

The Poetry Society of Tennessee

63rd Annual Poetry Contest

CONTEST RULES

DEADLINE AND ENTRY FEES:

- **Postmarked by Tuesday, August 20, 2019.** Please do not call or email to verify receipt. NO E-MAIL ENTRIES.
- **Members \$10, Non-members \$15. Contests #1 and #2 have additional fees per entry.** Send check made payable to PST to: Lori Goetz, Contest Coordinator, 2153 Wood Creek Drive, Germantown, TN 38138.
- **Questions:** JoAn Howerton, Festival Director, (901) 361-0077; E-mail: joan0620@att.net or Lori Goetz, Festival Coordinator, (901)-753-4385, poetrytennessee@gmail.com.

ELIGIBILITY

1. All categories are open to all poets except as otherwise indicated.
2. Your contest entries must be original and unpublished poems (except those entered in contest #2); the poem may not have won a cash prize in any poetry contest prior to the PST's October 2019 Festival.
3. The same poem may not be entered in more than one category.
4. A poet cannot enter more than one poem in a single category (except for contests #1 and #2).
5. Contests #1 and #2 are open only to members of the Poetry Society of Tennessee; any number of poems can be submitted for \$2/poem.
6. Contest #2 is the only contest which will accept previously published poems.
7. Entries which do not conform to these rules will be disqualified from this and future contests.
8. A poet may not send more than one envelope with entries; submittal of multiple envelopes will result in disqualification from this and future contests.

FORM

9. Type poems on standard, 8 ½" x 11" white paper; no handwritten poems will be accepted. Submit in 8 ½ x 11 or 9x12 envelopes; folded submissions will not be accepted.
10. Entries must be single spaced, in a readable font style and point size (11 or 12 point). Excessively large or small font will be disqualified. Staple two-page poems on upper left.
11. Submit two copies of every poem.
 - a. Show title and number of contest on the first copy, in the upper left.
 - b. On the second copy, show title and number of contest in the upper left. In the upper right, show the poet's name, mailing address, e-mail address (if available), and PST Member or Non-Member.
12. If submitting a multi-page poem, staple both pages together. Do not use paperclips. Please put poet's ID on both pages of the ID-ed copy.
13. Separate originals from duplicates and stack in numerical order (1-21) with originals on top; no paperclips.
14. Honorable mentions are given as merited by the number of entries in each individual contest and the quality of the material submitted.
15. First place winners (except #2, which allows published poems) will be published in the PST yearbook, *Tennessee Voices*. All rights revert back to the poet following publication of *Tennessee Voices*. Purchase a copy: <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/publications.html>

WINNERS

All winners will be announced at PST's 63rd Annual Poetry Festival, October 19, 2019. Winners will be posted on our webpage, <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/annual-festival-and-contest.html>, after the Festival. If you want to receive a copy of the winner's list, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your entry.

Save the Date — DST Poetry Festival — October 19, 2019
Budd Dowell Mahan — Workshop Leader

BEST OF THE FEST

\$250 is contributed by Marilyn Denington in memory of Michael R. (Mick) Denington. The first place winners in all Festival contests (except contest #2, which allows published poems) will be collected and sent to a special outside judge who will decide which one of the winning poems in this year's Festival deserves this special award. Decision of the judge will be final.

CONTESTS

1) Benefactor's Award

Form: Any, 40 lines max

Subject: Any

Prizes: \$40/\$30/\$20/\$15/\$10

Instructions: Open only to Poetry Society of Tennessee members. Prizes are awarded from anonymous donations. Any number of poems may be entered; \$2 per entry.

2) Poet's Field Day Award

Form: Any, 40 lines max

Subject: Any

Prizes: Prizes depend on the number of entries at \$2.00 per entry

Instructions: Open only to Poetry Society of Tennessee members. Prizes are awarded from anonymous donations. Previously published poems are accepted only in this contest. Any number of poems may be entered; \$2 per entry.

3) Dr. Wanda Rider Memorial Award

Sponsor: Marilyn Denington

Form: Free Verse, 20-30 lines

Subject: International Travel

Prizes: \$50/\$35/\$15

Instructions: None.

4) Unrequited Contest

Sponsor: Bill Howerton

Form: Free Verse, 8-32 lines

Subject: Love Unrequited

Prizes: \$50/\$30/\$20

Instructions: None.

5) PST-NE Chapter Prize

Sponsor: PST-NE

Form: Any, 50 lines max

Subject: Any

Prizes: \$50/\$35/\$15

Instructions: None.

6) On a Deceased Favorite Poet

Sponsor: W. L. Huettel

Form: Any, 20-40 lines

Subject: A Deceased Poet

Prizes: \$50/\$25/\$25

Instructions: No current, live poets.

7) Rose Klix Award

Sponsor: Howard S. Carman, Jr.

Form: Any, 40 lines max

Subject: Faith

Prizes: \$65/\$40/\$25

Instructions: None

8) Connections Award

Sponsor: Bill Howerton

Form: Any, 5-25 lines

Subject: Connections

Prizes: \$50/\$30/\$20

Special Instructions: None.

9) Citizens' Climate Lobby Challenge

Sponsor: Citizens' Climate Lobby of Northeast Tennessee

Form: Any, 12-40 lines

Subject: Climate change

Prizes: \$40/\$20/\$10 + 2 HM

Instructions: None.

Not a member? Join us! Download our membership application at:

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

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10) John R. Benish Memorial Award

Sponsor: Dr. Diane M. Clark
Form: Any, 20-40 lines
Subject: gloves (singular or plural)
Prizes: \$30/\$20/\$10
Instructions: None.

11) Winklebleck Challenge Award

Sponsor: Barbara Blanks
Form: Sonnet (14-15 lines)
Subject: Any
Prizes: \$30/\$15/\$10 + 1-3 HM if merited
Instructions: Any sonnet form, but it must be in correct iambic pentameter. A two to 3 line epigraph is allowed and will not be included in line count.

12) In Honor of My 11 Grandchildren, Whose Love is Unconditional

Sponsor: JoAn Howerton
Form: Any, 40 lines max
Subject: Generation to Generation
Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10
Special Instructions: None.

13) Letting Go Award

Sponsor: Von Bourland
Form: Any, 16-32 lines
Subject: Letting Go
Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10
Instructions: None.

14) The Undercover Contest

Sponsor: Anonymous
Form: Any, 40 lines max
Subject: Any
Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10
Special Instructions: None.

15) Try Something New Award

Sponsor: Lori Goetz
Form: Haibun or Tanka Prose, 30 line max
Subject: Any
Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10
Instructions: none

16) The Pat Smith Memorial Award

Sponsor: Florence Bruce
Form: Blank Verse, 20-40 lines
Subject: Any
Prizes: \$20 + 1 HM
Instructions: Unrhymed iambic pentameter.

17) Bobbie Drobeck Award

Sponsor: Russell Strauss
Form: Narrative Poem, 10-40 lines
Subject: Your story must contain a reference to one of these popular drinks: beer, wine, coffee, tea, or carbonated beverages.
Prizes: \$15/\$10/\$5
Instructions: None

18) Family Ties Award

Sponsor: Anna's Pet Sitting
Form: Any, 4-20 lines
Subject: Family
Prizes: \$20/\$15/\$10
Instructions: None.

19) In Memory of Jo Elliott

Sponsor: Pete Harris
Form: Limerick, 5 lines
Subject: Any
Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10
Instructions: See Florence Bruce's Blogspot for examples,
<http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2014/08/limerick.html>.

20) PST-Knoxville Award

Sponsor: PST-Knoxville
Form: Any, 25-40 lines
Subject: Bridges (any interpretation)
Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10 + HM as merited
Instructions: Please specify form.

If no specific honorable mention requirements are identified by the contest sponsor, then up to three will be awarded as-merited, to be determined by the judge.

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21) Dorsimbra Contest

Sponsor: JoAn Howerton
Form: Dorsimbra, 12 lines
Subject: Family traditions
Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10

Instructions: A dorsimbra is a 12-line poem consisting of (1) a quatrain of iambic pentameter rhyming abab; (2) a quatrain of "short and snappy" free verse, and (3) a quatrain of blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter). The final (12th) verse is the same as the first line. See Florence Bruce's Blogspot for examples:
<https://poemsamples.blogspot.com/search?q=dorsimbra>.

22) Joan T. and Sheron B. Strauss Award

Sponsor: Russell Strauss
Form/Subject: A classic Burma Shave Poem, rhymed, metered, and suitable for a series of road signs. Last line should read "Burma Shave".
Prizes: \$15/\$10/\$5
Instructions: See Florence Bruce's Blogspot for examples,
<http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2015/06/burma-shave.html>.

23) Fibonacci Poem Award

Sponsor: Gail Denham
Form: Fibonacci Poem, 6 lines
Subject: Any (humorous)
Prizes: \$20/\$10/\$5
Instructions: This form is divided into 6 lines, 20 syllables in total. 1-1-2-3-5-8, like the mathematical sequence from which it takes its name. Punctuation is optional.

24) Time to Reflect Award

Sponsor: Lori Goetz
Form: Free Verse, 10-20 lines
Subject: Divisions
Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10
Instructions: None.

25) Personification Contest

Sponsor: Florence Bruce
Form: Any, 40 lines max
Subject: Any — see requirement below
Prizes: \$20 + 1 HM
Instructions: Must use personification wholly or in part. More information is provided on Florence's Blogspot,
<http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2019/03/personification.html>.

26) In Memory of Dotty Katz

Sponsor: Linnie Mirvis
Form: Any, 20 lines max
Subject: The Color Purple
Prizes: \$15/\$10/\$5
Instructions: None.

A Sneak Peek at our 63rd Poetry Festival Workshop Leader —Budd Powell Mahan

Budd Powell Mahan served as the 16th, 19th, and 25th president of the Poetry Society of Texas, the oldest continuously active state poetry society. Mr. Mahan served in multiple offices at the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS), culminating in NFSPS president from 2004-2006. He was also editor of *Encore* from 1999 to 2004.

He focused extensively on student programs in Texas, running the student awards program for 22 years, with Texas winning 13 consecutive first places in the Student Award of the NFSPS. Nationally, he was Manningham Poetry Trust Chair from 2011-2018.

Mr. Mahan's poetry is in every *Prize Poems of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies* since 1990, except when he selected the judges in 1997. His work can also be read in *Poetry Dallas*, *Behold Texas*, *Of Hide and Horn*, *Galaxy of Verse*, and *A Book of the Year*. His winning poem appears in *Poetry in Motion*, the anthology of those prize winners.

He won the Eakin Manuscript Competition in November 2005 with *Falling to Earth*, and won the Stevens Manuscript Competition of National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. in 2006 with *Harvest*. His book *Witness* won the 2010 Morris Memorial Chapbook Contest of the Alabama State Poetry Society, and his book *One Saturday* won the Dallas Poets Community Competition in 2011. In 2016 he won the William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest of the Fort Worth Poetry Society with *Names in a Book*.

Formerly a teacher, Mr. Mahan is an actor in the Dallas area, and takes part in speaking engagements and poetry readings. He has won awards for both painting and photography, but he has found his greatest fulfillment through his writing.

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