

THE KSA SONGWRITER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
THE KNOXVILLE SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

Volume No. 5 Issue No. 11

November, 2011

Knoxville Songwriters Association

P.O. Box 603

Knoxville, TN 37901

View the KSA Songwriter online at www.knoxvillesongwritersassociation.org



Founded by Sarah Williams

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Being President of KSA, simply stated, means “being on a team.” For those of you who don’t know me very well, I have to warn you that you’ll often hear me use sports analogies to prove or explain a point. That’s because most of my life, both personal and professional, has involved some type of sports activity.

My first true adult education in “team membership” was as secretary to a University Athletics Director, which for me included being cheerleader sponsor and driving them from state to state for both football and basketball games. Of course, the most important role for me at that time was wife of a college basketball player. From there I enjoyed being a coaches’ wife for over 35 years. Later I added the hat of players’ mom/grandmom. Could never have dreamed the multiple “roles we play on a team!”

I’m not pretending to be an authority – there are many others who allege that title. I’m simply talking from years of experience (long road trips, late nights, victory cheers, and those dreaded heartbreaking losses). But I consider those life’s lessons as a priceless part of learning how to live, love, accept, appreciate, enjoy, and survive who we are. Yes, I said “Who we are!” Sometimes we are our best friend, and sometimes our worst enemy. That’s true whether we recognize it or not.

So how does this connect with songwriting? As a member of a team, you soon realize that you have a role (or roles) to play. So be ready, because your role can change in an instant. Also, your team may need you to wear more than one hat at any given moment. What may appear to be the most significant role one day is replaced the next day by a new game plan or substitution.

So why do we allow ourselves to be battered around during songwriting team practice? Why do our ideas that seem so perfect, often get moved to the back burner or replaced altogether? Why does something very significant to us, seem not to matter to our other team members? Truth is, we have chosen to be part of a team. We are willing to work with the team, learn what we need to know, accept and offer criticism, listen, and learn. However, it is very important to remember that even though we are on a team, we are still individuals with different needs, likes, dislikes, goals, and personal challenges. It is equally important to remember that the unique differences of our fellow team members must always be respected. To be different, does not mean wrong or right. We are each unique individuals -- and how grateful I am for that. Can’t imagine meeting myself each time I walked into a room or wanted to talk with another person.

As a songwriter, we each strive individually to be the very best we can be. Some

concentrate on lyrics and just want to share; some hear music and dream a writer can finish their masterpiece; some write both lyrics and music hoping they have married the two in perfect harmony. Perhaps victory would be measured differently in these cases, but a victory for that particular individual is still a victory.

Reality is that from time to time, our KSA team strategy may not nurture someone else's dream. In that case, there are other venues to be found, and we encourage seeking out and following whatever works. We are unique in what we do, and we do it with pride. We are talented, experienced, wise, and strong enough to utilize available professional expertise and resources. We respect individual differences and desires, but we cannot be, and never try to be everything to everybody.

This doesn't even qualify as an introduction to what there is to say, but one strong point must be stated. Meeting as Knoxville Songwriters' Association members, we are privileged to be on a great team that was established in 1983. We have different dreams and skills, but we are members of the same KSA team. By sharing our talents, crafting our skills, listening, offering and accepting advice, celebrating our abilities and different choices, we already have a winning team.

As we respect ourselves as uniquely talented individuals, we confirm with pride that "We are on a Great Team!"
Makes me extremely proud!

Edna M. Riddick, President
Knoxville Songwriters Association
1-865-591-7935

FROM THE EDITOR

The comments made herein and the content of the articles are the opinions and/or beliefs of the authors and may or may not be in accordance with the mission statement of the KSA. We welcome comments on any of the articles that appear in this publication and encourage all members to consider submitting articles, comments, classified ads, or other material that might be beneficial to the readers of the publication.

As usual, I appreciate all of the help that I have received on the KSA Songwriter. Contributions by members have helped make the job of editor a pleasant one. The newsletter can only be as good as the members want it to be. Thanks to **C. D. Johnson** for his article this month.

www.knoxvillesongwritersassociation.org is the address of the official Website of the KSA.

www.knoxvillesongwriters.org is the address that can save you eleven keystrokes according to **Gale Horst**, our Webmaster. Most of us just type it once and keep it in our "favorites" so we only have to click once to activate the site.

And now, on with the show . . .



HOW TO DO WHAT WE DO

C.D. Johnson

People who can turn a pile of disconnected parts into something recognizable usually have a few things in common. Number one, they love what they do and they mostly all start the journey with a specific path and destination in mind. They will follow a known road until the trip is completed. Part "A" fits in slot "B", Tab "C" attaches to, well you all know the drill, one piece at a time in the correct order until there are no more pieces left on the table. Your bakers and

cooks have their cookbooks. The builder has his set of house plans and the auto mechanic has his factory authorized repair manual. And us as fledgling song writers have access to every hit song that has ever been written. Plus, there is no shortage of do-it-yourself books on how to write hit songs. (Arguably, usually written by someone that's been lucky enough to have had some radio play on one of their own songs, hit or otherwise.) Please don't misunderstand me. I'm not being cynical. We all know the importance of luck and connections. However, putting those two things aside we'll have to admit one very big thing, their song was/is on the radio and ours was/is not. It makes me stop and wonder if I'm using the same map to song writing success that they are.

I stop and ask myself . . . do I really know how to start a song? Am I telling a complete story and conveying a coherent thought thru out my song? Do I build to an awe inspiring climax ending up at the destination I originally intended? Or do I ramble on and on and end up turning a story worth singing into a totally boring song with no direction at all. In all truth, I've written and recorded some demo songs I thought were my key to that elusive doorway to success. However, after awhile when no one expressed an interest in them I would put them away for a rest in the "wait for awhile drawer." Then I would go back after a few weeks of not hearing those songs and listen to them as a listener and not the song writer. Low and behold, I almost always, without exception, saw the reasons the A&R people weren't beating down my door for those songs. Truth be told, there have been a couple of those songs in the "wait awhile drawer" that upon hearing them again I quickly decided that no one could pay me enough to sing them for family and friends much less a poor unsuspecting stranger. These are still locked in that drawer serving a life sentence! Hopefully, they may earn a reprieve by becoming fodder for a re-write.

Believe me when I say, it's a rude awakening to realize the road map to song writing success is out there and we sometime fail to take advantage of it. I can hear some of you now, "What road map? I ain't never seen no stupid road map to song writing!" Well, at the risk of sounding preachy, it's called **form and structure**. Just like the "poor wayfaring stranger" we can all lose our way on occasion. Thank goodness, we have **form and structure** to turn back to. In the past I have found that **form and structure**, when coupled with a gallon or two of high octane creative juices, produce a journey and a destination that is a great deal more pleasant both for the driver and the passenger. After all, would you start a cross country car trip without a reliable ride and a navigational aid that clearly showed your route and destination? As simple as it sounds, after you decide on the correct **form and structure** for your creative masterpiece, the rest is just fill in the blanks.

Until next time, remember, form and structure together with heart and mind will always make your masterpiece shine! Please forgive me for that last line . . . I just couldn't help it.



THINGS OF INTEREST

KSA CHRISTMAS PARTY

The KSA Christmas Party will be held on December 13 at the Hibachi Grill on Kingston Pike in West Knoxville beginning at 6 P.M. \$9.49 + tax for buffet including [Assortment of entrées & desserts **Hibachi Grill & Supreme Buffet** 9645 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37922 (865) 357-3555

No additional information was provided before publication date. Contact either **Richard Ratledge** or **Edna Riddick** if you need additional information.



ENJOY 'JAM' WITH YOUR MORNING COFFEE AT MARYVILLE'S EVERETT SENIOR CENTER

If you're an early riser—or more importantly, an early picker and singer—here's an opportunity to play your songs before an appreciative audience. The Everett Senior Center, 702 Burchfield Street in Maryville, hosts live music performances on the second Wednesday morning of each month. Sign up at 8:30 a.m. for your time to perform between 9 and 11 a.m. You're also welcome to drop by to hear some good music. Word has it there are awesome musicians among the center's regular crowd.



This from Pres. Edna Reddick:

Saturday, November 5 • 6:00pm - 9:00pm

**Location Harmony Family Center at Camp Montvale
4901 Montvale Rd.
Maryville, TN**

Created By Pistol Creek Catch of the Day

More Info Eight miles down Montvale Rd. from Maryville. At the historic Camp Montvale. Free. Food & bevs available. All ages.



Free Recording Classes Continue at Guitar Center

Guitar Center is continuing their free [Recording Made Easy](#) classes at every store every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Each week's class on the basics of computer recording will feature a brief in-depth look at a specific area of recording and a question and

answer session. The classes will be repeated in sequence each month. Guitar Center is next door to the Best Buy and Staples stores in the shopping center off Peters Road South of Cedar Bluff exit off of I-40 West. The address is 8917 Towne & Country Circle.

For more information:

<http://seminars.apple.com/go/guitarcenter/eventslp.html>



OUT AND ABOUT NORTH

There is live music and dancing every Friday and Saturday night at the **Big Valley Barn** in **Norris**. **Link Byrge** and the **Scrapyard Band** entertains on Friday night and **Kubil Hopper** and the **Knock-A-Bouts** on Saturday night. 8 until 11 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday nights. Guest singers are always welcome. Burgers, hot dogs, popcorn, snacks, and drinks are available. Check out their Webpage at www.bigvalleybarn.com for directions and info. Open mic available both nights. There is a \$5 cover charge at the door.

There is also live music and dancing every Monday from 7 until 9:30 p.m. at the **Cove Lake Pavilion** in **Caryville**. Music provided by **Glen Parker** and the **Cove Lake Band** with numerous local guest singers. **Buddy Hale** is the sponsor of this event. No drinks and no snacks but **there is no charge for admission** either. The pavilion does have drink machines that work on occasion and there is a great Bar-B-Q restaurant next door. Open mic available.

Tuesday night's parking lot music venue in Lafollette has closed for the season. This outdoor event takes place every Tuesday night during the summer months, weather permitting. The event will resume in May, 2012 or earlier if the weather permits.

The live music and dancing goes on pretty wildly every Thursday night from 7 until 9:30 p.m. at the **Senior Center in Lafollette**. **Junior Dyson, Kubil Hopper, Link Byrge, Keith Lambert** and **Ed Bell** make up the house band and what a band they are. Several regular local guest singers provide variety to the show. Open mic if you want to give singing a shot. No smoking, drugs or alcohol. There is a \$5 cover charge at the door.

On down the valley to the east you will find the **Town & Country** near **Well Springs**. **Jim and Linda Poindexter** provide live music on Friday and Saturday nights from 7 until 11 p.m. Regular local guest singers make frequent appearances during the show. Nice dance floor. Hot dogs, barbeque, drinks and snacks are available. There is a \$5 cover charge at the door. Open mic available both nights. No smoking, drugs or alcohol.

Ashley Denise, a young local talent, appeared in Decatur, TN at the grand opening of the Shoreline Café on October 22. Ashley has been singing for a number of years at local events and has spent this past summer entertaining in Pigeon Forge.

Andy Maiden and the **Silver Clouds** provide Saturday night music at the **Nashville Connection** near **Harrogate**. NC is located on Highway 63, 5 miles west of Highway 25E. Guest singers are welcome. This venue provides a stage for a lot of young, local talent along with the local regular guest singers. **Stoney Stonecipher** is on pedal steel. **Jerry Evans** is back on lead guitar and **Ronnie Dell** will crack you up with his comedy. And he can sing and play the keyboard too. **Nancy Maiden** keeps it all going. There is a \$6 cover charge at the door. Hot dogs, popcorn and other snacks and drinks are available. No smoking, drugs or alcohol.

Andy Maiden's CD release party at the **Nashville Connection** in Harrogate was

filled to capacity with fans on Saturday night, Oct. 22. Food was free and included a large spread of desserts and a bean and cornbread supper. A Halloween costume party preceded the release party so many guests were still dressed in their Halloween gear, which made the night more interesting. The CD, entitled "No Holding Back" contains ten songs, five of which were written by **Ronnie Dale**, the keyboard player for the Silver Clouds Band. Two of the songs were written by **Hugh King**, and three were written by **Elwood Walker**. The music started at 7:00 PM with live coverage until 10:00 PM on **WNTT AM** radio.

Escapees Campground off Raccoon Valley Road has live music every Thursday night at 8 p.m. Local talent is always present there. Go west off the Raccoon Valley Road exit on I-75.

Check out the **Jamboree** in Powell on Friday and Saturday nights. If anyone knows anything more about this venue please let me know.

Ciderville in Powell had a new band and lead singer starting on the weekend of October 15. If anyone has been there or knows anything about who, what, when, and where please let the editor know the details so they can be listed them here.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Matthew Morrow

HAPPENINGS WITH MEMBERS

Linda Perry has resigned as Publicity Director. Linda has done a good job since she took on the responsibilities of Publicity Director and we wish her all the best.

Carol Ostrom has resigned as Secretary. Carol has done a good job as Secretary since she was elected to the position. It was

nice to have minutes of the meetings sent out to everyone so we were all on the same page. We wish Carol all the best.

Joyce Brown has resigned her position as Membership Director to pursue other avenues. We wish Joyce all the best. Thanks.

A special election will be held or appointments will be made to fill these positions. If you are interested in either position please let President **Edna Riddick** know.



KSA MEMBERS GET DISCOUNT AT NOVEMBER 'SMOKIN' HIT SONGWRITERS' SEMINAR—KSA

members can get a \$50 discount at the Smokin' Hit Songwriters Seminar, to be held November 11-13 at Jim Oliver's Smokehouse Restaurant, Lodge and Trading Post, a Best Western Hotel in Monteagle, Tennessee. The seminar site is 142 miles from Knoxville, off I-24 West between Chattanooga and Nashville

Hit songwriters leading the seminar are **Dave Gibson**, (The Gibson/Miller Band, Joe Diffie's "Ships That Don't Come In"); **Ira Dean** (bass player for Trick Pony, Montgomery Gentry's "One in Every Crowd"); and East Tennessean **Chris Wallin** (Kenny Chesney's "Don't Blink", Toby Keith's "Love Me If You Can"). Others on the program are **Daisy Dern**, Savannah Music Group publisher and former Mercury recording artist, and Nashville media and publicity pro **Marla Sitten**.

The event will open Friday night, November 11, with performances by the first 30 participants to sign up for the seminar. Topics to be covered in Saturday and Sunday sessions include songwriting technique, melody writing, the creative process, and an inside look at the music industry. Bring your business cards for a networking session and your guitar for jam

sessions held throughout the weekend. A more detailed agenda is listed at www.SmokinHitSongwriters.com.

To get the \$50 discount off the \$150 seminar fee, your first step should *NOT* be to sign up immediately on the website. Instead, call **Marla Sitten** at 615-419-8673 and let her know you are registering as a KSA (or NSAI) member. She will give you information about how to get the discount and pay for the seminar program.

The seminar fee does not include food or lodging, but discounted rooms are available for seminar participants. Call the hotel directly at 1-800-489-2091 for special rates starting at \$49 per night. (Hint: ask for a second floor room on the backside of the lodge, overlooking the lake and recreation area.) The Smokehouse has some of the best "down-home" food you'll find. Start dieting now to take full advantage of the homemade fried pies and many varieties of fudge.



RESOURCES

Wayne Burnett teaches guitar at his music store, **B & B Music**, 101 Main Street, New Tazewell, TN. Wayne can be contacted at 423-489-2799.

Wolf Valley Productions is a one-man operation but this one man can do wonders for your songs. The studio belongs to **Michael de Bills**, an experienced artist, songwriter, author, producer, musician, arranger, vocalist, ASCAP member, and all around nice guy who can put your songs into a professional format for you to enjoy or send out as demos. Michael produces quality work out of his studio located in the basement of his home northeast of Andersonville at 459 Mill Creek Road. Cell Phone number is 865-755-5665.

Leigh Ann Cox: Guitar, Bass, Banjo, and Dobro. Graduate of Belmont University in Nashville with a degree in Commercial Music/Music Business. Graduate of the School for the Performing Arts in Chillicothe, Ohio, and former staff writer and musician in Nashville. Leigh Ann works out of Broadway Sound in Fountain City. 865-599-8277



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