

All –

Many announcements for PST, so please read through! I hope this email finds everyone well; please be safe!

National Convention and Contest

Julie Cummings has emailed to let us know that the National Convention in Kansas City has been cancelled; the hotel has closed (not just for the coronavirus pandemic, but permanently). All moneys/reservations will be fully refunded. A few important decisions already made:

- this is an NFSPS election year; the voting will be held electronically
- all awards which were to be presented at the Convention (the 2 CUP manuscripts, the Stevens manuscript, and the Blackberry Peach Awards) have been judged and they will still be awarded
- the 53 contests are being processed and will be judged and awarded
- Encore will still be published for 2020
- the only difference for 2020, winners will be announced electronically, and not face-to-face at a convention

There are still additional planning discussions going on at NFSPS, and I will forward that information as it comes in. As Julie said in her email, "we are all in uncharted water". For the full text of Julie's letter, please see the NFSPS website, here: <https://www.nfsps.com/President's%20Letter.pdf>

PST Student Awards

Many thanks to Frances Cowden and everyone who made the PST Student Awards possible this year! I've uploaded winners to the PST website here: <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/student-contests.html>

April Members' Only Contest Awards

April — Sponsor: PST-NE; Subject: Any; Form: Any; 40 line max

- 1st Place, Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN "Recalling the Trolley"
- 2nd Place Sara Gipson, Scott, AR "What Happened While I Waited?"
- 3rd Place Jonathan Bennett, Lakeland, TN "Lantern Thieves"
- 1HM William Hill, Southaven, MS "A New Standard"
- 2HM Mark Hudson, Evanston, IL, "The Tarantula Nebula"
- 3HM James Mac Perry, Brownsville, TN "Poem for the Birds"

May Members' Only Contest

Sponsor: Howard S. Carman, Jr.; Subject: Science (any field); Subject: Science (any field); Form: Rhymed; 40 line max. Send entries to our Monthly Contest Chair, Ann Carolyn Cates, 7471 Greenbrook Pkwy, Southaven, MS 38671. Remember all future contests are shown on our webpage,

<https://www.poetrytennessee.org/contests.html>.

2020 Patron Poems

It's time to submit 2020 Patron Poems for inclusion in our annual anthology, *Tennessee Voices*. For \$15, patrons can submit up to 3 poems. Our selection committee will select one poem for inclusion in the anthology. Patrons will receive two additional copies of the anthology. **NEW SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020:**

- Each patron poem can be no longer than 40 lines
- Patron poems must be submitted as a Word or PDF file
- Each patron poem must have poet's ID in the upper right corner
- Upper left corner, please indicate "Patron Poem Submission"

Email all patron poems to Lori Goetz (plmegoetz@bellsouth.net) no later than May 15, and she will forward them on to the patron poem selection committee.

2020/2021 PST Board Nominations

Please return ballots to your respective chapters by mail, folks.

2020/2021 Membership Dues/Registration Forms

Membership dues are due on May 1, 2020 for the following year (2020/2021). Last year we also asked all members to fill out their contact information again (as addresses, emails, phone numbers, etc. sometimes change). I'm attaching the contact information again.

Coronavirus and Chapter News

We're all hunkered down and the chapters have suspended all physical meetings, readings, critiquing sessions, etc., but...the good news is that all three chapters are posting info on their Facebook pages and communicating electronically. If you have any ideas on how to connect (Facebook, Slack, Zoom, etc.) please share. If you have Apple devices, it's easy to do a group Facetime. I know lots of folks who are doing Zoom coffee-hours. I would like to try Zoom poetry reading. Don't hesitate to share ideas!

Keep Calm and Write Poetry!