

## Letter from the Coordinator

Hello to Members and Visitors!

I am Gary Furr, and I am the Coordinator for our NSAI chapter for this year. I just returned from Nashville last week where I was trained. I am looking forward to an outstanding year this year. I want to help all of our Member writers learn how to be a better songwriter and more effective in achieving your goals in songwriting. I love music, musicians, bands, songs and songwriting. I want to be an encourager, helper and source of information for those who associate with our group. Our goal is to help you with your craft and knowledge to be the best songwriter you can be.

I am so appreciative of what Donna Brooks, my predecessor, did for this group and I want us to continue growing and helping each other in the future. I welcome any ideas, topics, and problems you deal with. My email is always open and I will respond to you.

We have lots of interesting topics and programs planned for this year. In addition to the regular monthly meeting, there will be opportunities for special workshops. Last year we did a “performance night” where our group members simply sang our songs for each other. I hope to do that and find some open mic opportunities for us.

Our meetings will be simple: we will study a pre-planned lesson together, then do exercises and activities to help us all grow in the craft, and finally offer critiques together of songs members bring. There are a couple things you need to know:

- While we seek to give honest and helpful critique, the goal is not to humiliate or ever embarrass anyone. We will appreciate that every effort is personal and makes us vulnerable by sharing it. Our group tries to be affirming and positive.
- What we can help you to do is to make it more effective for the purpose you have in mind. We can help you learn more about the business and craft. We can help you become a better writer. We will try to understand where you are in the journey of learning and help you move to the next place you can be.
- You will meet people who can be a support and help
- We are meeting at Java & Jams, and I am thankful to John and Alisa Maske for their passion and devotion to the acoustic music scene here. Their venture provides a home for us, and I hope you will become a regular there and support them.

I look forward to a great year together! Contact me at [bhmpicker@yahoo.com](mailto:bhmpicker@yahoo.com)



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