

**POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE
67TH ANNUAL POETRY FESTIVAL CONTEST**

DEADLINE AND ENTRY FEES

General contest fee is **\$10** for members, **\$15** for non-members. Please note: some contests may have additional entry fees. Review contests carefully.

A poet may submit only one packet of entries. Entries must be postmarked or emailed by **Friday, December 15, 2023**. Please do not call or email to verify receipt. Follow instructions carefully.

If you have questions, contact Deborah-Zenha Adams, Contest Coordinator, at pstsubmissions@gmail.com.

PRIZES AND PUBLICATION

1. PST publishes first-place poems in *Tennessee Voices Anthology*. Second and third place winners *may* be published on a space-available basis. **For the Tennessee Voices Award contest, PST publishes all finalists.**
2. In addition to prizes, honorable mentions are given as merited by the number of entries in each individual contest and the quality of the material submitted. Published poets, sponsors, and non-sponsor judges will receive a complimentary anthology copy.
3. By submitting an entry, you agree to give PST first publishing rights should your poem be selected for publication. Following publication, all rights revert to the author. You also grant PST non-exclusive electronic permission to post this work in archives and share it through social media and/or live presentations. We ask that you credit *Tennessee Voices Anthology* if the work is published elsewhere in the future.
4. The *Tennessee Voices Anthology* Editorial Board reserves the right to alter line breaks in poems having more than 50 characters per line, including punctuation marks and spaces. We reserve the right to make minor revisions to works (e.g., spacing conventions for em-dashes, correction of typographical errors, and the like).
5. Pseudonyms or pen names of winning poets will be honored in *Tennessee Voices Anthology* and on winner's lists; however, legal names are required for issuing checks.

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ELIGIBILITY

1. Unless otherwise indicated, contests are open to all poets. Please review each contest carefully to ensure you are eligible to participate in a particular contest.
2. Unless otherwise specified, all poems must be the original work of the contestant, unpublished in any form, including electronically and placed on exhibition, and not under consideration or accepted for publication elsewhere. Your work must be created without use of Artificial Intelligence assisted technologies. Your entries must not have won first prize in any poetry contest prior to PST's 67th Annual Festival (to be held spring 2024). NOTE: Prize requirements are exempted for contests seeking previously published poems.
3. The same poem may not be entered in more than one contest.
4. Unless otherwise specified, a poet may not enter more than one poem in a single contest.
5. Entries which do not conform to these rules will be disqualified:
 - a. Poets who violate publication and/or simultaneous submission rules will be disqualified and will be asked to refund any prize money that has been issued.
 - b. Poems which do not meet membership or other criteria specified in specific contest instructions will be disqualified from that contest. Poets will not be notified if poems are disqualified.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION

1. Entries must be single spaced, typed or computer generated in 12-point Times New Roman or similar font. (11 pt is also acceptable.)
2. No graphics unless specifically required by contest instructions or integrated into the poetry form. If submitting a poem style with integrated art (e.g., tanka art, erasure poetry) please specify form for judge. Do not submit original art as entries will not be returned (color copies are acceptable).
3. Unless otherwise specified, line count does not include the title or one space below the title. All other lines, including blank lines, epigraphs and supplemental information are included.
4. We do not accept hand-written poems or poems on onion skin paper.
5. We accept these formats for digital entries: .doc. .docx, .pdf and .txt.
6. Prepare your submission packet with each of the following:
 - a. Summary Sheet: on a separate piece of paper (you may use the body of your email if submitting via email) include an entry summary with your name, address, phone, and email address and a list of contests you are entering. In the list, note contest number and name, and the title of the poem you are submitting for the contest.

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- b. ID Copy of Poem: In the upper right, show the poet's name, mailing address, email address (if available) and note if PST Member or Non-Member. Include ID information on all pages of the ID copy. In the upper left list contest title, contest number and form of poem (e.g., Free Verse, Blank Verse, Villanelle).
- c. Blind Copy of Poem: In the upper left of each entry list contest title, contest number and form of poem (e.g., Free Verse, Blank Verse, Villanelle). Do not place any identifying information on this copy or (if submitting by email) in the file name

ENTRIES BY MAIL (Also see "Format and Submission")

Mail your submission packet and check for entry fees to:

Deborah-Zenha Adams, Contest Chair
232 Morning Glory Way
Waverly TN 37185

- 1. Poems 2 pages or longer must be stapled.
- 2. No paperclips with submissions.
- 3. Separate originals from duplicates and stack in numerical order (1-20) with originals on top.
- 4. Submit in 8 1/2 x 11 or 9 x 12 envelope; folded submissions will not be accepted.

ENTRIES BY EMAIL (Also see "Format and Submission")

Email your submission packet to pstsubmissions@gmail.com

- 1. Include your Summary Sheet in a separate document or in the body of your email.
- 2. Attach two documents (ID Copy and Blind Copy) for each contest you enter. **Do not consolidate your entries.**
- 3. For the ID Copy we recommend a file name of *contest number_Last Name_Title* (e.g., 10_Manning_Tree to Sawdust).
- 4. For the Blind Copy we recommend a file name of *contest number_Title* (e.g., 10_Tree to Sawdust).
- 5. Ensure no identifying information appears in the document or file of your Blind Copy.

Make your entry fee payment online at:

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

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CONTESTS

BEST OF THE FEST AWARD

SPONSOR: PST Board

PRIZE: \$250

The first-place winners of all Festival Contests soliciting unpublished poems will be sent to an outside judge who will select a single poem for the Best of Fest Award. Decision of the judge will be final.

1. Tennessee Voices Award

SPONSOR: PST Board

SUBJECT: Any FORM: Any

LINE LIMIT: Max 40

ELIGIBILITY: Tennessee residents and PST members only

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: This contest is equivalent to a "Call for

Submissions" for *Tennessee Voices*

Anthology. An editorial panel will select finalists and an outside judge

will select winners. All finalists and winners will be published in

Tennessee Voices Anthology.

PRIZES: 1st \$150 / 2nd \$100 / 3rd \$50

2. Play it Again, Sam

SPONSOR: PST Board

SUBJECT: Any FORM: Any

LINE LIMIT: 40

ELIGIBILITY: PST Members only

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: A previously published poem. Note where

published. Members may enter as many times as they like. **\$2 per entry.**

PRIZES: Prizes depend on the number of entries at \$2 per entry

3. President's Award

SPONSOR: Lisa Kamolnick

SUBJECT: "Little big things"

FORM: Any

LINE LIMIT: 50

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Sometimes "little" things turn out to be a BIG deal.

Is it magic? Divine? Human nature to shift perspective? Share a poem about one or more "little big things" in life.

PRIZES: 1st \$55 / 2nd \$30 / 3rd \$15

4. Reflections

SPONSOR: Ruby Jones

SUBJECT: Reflections

FORM: Any

LINE LIMIT: Min.10 – Max 50

PRIZES: 1st \$40 / 2nd \$25 / 3rd \$15

5. Found in the Text

SPONSOR: Deborah-Zenha Adams

SUBJECT: Any

FORM: Erasure

LINE LIMIT: Max 50

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Poems must be drawn from the book *A Handy*

Guide for Beggars: Especially Those of the Poetic Fraternity by Vachel

Lindsay. The ebook is available free of charge at Project Gutenberg:

<https://gutenberg.org/ebooks/67947>

- Entries should include text from which the erasure poem is drawn.

Poems may be as simple or elaborate as you wish, but note that the final

determination will be made based on the erasure poem itself.

PRIZES: 1st \$ 40 / 2nd \$10 / 3rd \$5

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6. I'll Take the French Form, S'il Vous Plait

SPONSOR: Harry and Rita Moritz
 SUBJECT: Any
 FORM: Any French Form
 LINE LIMIT: As dictated by form
 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Make sure your poem meets the specific requirements of the form.
 Name the form used.
 PRIZES: 1st \$ 40 / 2nd \$ 20/ 3rd \$15

7. The Diane M. Clark Award

SPONSOR: Dr. Diane M. Clark
 SUBJECT: A Billboard
 FORM: Any
 LINE LIMIT: 32 Max
 PRIZES: 1st \$30 / 2nd \$20 / 3rd \$10

8. Fishing Tales

SPONSOR: Howard Carman
 SUBJECT: Fishing
 FORM: Any
 LINE LIMIT: 40
 PRIZES: 1st \$25 / 2nd \$15 / 3rd \$10

9. Jane West Memorial

SPONSOR: Gail Denham
 SUBJECT: Any
 FORM: Fibonacci
 LINE LIMIT: None
 PRIZES: 1st \$25 / 2nd \$15 / 3rd \$10

10. Haiku

SPONSOR: Connie Jordan Green
 SUBJECT: Any
 FORM: Haiku sequence
 LINE LIMIT: The haiku sequence should be a minimum of 15 lines (5 haiku) and maximum of 21 lines (7 haiku)
 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: The sequence should consist of haiku that are linked thematically.
 PRIZES: 1st \$25 / 2nd \$15 / 3rd \$10

11. Grands

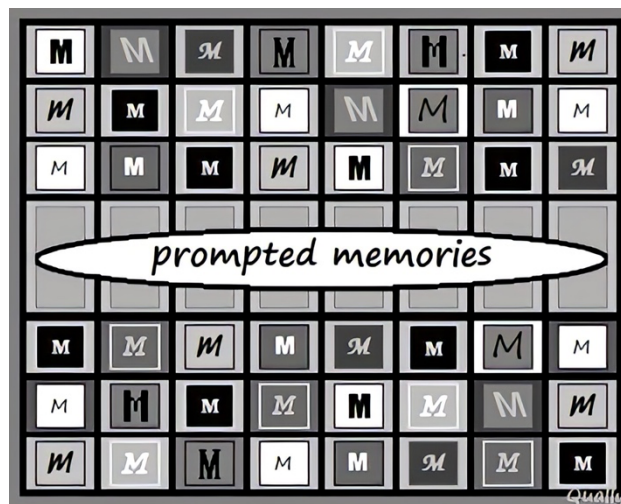
SPONSOR: Dr. Emory D. Jones
 SUBJECT: Grandparents or Grandchildren
 FORM: Any
 LINE LIMIT: 40
 PRIZES: 1st \$25 / 2nd \$ 15/ 3rd \$10

12. Tennessee Etheree

SPONSOR: Pat Hope
 SUBJECT: anything Tennessee-related
 FORM: Etheree
 LINE LIMIT: 10 or 20 per form
 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Follow Form, can have one etheree followed by a second etheree reversed (20 lines total)
 PRIZES: 1st \$25 / 2nd \$15 / 3rd \$10

13. Memory Bank

SPONSOR: Janet Qually
 SUBJECT: Any
 FORM: Any
 LINE LIMIT: 40
 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Tap into your memory banks and write an ekphrastic poem in response to the psychologically based artwork below.
 PRIZES: 1st \$25 / 2nd \$15 / 3rd \$10



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14. Tennessee Heroes

SPONSOR: Anna's Pet Sitting
SUBJECT: The greatest Tennessean,
past or present
FORM: Any
LINE LIMIT: 40
PRIZES: 1st \$25 / 2nd \$15 / 3rd \$10

15. Tennessee Villains

SPONSOR: William Hill Art and Poetry
SUBJECT: The worst Tennessean, past
or present
FORM: Any
LINE LIMIT: 40
PRIZES: 1st \$25 / 2nd \$15 / 3rd \$10

16. Bobbie Drobeck Memorial Award

SPONSOR: Russell H. Strauss
SUBJECT: any humorous subject
FORM: Any
LINE LIMIT: Min. 6 – Max. 20
PRIZES: 1st \$20 / 2nd \$15 / 3rd \$10

**17. Joan T and Sheron B Strauss
Memorial Award**

SPONSOR: Russell H. Strauss
SUBJECT: Across the Border (a poem
about any of the eight states that
border Tennessee)
FORM: Any
LINE LIMIT: Min. 10 – Max. 40
PRIZES: 1st \$20 / 2nd \$15 / 3rd \$10

Many thanks to our sponsors, judges, and festival contest coordinator, Deborah-Zenha Adams.

ABOUT POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE

Poetry Society of Tennessee was founded in 1953 by poets for poets. The society seeks to create community and provide a forum for development in the art and craft of poetry, providing opportunities for poets and poetry lovers of all ages to connect, grow and gain recognition. For more information about the society's activities and membership benefits, visit www.poetrytennessee.org.