

Hello All,

Happy May! PST-West Tennessee closed the 2019/2020 year with a great program on Eye Poems by Frances Cowden. Will summarize below for everyone to share. Meeting minutes attached. Remember that we are now posting copies of this news update (and more information) on our website, <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/>.

Eye Poems

Eye poems were created by Kenneth Beaudoin, PST member, in the 1920s. These poems are driven by the foundation image (selected from a magazine, calendar, etc.) — so start with a picture that generates an emotional connection. The text is created by cutting words from magazines and newspapers. The words that capture the essence of what you're trying to say. Note you are writing a poem, the words do not need to be a jingle, cute, or witty.

Rules are posted on our website, but in general:

- Letters should be large enough to read from 3 feet away
- Because the poem is so visual, consider the size of words as your emphasis — big words are loud, small words are quiet.
- Do not cut out letters to make words. Words must be complete, whole words from the magazine. If you need to make a compound word or a multi-syllable word from whole words, that is fine. But you cannot spell words from individual letters.
- Arrange the words for optimum visual impact. They do not need to be in a straight line.
- If submitting to a contest, the poem should be oriented vertically (portrait), and no larger than 8.5x11. Do not put words or images all the way to the edge of the page, in case the page needs to be edited during publication.
- Be conscious of colors, hues, and gradations: if the final copy will be photocopied/published in black and white, some colors will not photocopy well (e.g., red and black will photocopy the same dark color).

63rd Annual Festival and Contest

Festival and contest brochures are published! Many, many thanks to all of our sponsors! We have 26 fantastic contests this year. Both brochures are attached, and are posted online at <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/annual-festival-and-contest.html>. Please share the brochure around — we love to have new participants! Whether they submit one poem or enter every contest, we welcome every poet!

New for 2019/2020 — we are sponsoring an oral poetry contest! We plan to award prizes for both performance poetry as well as more traditional readings. Check out the brochure and website!

We are still looking for someone to host our Friday night potluck — please contact JoAn Howerton, 901-361-0077, if you can host this gathering.

Calling All Patron Poems!

We are at the end of our PST year, so that means we will soon be printing our anthology, Tennessee Voices. Any PST member interested in submitting published poems to the anthology may do so. Members may submit up to 3 previously published poems; the cost is \$15. The selection committee

(Randy Stoker and Frances Cowden) will pick one poem from each patron. Please send all poems/checks to Frances Cowden, 8432 Wood Shadows Lane, Cordova, TN 38018. The deadline is July 5.

Membership/Dues are now Past Due!

Membership renewals were due on May 1! If you do not get your paperwork in, or if you have changed your contact information, you may get inadvertently dropped from my contact lists. This happened to folks last year! We don't want that to happen again! Renewal forms are attached and available online, <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/membership.html>. Sorry, no online renewals this year. Please return ASAP to Janet Qually, 4030 Summer Ave, Apt. 15, Memphis, TN 38122. If you are a member of PST-NE or PST-Knoxville, please make sure all of your contact information/membership information is updated with your local chapter; if you are an out-of-state member, please send your information in to Janet.

Chapter News

PST-Northeast

- For National Poetry Month, PST-NE hosted Dr. Thomas Alan Holmes, Professor of American Literature at East Tennessee State University for a reading on April 27.
- PST-NE also worked with Sullivan County Library and Blountville 4th and 5th graders on Eye Poems, to encourage participation in next year's student contest
- Rose Klix was featured speaker for the Lost State Writer's Guild on April 4.
- PST-NE will sponsor on of the 2019/2020 monthly contests.

PST-Knoxville

PST-Knoxville held their May meeting; they will sponsor a 2019/2020 monthly contest.

PST-West Tennessee

- PST-WT will continue to hold open readings at Café Eclectic the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, with the objective of promoting poetry and connecting with other poets in the area.
- New officers were sworn in at the May 4th meeting
- Several new members have been welcomed during April and May!

Annual Summer Contest

It's time for our annual summer contest, sponsored by PST members. This year's judge will be Paul Ford of Utah. We are still accepting donations for prizes; send to Janet Qually, 4030 Summer Avenue Apt. 15, Memphis, TN 38122.

Any/Any, no line limit

Due to our new contest chair, Ann Carolyn Cates by July 1. Address, 7471 Greenbrook Pkwy, Southaven, MS 38671.

2019/2020 Members-Only Contests

All New! Are shown below, and are now posted on PST's website, at <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/contests.html>

September — Sponsor, Gail Denham; Subject: First Line Contest. Pick a first line of a poem by a favorite poet. Begin your poem with that line. Your poem will be totally different. Credit the poet for that line. Any form; 30 lines max; \$15/\$10/\$5

November — Sponsor, PST-Knoxville; TBD; TBD

December — Sponsor, JoAn Howerton; Subject: Memories of Christmas, Shakespearean sonnet; \$15/\$10/\$5

January — Sponsor, Florence Bruce; Subject, any; Pantoum; 36 lines max; \$15/\$10/\$5

February — Sponsor, Russell Strauss; TBD; \$15/\$10/\$5

March — Sponsor, Lori Goetz; Subject: yellow; Free Verse; 20 lines max; \$15/\$10/\$5

April — Sponsor: PST-NE; Subject: Any; Form: Any; 40 line max; \$25/\$15/\$10

May — Sponsor: Howard S. Carman, Jr.; Subject: Science (any field); Subject: Science (any field); Form: Rhymed; 40 line max; \$25/\$15/\$10