so you want to be a writer, hmmm? Published, too? Well, maybe you already are. A writer, that is — or you think you are. Something like that. But in case a little encouragement and advice are needed to help you along that road to success, remember: there's strength in numbers. (Who wrote that?)

The Writers Guild of Acadiana, for over seven years now, has helped both aspiring writers and accomplished authors with their craft. Founded in August 1985 and incorporated in 1988, the association for mutual aid promotes a common interest — the love of writing — and an appreciation for those engaged in this art form.

Guild members consist of poets, novelists, playwrights and journalists. Some are formally educated. Others are mainly self-taught and rely on the knowledge and experience of the more accomplished. A few guild members have even enjoyed a large degree of recognition and monetary compensation. "We have people who have published fiction, non-fiction, poetry and newspaper features — and a play produced off-broadway," said the guild president, Rosalind Foley, Tuesday evening during a meeting and social at Acadiana Arts Council, 704 Lee Ave.

During the guild meeting, council director David Thomas presented a musical program, including Bluegrass and Welsh pieces, on mandolin and hammer dulcimer. Also on the program were retired USL English professor Dr. Bernice Webb and poets Charlotte Roberts, Tom Campbell and Carla Tucker.

One of the most recognized authors in the organization is Barbara Veillon, who writes under the pen name, Kristen Morgan. Her third Silhouette romance, "Who's That Baby?" is scheduled for release in April 1993. A fourth is in the works.

"The guild recently received IRS non-profit status," Foley told The Advertiser. "That will allow us to apply for grants. In turn, we hope to be able to give scholarships."

One of the guild's upcoming projects is a two-day conference planned for February. "We'll have an agent and a publisher," said publicity chairman, Rose McDowell. "Plus several published writers will come in from other areas."

Last May, the guild sponsored a one-day writing workshop by award winning author Robert Olen Butler, creative writing professor at McNeese State University. Butler will also be a featured writer and workshop leader during the 22nd annual Deep South Writers Conference, scheduled for Sept. 25-27 at USL.

Writers Guild recently relocated their monthly meeting place from The Book Rack to Acadiana Arts Council. Membership is open to the public. For details, call Rosalind Foley, 234-8694, or Rose McDowell, 984-7291.

Foley, a charter member, likens the guild to a phrase by Anne Morrow Lindberg, wife of aviator Charles Lindberg, and a writer in her own right: "the cross-pollination of ideas."

The guild president also reflects, "We nourish one another."