Hollywood or Southern California, Al can be found around the Sacramento area serving as Master of Ceremonies at parades and many business and civic events.



Farewell and Request for Help

Ron Smith

Hello, Fellow Writers,

I have enjoyed being president of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club for many years. We have grown stronger since Covid hit the world, and that is a testament to your dedication. Thank you for encouraging the good fight by helping writers find their voices and avoid the pitfalls that cost too much money. We should always support each other.

Writing is a personal journey into which many pour their souls. Each writer can bring a reader great joy, sadness, purpose, or a sense of struggle—emotions that remind us why we write. Embrace all writers, for each one has a purpose that could move readers deeply. Use your words to show your characters through actions, dialogue, and internal thoughts. Writers learn something new every time they write.

These are just some of the things I have learned through my association with SSWC. I am now beginning a new chapter of my life in another state and will be stepping down as president in November 2026. We need to keep the spirit of SSWC thriving for all writers. In August 2026, we will hold an **early election** to vote for a new President (and Secretary). The president's role is to facilitate Board meetings and Monday night meetings and to help people connect with others who can support them. This is vital for moving our club forward as the writing world continues to change. AI, evolving language, and other shifts can be confusing, but our community helps navigate them all.

Please dig deep and consider running for one of these two positions, even if you don't think you have what it takes. Serving is not as difficult as it may seem. Many have done it before: Mary Lou Anderson, Wes Turner, and Cathy McGreevy, just to name a few off the top of my head. Ask any club member or me about these positions, and let's keep SSWC growing with the world around us.

Stay yourself and write freely. Everyone has a gift to offer the world.

Ronald Smith

President, SSWC



Next MINGLE April 18, 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 **Writing the ending first**.

The Mingle is held the third Saturday of every month!

Mingle Meeting
Saturday, April 18, 2026
9:00AM to 11:00AM
Denny's Restaurant
122 Sunrise Ave, Roseville, CA 95661

We welcome seasoned and novice writers alike!



Annual Banquet next month!

**The May meeting is to be held at
The Spaghatti Factory on Sunrise**

Same time, different place.

**Please bring check or cash to
cover the \$25 for members and
\$30 for guests**

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 a recent board meeting!)

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

President	Ron S (soon to be retiring!)
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

Finish the story:

When your husband returns from Afghanistan, you are elated. You were so fearful for his safety and feel relieved that the worst is over. However, you are unprepared for how much PTSD and culture shock would isolate him from everyone once he returned home. You struggle to show your love and find ways to connect.

What happens next???

MEETING INFORMATION

April 13
7:00 – 9:00PM

Future Meetings:

May 11
June 8
July 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!

