

All –

Happy February to all...looks like we get to start the month with a warm-ish week. Let's enjoy it while we can!

NFSPS Deadline — March 15th

Folks, get your poems submitted!!! Remember to follow submission requirements regarding original and IDed poems, line count, spacing, etc.....they are STRICT!!!

PST-West Tennessee February Program — Critiquing Session

PST-West Tennessee had its annual critiquing session in February; six poems were evaluated by a three-judge panel. The panel provided comments on various aspects of each poem, ranging from metaphor, word choice, rhyme and meter, grammar, and form. The take-home messages for all PST poets should be: (1) get another opinion on your poem — it always helps to have another set of eyes on your work; (2) read your poem aloud — you will hear a lot more (meter, rhyme, etc.) than you will see; (3) know your forms, and be sure you are consistent with a form throughout the poem — as always, Florence Bruce's BlogSpot is a great reference for poetry forms: <http://poemssamples.blogspot.com/>

2019 PST Annual Contest Sponsorships Needed!

It's time to get your contest sponsorships in for this year's PST Contests! I've attached/enclosed a sponsorship form. Please return those to Lori Goetz, 2153 Wood Creek Drive, Germantown, TN 38138 no later than March 15, 2019. As William Hill pointed out last year, if you have a business, your business can sponsor a contest...you may be able to take it as a tax deduction! Just saying!

Chapter News

PST-NE continues to grow their membership. They are sponsoring two upcoming events: 3/28/19 — Dr. Marilyn Kallet (Knoxville Poet Laureate, at the Johnson City Public Library) and 4/28/19 — Dr. Thomas Alan Homes (Bristol Library). Evelyn Bales has resigned as secretary; the position will remain vacant until PST-NE holds elections in the spring.

No news from PST-Knoxville.

<p>January Members-Only Contest Sponsor: Will King, Subject: any; Form: any 1st — Russell Strauss, Fleeing the Blight, 1846 2nd — Barbara Blanks, We Can't Let It Go 3rd — J. Pompford Harris, Fool's Goal</p>	<p>February Members-Only Contest Sponsor: Russell Strauss Subject: Any Elvis Song; any form 1st — Charles Firmage, To Tammy from Fred (inspired by <i>Are You Lonesome Tonight</i>) 2nd — Barbara Blanks, A Fool and Her Honey Is Soon Departed (inspired by <i>Devil in Disguise</i>) 3rd — Sara Gipson, Burning Love (inspired by <i>Burning Love</i>) 1HM — Rose Klix, Peace in the Mountains (inspired by <i>Peace in the Valley</i>) 2HM — Lori Goetz, Mail, Always Welcome (inspired by <i>Return to Sender</i>)</p>
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March Members-Only Contest

Sponsor: Janet Qually
Subject: Any; Form: Blank Verse; 10-40 lines
Please get those poems to Pete Harris by 1/20. Pete's address is 1645 Faxon, Memphis, TN 38112.

March NFSPS Prep Critiquing Session

#48, Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award, City Life, Form Any, 10-40 lines. As always, bring 10 copies to share. If you're not in town, you can send 10 copies to Lori Goetz, 2153 Wood Creek Drive, Germantown, TN 38138, and I'll scribe any comments and PDF them to you.

Lucidity Retreat

Eureka Springs, Arkansas, April 2-4, 2019. Nathan Brown will be the speaker. March 1 is the deadline for poems for critiquing and contests...<https://fortbendpoets.wixsite.com/luciditypoetryretrea/info>

Have a great month! — Lori