

**Appalachian Authors Guild**  
P. O. Box 803  
Abingdon, VA 24212



From Vicki

<http://www.appalachianauthors.com/>  
<http://appalachianauthors.wordpress.com>  
<http://www.virginiawritersclub.org/>

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and contributing members

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### AAG Mission Statement

The mission of the Appalachian Authors Guild, a Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club, is to support and promote literary art throughout the Appalachian region, to encourage writers and authors to both preserve and build upon the literary history and heritage of the Appalachian region and to provide opportunities for readers to experience the joy of meeting our people, visiting our beautiful region and understanding the wealth of our culture through literary art.

At our April board meeting/writer's forum, we only had the board members present. We are hoping that our members that can come at 1 pm to the Abingdon Library will join us for the June 14th meeting. Even though we were small in number, we decided to take part in the writing activity that our Vice President JC Schweingrouber had planned for us. He had 3 writing prompts for us to choose from. The other board members chose the travel across America prompt and we learned some very interesting things about each other. JC and I took the prompt "Look around the room. What is wrong with this picture?" I am going to share the poem I wrote based on this prompt.

There's simply not enough of us  
at the AAG meeting today.  
Some are at work  
and some just shirk  
the opportunities we bring their way.  
There's always next time  
the old saying goes  
to add more attendees  
and gather up more fees  
to give to Mr. Jack Rose.  
So invite your friends  
and come every chance you get  
Let's build our group  
and stay in the loop  
We haven't met our potential yet  
So let's continue our theme-  
All for One and One for All.  
Join the meetings and events  
in buildings, outside, or even in tents  
If you come, I know you'll agree,  
it really is a ball.

(cont'd pg 3)

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AAG has a Blog,  
Facebook page , and is on  
Twitter



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[Mar Gen Mtg Minutes](#)

[April Bus Mtg Minutes](#)

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**Virginia Highlands Festival  
July 29-August 7, 2016**

To reserve a day (or days) under the big tent, send your preference and alternate dates to Festivals Chair Jack Rose along with a \$25 check for each day requested.

Mail to:  
AAG,  
P. O. Box 803,  
Abingdon, VA 24212.



Photo credit: Deb Penix

**Dig deep for your story!**

**Appalachian Authors Guild  
General Meeting  
Southwest Virginia Community College  
Richlands, VA**

**May 10 , 2016 - 11:30am**

**Lunch \$10**

**Email Vicki Fletcher if not paid**

**[vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com)**



**Speaker**

Dr. Thomas Keats McKnight has forty-eight years in the teaching profession. He has taught Music, Early Childhood Development and Writing to students from five to ninety-five years old. He proudest accomplishment in his teaching career is a twenty-year writing project with senior writers from southwest Virginia. His students' writing has won awards from Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Community College System and Harvard University. Students in Dr. McKnight's Appalachian Writing Project have contributed stories, poems and essays to stage and radio plays that have been produced throughout Virginia and Kentucky.

His personal writing has deep roots in the Appalachian region, beginning in Harlan County, Kentucky. Much of Dr. McKnight's subject matter for his short stories, poetry, essays and educational writing includes voices of Appalachia's people, folklore, medicine, history and music. Dr. McKnight's first publications in Appalachian journals were at age thirteen. At that age, he started teaching composition to children in grades one through five. That was when teaching and writing became passions.

In semi-retirement, Dr. McKnight now resides in Sevierville, Tennessee, with his wife of forty-four years, Judy Ruth (Couch) McKnight.

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**Note**

Please be aware that Virginia DOT is working at the Exit 14 interchange of I-81. Lanes will be closed at times so watch for signs.

## Spotlight Opportunities

AAG member Gina McKnight invites all members to interview for her blog about their writing and books. Her blog is –Riding and Writing  
<http://ginamc.blogspot.com/>

Links to books may be posted, etc. She would like a brief bio and links in the initial request, if available, to read so she can ask appropriate questions. She sends the questions and the person responds via email.  
<mailto:gmcknight11@gmail.com>

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JC Schweingrouber, Appalachian Authors Guild member, and others have formed a nonprofit group, The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement. He invites AAG authors to talk to them about the possibility of being featured on their website as "Artist of the Month." Contact

JC Schweingrouber  
<http://www.supportappalachia.org/>  
(Foundation For Appalachian Advancement)

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### Markets

<http://www.ralan.com/>

### Writing Prompts

<http://www.toastedcheese.com/>  
<http://www.writermag.com/writing-prompts>

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### Writing Classes

<http://www.writersvillage.com/index.php/membership-information>

(Editor) My first online short story was published in the Writers Village ezine. Unfortunately the ezine is no longer published.

From Vicki

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Please plan to attend any of these new meetings that you can and get those writer juices flowing. At the June meeting, we will have some information and discussion on using Create Space to self-publish your book- formatting, size, cover, beta readers, and editing will be covered in the discussion. If you would like something else addressed, please email me at [vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com) Thanks so much and I hope to see you soon.

Your president,  
Victoria Fletcher

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## Helpful Links

There is a Markets Database on this website:

[Writing for Dollars](#)

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[Preditors & Editors](#)

A guide to publishers and publishing services since 1997. Hosted by

[The Critters Writers Workshop](#)

which is a reputable online critique website which has been around for many years. Members must give critiques in order to receive critiques. Sections available in all genres.

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Don't forget

Appalachian Heritage Writers Symposium

Keynote Speaker: Sharyn McCrumb

June 10-11, 2016

Southwest Virginia Community College

Richlands, VA

<http://appheritagewritersym.wordpress.com/>

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