

Hello All —

A few mid-November notes and clarifications!

2020 Critiquing Session

As most know, PST-West Tennessee hosts a panel critiquing session annually. This year, that session will be in **January 2020**. For those who don't know, we accept members' "poems in progress". They are submitted to a critiquing panel and reviewed during the meeting as a learning experience in poetry craft. It is typically PST-West Tennessee's most popular meeting of the year! If you have a "poem in progress", please submit it ASAP...we need all poems sent hardcopy to Russell Strauss by 12/15/19 (18 S Rembert St, Memphis, TN 38117). Russell will select 4-5 poems for the panel to review during the meeting. If you would like to volunteer to be on the critiquing panel (typically 2-3 poets), please contact Russell (rstrpoet@cs.com). All comments are returned to the poet, if he/she is not in attendance.

Date Change

Monthly Members-Only Contest due date change. Effective beginning with the January monthly contest, all entries must be **postmarked by** the 15th of the month. So for example, all January contest entries must be postmarked by December 15th; all February entries must be postmarked by January 15th.

- We are changing the date, because we need to ensure our coordinator has sufficient time to mail poems to the judge, the judge has time to review and judge the contest, and then Ann Carolyn can coordinate certificates, checks, etc.
- We are clarifying for everyone that this is a **postmarked by** date. Poems postmarked after the 15th will not be considered for the contest.

Note we are changing this to a **postmarked by** date so that all contests (both monthly and festival contests) will now be postmarked by dates. This will eliminate confusion regarding due-dates moving forward.

Nathan Brown

Many thanks to JoAn Howerton for hosting Nathan Brown on Sunday, November 17. Nathan's music and poetry were amazing! Please check out his books and music online, <https://www.brownlines.com/>. He is also advertising the next writers' retreat he will be facilitating, in France in September 2020, <https://www.descansocreatives.com/>; deposits are due 12/15/19.

Student Poetry Contest

Reminder that the Student Poetry Contest is OPEN and we are inviting all students who are residents of Tennessee to participate. Not a resident? Students can join as student members. Middle- and upper-school deadlines are fast approaching, so please spread the word – teachers, tutors, guidance counselors, students, home school groups, 4-H, scouts... The link for the student poetry contest is on our contest page, here: [Poetry Society of Tennessee Contests](#).

December Member's Only Contest

Sponsor, JoAn Howerton; Subject: Memories of Christmas, Shakespearean sonnet

Please send entries to Monthly Contest Chair, Ann Carolyn Cates, 7471 Greenbrook Pkwy, Southaven, MS 38671 no later than November 20, 2019 (received-by date).

January Member's Only Contest

Sponsor, Florence Bruce; Subject, any; Pantoum; 36 lines max

Please send entries to Monthly Contest Chair, Ann Carolyn Cates, 7471 Greenbrook Pkwy, Southaven, MS 38671 no later than December 15, 2019 (postmarked-by date). NOTE DATE CHANGE!!!

Upcoming NFSPS Critiquing Sessions

December's critiquing session is NFSPS Contest #4, The Margo Award, Subject: Wolves, Form: Any, 50 line limit. Remember, if you're out of town, you can send 10 copies of your poem to Lori Goetz, 2153 Wood Creek Dr., Germantown, TN 38138, and I'll send you a PDF of critiquing comments from the group.

West Tennessee Dates

- Reminder that open mic readings are the 2nd Wednesday of every month at Café Eclectic on McLean; our next reading is 12/11 from 7-8. Please bring your original poetry, and a friend. We're seeing some interested poets attending....let's grow the chapter, folks!
- The West Tennessee Holiday Party is on 12/14 at Pyro's on Ridgeway (flyer attached). We will NOT have a meeting the first Saturday, due to the St. Jude Marathon. Please RSVP to Lori (plmegoetz@bellsouth.net) so we have a headcount of who is attending.

Thanks!

- Lori