

Hello, PST Membership!

PST-West Tennessee had a relatively short meeting in March, but lots happened and lots going on to share with everyone/all three chapters. Please take a skim through our news and get updated. Minutes are attached.

### **March Program — Short Poems**

Lori Goetz gave a program on short poems; as most folks know, she tends to favor poems less than 20 lines, and shorter line lengths. She walked attendees through an exercise, and then discussed the best uses for a short poem: an image, an emotion, a memory; developing a strategy for tying it together; and the importance of avoiding “interrupters” like words that break your cadence or that simply fill space. Remember that a short poem can pack a lot of punch, but every word counts, and therefore needs a lot of editing and refinement. Notes and some examples are attached.

### **Chapter Updates**

No minutes from the chapters this month.

### **NFSPS Contest Due**

NFSPS contest entries are due (postmarked by) 3/15. Get those in, folks. LAST CALL. Hoping PST has a lot of submissions this year!!!

### **PST Festival and Contest**

We have had several contest sponsors (thank you!!!), but need several more. I’ve attached another copy of the sponsorship form. Please get that back to me (Lori Goetz). Email the form back to me by 3/15, and then send the check. Remember, if you are not comfortable judging, we can arrange for an independent judge. If you have a business, your business can sponsor the contest! Get these in to me, so I can do the contest brochure and get it published!

JoAn is talking to a few different potential workshop leaders, and we’ll pick a venue soon. We’re looking forward to the festival...just around the corner.

### **Round Robin Critiquing Group**

Not sure what this is? We route hardcopy poems by snail mail to different members, who critique other members’ poems. As the poems circle through each member of the group, they remove their critiqued poem and add a new poem. It’s a great way to see different poetry forms and styles, and to get feedback on your work. And critiquing is a great way to grow as a poet. The key here is participation — you must be willing to read and comment on everyone’s poems. These groups do not work with “passive participants”. If you are interested in joining a round-robin critiquing group, please contact me (Lori Goetz), and we will arrange groups of 4-6.

### **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>

### **Membership**

It’s time to renew membership again. We are asking **ALL MEMBERS** to complete a membership form, so we can update our address, phone number, and email records. Please return dues and the attached membership form to Janet Qually (see instructions on the attached form), or bring to the April or May meetings. PST-NE and PST-Knoxville members, you can return your membership form and dues through your individual chapters.

### **PST-West Tennessee Ballot**

The ballot for PST-West Tennessee is attached. Please bring to the April meeting or mail to Parliamentarian Randy Stoker, per instructions on the ballot.

### **PST-West Tennessee April Meeting**

The April meeting will be our annual Student Awards program at Colonial Park United Methodist Church. We look forward to hearing the fine poems by our student contest winners! Please bring cookies/brownies (finger foods!) for the students and their families, drinks, and paper goods. A short business meeting will follow the awards program.

### **PST-West Tennessee Readings at Café Eclectic**

PST-West Tennessee will begin holding poetry readings at Café Eclectic on April 10<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup>. Readings will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month, from 7:30-8:30. Come share your original poetry in this great Midtown venue!

### **March Contest Winners**

Janet Qually — Blank Verse

- 1<sup>st</sup> — A Perennial Story, Barbara Blanks
- 2<sup>nd</sup> — Fifth Grade Orator, Russell Strauss
- 3<sup>rd</sup> — Trading Places, Florence Bruce

### **Next Two Contests**

- April — Sponsor, Sarah Hull Gurley: Spring Surprise, any form, no line limits, due to Pete by 3/20
- May — Sponsor, PST-NE, any/any, 40 max, due to Pete by 4/20

Get these in to Pete Harris, 1645 Faxon, Memphis, TN 38112.

**Poetry Society of Tennessee****West Tennessee Chapter****Meeting Minutes for:**

March 2019

**Number in Attendance:**

8

**Education/Activity****Presenter:** Lori Goetz

- Short Poems
  - Several comments from Russell and others lately about incoming poems butting up against the upper maximum line limits in contests
  - We've had judges comment on prosy poems (too wordy), or poems which don't have any cadence or internal coherence
  - We've had judges comment on poems which run too long — poems can be beautiful, but then tack on an extra stanza and lose focus
  - Short poems are great — focused and have a lot of punch
- General issue: you don't have a lot of space, so get to the point
  - What are you writing about (an image, an emotion, a memory). Stories don't work — you need more space.
  - How are you going to tie it together (rhyme, meter, alliteration, repetition, chronologic/seasonal pattern, plays on words, etc.)
  - Look at what your words are, and whether rhyme/meter/cadence will work (clunky words break up cadence — example, "physical therapy" or "environmentalism")
  - Don't "waste line" on indefinite articles and space fillers
  - Edit down...a lot, to find your main point!
- See notes for examples of some great short poems, and rest of talking points. Thanks to everyone who participated, wrote a poem for the in-meeting exercise, and shared their poem!

**President's and Vice-President's Reports**

- No membership information
- No news from the chapters
- NFSPS — postmark due 3/15; get those done
- Café Eclectic — reading will start 4/10 and 4/17 (Wednesday) at 7:30
  - LG to put advertisements in flyer, etc.
  - "Open reading; poets please bring your original poetry for an "open mic night" at Café Eclectic, 7:30-8:30."
  - two awards: one performance award; one best poem
  - Bill/Leslie working on poster
  - Florence making a flyer (send to Rhodes, UofM, SW)
  - Florence/Bill/Leslie
  - Have a sign in sheet
  - stretch goal — purchase sound equipment

**Treasurer's Report****Balance:**

\$2661

- Anthology payment due \$694

**Corresponding Secretary's Report**

- Approval of minutes of last meeting
- No corresponding secretary's information

**Business to be Accomplished in the Next Month**

- April meeting — student program at Colonial Park United Methodist Church
  - need cookies/treats
  - need sodas
  - paper products (cups, plates, napkins)

**Action Items**

- Round Robin Critiquing Group — contact Lori Goetz
- Contest/Festival
  - We need additional contest sponsors

- JoAn is still working on contest venue
- JoAn has a number of potential workshop leaders (Bud Mahan? others?)
- We need website modifications
  - JoAn will talk to Kelly about taking over the website
  - Lori will support/strategize the website with Kelly
- We need a new publisher for anthology
  - JoAn has a name in Alabama
  - Bill has a name in Mississippi
  - Lori will collect the poems for the anthology.
- Recommend — mailing shipment of anthology to chapter, not individual members
  - local folks, hand deliver
  - use as “bait” to get folks to a meeting (announce they would be at a meeting)
  - keep extras onhand to give to new members
- Membership — need form, update with Janet Qually

### **Contest Winners — March**

Janet Qually — Blank Verse

1<sup>st</sup> — A Perennial Story, Barbara Blanks

2<sup>nd</sup> — Fifth Grade Orator, Russell Strauss

3<sup>rd</sup> — Trading Places, Florence Bruce

### **Next Contest**

#### **April**

Sponsor — Sarah Hull Gurley, Spring Surprise, any form, no line limits

#### **May**

Sponsor — PST-NE, any/any, 40 max







