
CONTACT INFORMATION

Regular mail:

SVSA

P.O. Box 698

Salem, VA 24153

Email:

svsa.songwriters@gmail.com



**New Member
Welcome and
Guidelines**



INTRODUCTION

The Southwest Virginia Songwriters Association (SVSA) welcomes you into our organization. Here are a few things that would be helpful to know about us:

We were founded in 1986.

We are an informal group of folks who share a common passion: the craft of songwriting.

WHERE AND WHEN

- We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at the Third Street Coffee House in Roanoke (corner of Third Street and Mountain Avenue).
- Meetings typically involve some informal socializing that starts at 7:00 p.m.
- The structured part of the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. New business is briefly discussed and might include news of workshops, concerts, member performances, etc.
- We try to have 45-minute workshops scheduled at each meeting to cover some relevant aspect of songwriting. Prior workshops have included: Techniques For Audio Recording, Co-writing Songs, How to Make a YouTube Video, Writing Funny Songs, Home Recording.
- Workshops are followed by a song critique session. Members interested in getting a song reviewed should bring 20 copies of lyrics, along with a CD, tape, or MP3. We will listen to your song, review your lyrics, and offer you feedback based on your skill level, and on what you want to do with the song (sell it, record it, sing it to your kids). You can ask for the feedback you would find most helpful. We'll do as many critiques as time permits. We usually end around 10:00 p.m.
- Schedule changes are usually announced at the meetings, in our monthly newsletter, *SVSA News*, and on our web site. It's not a bad idea to double check the meeting date and time each month.

RULES AND VALUES

The strongest bond we share is that we are all passionate about writing songs. Some members are professional musicians, some are amateurs, and some can't play anything at all. With that in mind, here are some guiding principles:

- ♪ ***Feedback is given in a supportive, encouraging way.*** The goal is to help each songwriter grow and develop. You will never hear the words "That sucks, you have no business being here." Harsh or judgmental comments won't be acceptable. Unless you specifically ask for performance feedback, we tend to focus on the quality of your lyrics and melody, rather than your playing or recording quality.
- ♪ ***A song includes lyrics and a melody.*** If you only compose instrumental music, you might find someone who will help you write lyrics. Conversely, if you write lyrics and can't play an instrument, you might be able to team up with someone who can help you craft a melody.
- ♪ ***The Board of Directors makes decisions affecting SVSA.*** We always strive for consensus. The Board is elected by the members present at the regular monthly meeting in November.
- ♪ ***There is a spirit of sharing, cooperation, and pitching in*** to help with showcases or other SVSA events.
- ♪ ***Please pay your dues in a timely manner.*** Our year runs from January-December. If you are new and join after September 30, your dues are good until December of the following year. Once a member, your dues are expected by the beginning of each new year. Dues are used to help sponsor workshops, concerts, etc.
- ♪ ***All forms of songwriting are encouraged and accepted.*** The only caveat to this is when you are representing SVSA at a showcase event. We don't want members to try and advance a political, social, or religious agenda that might alienate an audience or misrepresent our membership.

We're looking forward to hearing your songs!