



# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing  
and appreciation of poetry in America.

## Strophes

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January 2025



Joseph  
Cavanaugh  
36th NFSPS  
President

Dear NFSPS Poets,

I am happy to report in this Strophes Edition on progress in several key areas of importance to NFSPS members. These include: The approval of a new State Chapter for the State of Louisiana and the appointment of the new Honorary Chancellor, Ihor Pavlyuk, the People's Poet of Ukraine. In addition, I am proud to report the following:

1) The unanimous adoption by the NFSPS Board at the October Meeting of an Inclusionary Policy Statement, as originally discussed at the June Convention in Atlanta. The Policy Statement, to be included on documents from the President, and other official correspondence is:

***To promote inclusivity and spread love, peace, and positivity among our members, the National Federation of State Poetry Societies does not discriminate based on age, color, ethnicity, race, national origin, disability, marital status, pregnancy, religion, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, or any legally protected classification in its practices, programs, or activities, and does not tolerate such discrimination, in written, spoken or other formats, from any participant.***

2) RESOURCES FOR ORPHANS in Ukraine. Working with Ihor Pavlyuk, the People's Poet of Ukraine, we have been successful in raising \$6,000 to fund a project for an Orphanage in Volyn, Ukraine to implement a Transforming Trauma program for the orphans there. The project includes hardware, software, installation and staff training for an interactive video game system that uses play therapy specifically designed to overcome trauma caused by the war. We will stay in touch with the Orphanage in the months to come with regular reports on the success of the project. Since our donations exceeded the cost of the project, we were able to send an additional \$200 for Christmas presents for the orphans. Congratulations and thank you to all of the generous donors who made this possible.

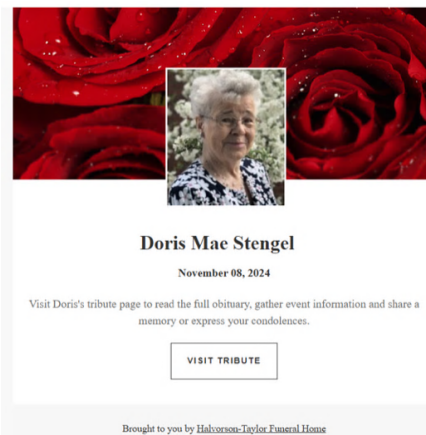
3) POETS FOR PEACE ANTHOLOGY M. Palowski Moore and Kathy Cotton have been working with a talented working team of poets to create a framework for the publication of an anthology of peace poems to be published in the spring. More detailed information is available in this edition of Strophes.

If you are interested in working together as a member of the team, please let me know your interests and availability. There are also a number of Committee and Appointed Positions still available on the NFSPS Board and a variety of meaningful ways to serve. Just send a note to [president@nfspd.net](mailto:president@nfspd.net) or [orcavanaugh1@gmail.com](mailto:orcavanaugh1@gmail.com) to begin the discussion about how you can become a valuable part of these exciting endeavors.

Thank you again for giving me this opportunity to serve as your President for the next two years. I welcome your comments,

suggestions and help. We look forward to 2025 for continued success in all of our activities and lots of good poetry.

Peace, love and poetry, ~ Joe Cavanaugh, 36<sup>th</sup> NFSPS President



NFSPS is saddened to announce the passing of Doris Stengel. Doris was a long-standing member of the League of Minnesota Poets, where she served both as president and as Poet Laureate. She was also a dedicated member of the NFSPS Board and held the position of president from 2006 to 2008. Doris will be deeply missed, but our memories of her and her poetry will continue to live on. We invite you to read her obituary and leave comments on her tribute page. Her family has graciously suggested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the League of Minnesota Poets in her honor.

### 2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION/SLAM “Enchanting Words”

The National Federation of State Poetry Societies has selected Albuquerque as the location for their next annual convention. Dates are July 23-28, 2025. Naomi Shihab Nye will be the Keynote on Sunday and Lauren Camp will be the New Mexico Showcase Keynote

At the Annual Convention in Atlanta in June 2024, the NFSPS Board took bold steps toward the future of the Federation and poetry across America. It agreed to serve as the final authority on who will represent the USA at the annual Individual Slam Poetry World Cup. A bit of history: This move is the culmination of what began at the Albuquerque NFSPS Convention in 2013. Hakim Belamy, then coach of the ABQ Youth Slam Team, brought the team in to perform for and inform attendees about slam poetry. Their show sparked the founding of the BlackBerry Peach (BBP) Prize, an NFSPS contest blending print and performance that debuted in 2017.

An offshoot of the BBP Prize was the live BBP National Slam Poetry Competition (BBP Slam), which had its first running in October 2022 at the Florida State Poetry Society's state convention in Daytona. One of the first live competitions after the pandemic, the BBP Slam had a phenomenal start, with 44 entrants nationwide, who began spreading the word in slam communities here and abroad. (continued page 4)

# **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.**

Organized October 17, 1959

Mary B. Wall, Founder

**Honorary Chancellor: Ihor Pavlyuk**

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Elected, NFSPS Convention, June 2024

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## **STROPHES**

*Strophes*, the newsletter of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc., is published four times a year: August (\*June 25th) ~ October (\*August 25th) ~ January (\*November 25th) ~ April (\*February 25th). News items and information on contests may be sent via regular mail or email, which is preferred, by authorized members of NFSPS member state societies to:

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\* Submission Deadlines

*Strophes* is available without cost to all paid-up members of NFSPS member state societies when mailed/shipped in bulk to the president or other designated person, who is responsible for ordering the number needed by the submission deadline for each issue. Individual subscriptions are \$4.00 a year to cover handling costs. Special orders are mailed separately. To order a single issue: specify the issue ordered, include a **SASE with adequate postage for up to 12 pages** and \$1.00 per copy.

## **NFSPS PAST PRESIDENTS**

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## NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

The FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION recently held its 2024 convention in Palatka, Florida, where more than 180 poetry awards were announced from our annual contests. A list of winners is available online in our bi-monthly magazine *Of Poets and Poetry* November 2024. Workshops at the convention were led by our Chancellors Carol Frost, MB McLatchey, and Sean Sexton, along with guest poet Justincredible (Justin Lang), and a panel discussion covered questions from attendees about the art and craft of poetry.

New officers were elected: Mark Andrew James Terry as president, Sonja Jean Craig as vice president, Diane Neff as secretary, and Peter Gordon was appointed treasurer. We are grateful for the outstanding leadership of our immediate past president, Mary Marcelle, who led us with vision and heart for the past two years.

The FSPA anthology, *Cadence* volume 42, was distributed at the convention, containing each first place poem from our contests, poetry from our chancellors, and poems and photography from FSPA members. It is available through Amazon, ISBN 979-8341065680.

~ Diane Neff, Secretary

**ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY:** Illinois State Poetry Society published their latest anthology, *Distilled Lives, Volume 7*. We celebrated with a reading on Zoom which included members from across the country and across the pond in South Wales! It was so much fun to get together, we'll be doing this several times a year and call it Poetic Connections. We are gearing up for our student contest to begin in January and cementing out programs for Poetry Month. We also started a Facebook page! You can like us here: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Illinois-State-Poetry-Society/61567095448347/> ~ Mary Beth Bretzlauf, President

**MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY** We Had our October meeting in Winthrop, MA, with CREW Poets Chapter hosting. Besides the workshop and readings, we celebrated President Jeanette Maes's 90th birthday. It was a happy occasion much to her surprise. The Round Robin continues to travel through the mail for critique among members. Upcoming contests: Of Thee I Sing, in praise of someone/something, deadline Feb. 15, prizes 50/25/15, 40 line limit. Also the Gertrude Dole Memorial Award, subject Poets Choice, prizes 25/15/10, deadline April 15th. Contact Contest Chairman Roberta Hung, 22 Salisbury Rd., Wakefield, MA 01880. Our next meeting will be in April. ~ Beverley Barnes, *Strophes* Reporter

**LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS:** is producing a Publishing Workshop Series on Zoom that will run from December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 – May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Each 90-minute workshop will feature a presentation and discussion of an important aspect of publishing poetry books. Workshops will be held on the second Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to 11:30 am Central Time. They are free and open to the public. If you're interested in attending, please email [leagueofmnpoets@gmail.com](mailto:leagueofmnpoets@gmail.com) to request the Zoom link.

Dec 21, 2024 Support Systems. The different types of professional helpers: agents, coaches, and mentors; Applying for residencies and grants; Informal support groups and networks.

Jan 18, 2025 Manuscript Preparation. What do editors, publishers, and reviewers look for? What do they expect the writer to include? What are submission no-nos?

Feb 15, 2025 Design considerations. What are the options for layout? Who is responsible for typesetting and other formalities? How are covers decided on? What makes a good cover?

Mar 15, 2025 Marketing I. What is involved in marketing? What are the writer's responsibilities for marketing? How do you pitch your book to potential readers? How do you reach them? What are the associated costs?

Apr 19, 2025 Marketing II. How is social media best utilized for marketing? Where can you sell your book? How can you contact retailers? How can you book readings?

May 17, 2025 Financial Considerations. What costs are associated with finding a publisher or with self-publishing? What are the tax implications? Are there potential liability risks? How much money can you make?

Once again, if you're interested in attending, please email [leagueofmnpoets@gmail.com](mailto:leagueofmnpoets@gmail.com) to request the Zoom link.

**MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY** New officers installed at our spring annual meeting are Mary Beth Magee, president; Jeanne Kelly, Vice-President; Patsy Twiner, Secretary and Daniel Pickett, treasurer. Our guest speaker was Dr. Catherine Pierce, the state's Poet Laureate, who gave an inspiring address on "The World in Poetry" and conducted a workshop on creativity entitled "Zoom In: The Close Up Magic of Poetry." Janice Canerdy, our Poet of the Year, read from her book "From Serious to Slapstick: Poems Like Life."

North Branch is making preparations for MPS SpringFest to be held at Lake Tiak O'khata in Louisville. The members only contests have been well received. Central Branch continues to develop poetry appreciation programs for both young people and adults at Brandon Library, and has Open Mic nights at Pacesetter Gallery in Flowood. South Branch will be holding their first Senior Center poetry session in December at Pascagoula Senior Center. Their November meeting featured guest speaker Laura Keriakos, who leads writing classes at the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center. ~ Patsy Twiner, President

**POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE:** This fall's programs featured Russell Strauss (on society contests) and award-winning authors Joanna Grisham and Larry Thacker. Members have access to replays. Jake Lawson chairs. Small groups met monthly for readings, open mics, and workshops (various members lead).

The society celebrated the launch of *Tennessee Voices Anthology, 2023-2024*, on September 3 during PoetTEA, the Northeast region's cosponsored open mic with Poetry Writers Workshop, and on September 14 during the East region's Poetry Pie virtual open mic.

Following Hurricane Helene, which devastated Tennessee's northeast region, PST accepted donations from guests and members

and distributed them to four different relief distribution points serving affected counties.

Several contests opened for entries (coordinator/chair noted):

- 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Poetry Festival Contests (Deborah Adams).
- Tennessee Visions Cover Art Contest (Cynthia Storrs).
- PST Student Contests for grades 2-12 (Seth Grindstaff).
- Tennessee Collegiate Poetry Contest (Fred Tuder and Jake Lawson). Entries closed November 7.

PST 2024-2025 members-only contests are underway (Russell Strauss). Middle Tennessee region announced Full Moon Poetry contest winners November 9 (Cathy Hollister).

PST's bookstore continues to add member authors. The society also promoted several member authors' recent book releases.

Learn more at our website ([www.poetrytennessee.org](http://www.poetrytennessee.org)), blog (<https://poetrytennessee.com>), or on Facebook and Instagram (handle: @poetrysocietyoftennessee). ~ *Lisa Kamolnick, President*

**POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS:** The Poetry Society of Texas Annual Awards Luncheon was held on November 9, 2024 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Dallas, Texas. Luncheon arrangements and reservations were handled by Chairperson Beth Ayers, and the theme was Planting Seeds of Poetry. The program cover featured a large sunflower bloom, and on one wall in the room was a mural with blue sky and white clouds with our theme in bold letters across the top. A few feet in front of the mural was a white picket fence with sunflowers and other small flowers attached to the front. This was a wonderful place for couples and groups to pose for photos behind the picket fence with the sky in the background. Catherine L'Herisson and Barbara Blanks helped attendees find their name tags and sign the guest book at the sign-in table. Beth welcomed members and guests, and led the silent invocation before the meal. The cake for dessert was a birthday cake to celebrate Budd Powell Mahan's 80th birthday, and we sang "Happy Birthday" to him. After the meal, President Catherine L'Herisson was in charge of introductions, and then brought greetings from NFSPS, Inc. Budd Powell Mahan, Chairman of the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award, announced that this year's recipient was Charlotte Renk, who was unable to attend. After a short break, Budd, our Annual Contests Chairman, announced the top three places in contests 100 to 51. First place winners who were present read their poems. After another short break and a famous DoubleTree cookie, Budd announced the top three places in contests 50 to 1. Mary Ellen Bluntzer, a new member, was the winner of contest #1. Susan Maxwell Campbell and Robert Schinzel, last year's winner of the Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize, announced that there were 14 entries this year, and that the winner was Diane Glancy, who also won the manuscript contest in 2016. Diane came to the podium and read a poem from her winning manuscript. The judge was Alexis Rhone Fancher. Galen Steele placed second, and Budd Powell Mahan was third. After short closing remarks, attendees posed for more photos in front of the mural behind the white picket fence created by Beth and Mark Ayers. ~ *Catherine L'Herisson, President*

## 2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION/SLAM "Enchanting Words" (continued from page 1)

When BBP ran in tandem with the 2023 and 2024 NFSPS Conventions, however, it had fewer entrants because two other big-money slams were also being held in mid-June. Consequently, the NFSPS Board provisionally changed the dates of its 2025 Convention to late July, giving top poets from Southern Fried and Big Foot Slams time to enter the BBP Slam.

Since the NFSPS started sponsoring the BBP Slam, it has gained a cadre of energetic and internet/social media savvy younger poets eager to help with communications, publicity, and performance. They are looking to learn from traditionalists but also to be recognized for their brand of poetry.

In June 2019, the NMSPS hosted the last traditional NFSPS Annual Convention in Santa Fe. Then Covid struck. When in-person (or hybrid) conventions became possible again, the Federation resumed its Annual Conventions with new twists. The Ohio Poetry Association hosted the first hybrid convention and led the way for what was to come. After the Ohio Convention, the Federation decided events would no longer be the sole responsibility of the State Poetry Societies (SPSs). Second, they would continue to be hybrid events, offering in-person and Zoom access. Third, in October 2022, the Blackberry Peach (BBP) National Poetry Slam—sponsored by NFSPS—debuted in Daytona Shores, Florida.

At the NFSPS Convention in Des Moines, IA (2023), the BBP Slam ran (in tandem) with the hybrid Annual Convention and achieved good reviews. At the 2024 Roswell, GA, event, the Federation agreed to an appeal from major venues in the US Slam community at large to designate the BBP Slam as the final arbiter for choosing a US Individual Slam Champion to represent America abroad.

The 2025 NFSPS Annual Convention and BBP Slam—under its official title, the **BlackBerry Peach National Individual Slam Poetry Championship**—will be held in Albuquerque from July 23 to 28 next year. This will be the first time the championship will operate with this new status and responsibility.

NMSPS threw great parties in 2013 (Albuquerque) and 2019 (Santa Fe) when they hosted the NFSPS Annual Conventions. With Naomi Shihab Nye as the Keynote Speaker on Sunday, and Lauren Camp, New Mexico Poet Laureate as the NMSPS Showcase Keynote, "Enchanting Words" is sounding more and more exciting! Block out July 23-28, 2025 in your calendar and head to Albuquerque! ~ *Shirley Blackwell, NMSPS Convention Coordinator*



## INCREASING OUR MEMBERSHIP: GROWTH OF OUR STATE SOCIETIES 2.0 - PART III

(revised from a series of articles published in *Strophes* in 2013)

**Steven Concert, NFSPS 1st Vice President**

In the previous articles of this series, discussion focused on where to find potential new members as well as how to recruit them. Once you have attracted the new members, what are you going to do to keep them? In order to keep members, which includes both new and long term, you must be able to meet their needs. This is where everything gets tricky, in order to answer the question we need to understand many things: what brings members to the society, what do they want or need from the group, and what will keep them as part of the organization.

Over time, it is likely that the needs of individuals will change, and what drew someone in to a state society 28 years ago may not be valid today. To be successful, an organization must have vision and willingness to grow and change as the needs of the majority of the membership changes. When programs we initially offer prove to be successful, they should be nourished so they can thrive. When programs are no longer successful through support by a majority of the individuals within the organization, must we continue to invest our time—hours and money—on them just because they are part of our tradition?

What is your cost-to-benefit ratio? Take a look at your costs. Does the membership fee match the benefits received? Consider that over the years memberships fees have gone up, but recently benefits have shrunk, or costs have shifted – i.e., your newsletter is now in a digital-only format so should you still be expecting members to pay for printing and postage expenses. Should you still be asking for \$20 in annual membership fees when your financial books only show that \$5 is needed? If you are not reducing the cost of dues after a shift to all digital, explain to membership where incoming funds were shifted to. Membership has a right know what benefits and/or programs their dues pay for—sometimes it may not be a direct benefit to the members. If an individual feels that they are not receiving value for their membership dues, they might not be willing to continue with the organization. Not every program we offer needs to have a financial cost. Here are some possibilities that can be offered to members:

**Mentorship:** More experienced poets can assist novice poets in learning craft, honing skills, etc. This can be accomplished easily through email exchanges, virtual meetings, as well as in-person instruction, and can be either one-on-one or group based.

**Critique Services:** Several state societies offer critique service to members. At least one state society offers critiques to non-members for a small fee. More than a few years ago in Pennsylvania, the critique service was done anonymously. Members would submit their poems for critique (up to 3 at one time per quarter) to the Chairperson of the Critique Panel, and the Chairperson would send the poems to a member of the panel. After the panel member critiqued the poems, they were sent back to the poet via SASE. In Pennsylvania, the financial costs of the program were the responsibility of the person seeking the critique—they supplied stamped envelopes for the Chairperson to send the poems to a panel member and then back to the individual. Most big literary conferences offer individualized critiques as part of their registration package. Individuals get

feedback on their efforts and that is what they are looking for. And with the increased use of online meeting platforms, critique groups have landed in virtual meeting space.

**Self-Promotion:** Do members have opportunity to promote their achievements and accolades through the society's newsletters and social media outlets? Do members have opportunity to promote services they provide that may be helpful to other members? Do society websites provide links to the websites of individual members?

**Speaker Opportunities:** Are members given opportunity to be presenters at state society meetings and conferences? Through networking efforts, is your state society able to arrange for members to be guest speakers for events outside of the organization? Are there grant opportunities for speakers available through state funding? Other funding? Pass-thru-funding grant opportunities may exist where the non-profit state society becomes the fiscal sponsor for a program—Pennsylvania has such opportunities. Check with your own state government to see what opportunities are available. While in-person is likely preferred, conducting readings through virtual meetings can be an added attraction which would permit for featuring readers beyond your state borders with little to no expense, and perhaps freeing up funds to pay the speaker a reading stipend.

**Meetings / Conferences:** Does your state society hold meetings and conferences to engage with their members? How accessible are state meetings and conferences to all society members? Are they centrally located, always in the same location, or do they move around the state, so all members (even those in remote locations) have equal opportunity to attend? Are business meetings all business or are there opportunities for members to grow through workshops or camaraderie? Are they affordable to attend?

**Poetry Readings / Poetry Festivals / Book Fairs, etc.:** Can your state organize, or assist with the organization of readings and/or festivals? Are colleges and universities aware that your organization exists and that members are available to give public readings?

**Anthology / Publishing:** Does your state organization assist members with getting their work published? Do you publish a state anthology which members can contribute their own work? How do you manage costs for anthology publishing? Have you considered approaching a community college or technical (tech) school? The students of these two institutions get graded on the completion of projects. As a nonprofit, if you approach the school/instructor with your needs, you may be able to get your projects done for little or no cost.

Get members involved, ask them to help on projects. Don't wait until the organization has an urgent need for volunteers. Get members working together early on. Listen to their ideas, don't dismiss their valuable input (especially if they are younger—if they enjoy being in the society, they will help recruit their friends and contacts). If they feel that they are part of the organization, not just a number, they will be more invested in the continued success of the organization.

Society leaders should make it a point to get to know the members. Learn to identify how each member can help the society to grow. What is their “day job”? What in their “past” can be of use today? Instead of a general request for volunteers, ask specific people to do a task. Survey your membership to see who has an interest in leading the society but lacks the knowledge of specific responsibilities. Once identified, pair them up with someone who knows “the ropes.” Run

seminars, virtually or in-person, on the specific tasks of the society. Put together a manual which explains the positions within the organization, the tasks individuals in the position are expected to perform, timelines when these tasks need to be completed, etc. If the society has a website, upload the manual to make it readily available to all members who might have an interest.

When individuals make a choice to not renew their membership, does your society try to reach out to them to understand why they are not continuing? Putting effort into this could help the organization to overcome obstacles which they may not be aware even exist. ~ *Steven Concert, NFSPS 1st Vice President*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS IN OUR FIRST EVER MEMBERS ONLY CONTEST ON SUBMITTABLE!

\*First Place- Jennifer Patino, Poetry Society of Michigan  
**Blood in Winter**

Entwined branches of  
birches in the distance  
were guardians of  
the white fields

Hands like paper  
or bark, scented  
of earth and coffee,  
covered your eyes to hide

them from cherry circles  
on fresh snow, crimson  
droplets on pure linoleum,  
from a world too blurry

through glasses not your  
own So young to have  
to wear such thick glasses, back  
when we drank from strawberry jam jars,

our knees trembling like jelly  
as the dogs ran to the treeline  
and a faded line of defense  
was forever lost to a blizzard

\*Second Place: shei sanchez, Ohio Poetry Association  
**Listening to Thich Nhat Hanh  
While Walking Down a Snowy Dune**

The thick winter that is February and all is silence.  
A forest quilted in quiet. Silent my solitude.  
Its skin pulsing underneath, almost spellbound,  
by the feather-calm voice of Teacher. Silent  
the trees. Arms bare and fingers delicate, praying  
like children salving their sorrows. Silent  
the birds. They see stories of light spiraling  
toward the open chest of morning. Silent  
the sleepless breath. Waking bodies, kindling  
them to live, live now, live soon. Silent  
the shape of worry. Digging lines on the face  
of every living thing, inexplicable lines. Hushing



every muddy truth into a fistful of clarity. Silent  
the color of memory. Each extant and dead  
dream a warm shade of day. So silent, this thick  
February winter. So still, Teacher's voice, carrying  
my silence home, walking me down the softening snow.

\*Third Place: Carrie Cantalupo Sharp, Poetry Society of Michigan  
**ode to the elusive aurora borealis**

wrapped in flannel we sit in the field  
enveloped in night silence  
velvet black

cricket-ticks time  
grass, Queen Anne's lace  
nod in breeze waves

quiet as if the  
aurora borealis will not show  
herself, if we are too loud

or should blink  
swallow with a gulp  
our anticipation

but again, tonight  
she doesn't quiver in the dark  
no sacred unveiling

we are patient  
know we may come again  
and again

have often gone  
to the beach at Port Oneida,  
Northport... to no avail

the Anishinaabe, tell us  
the northern lights  
signify that more awaits us

on the other side  
and so we sit  
knowing nothing is lost

by simply being here

The Theme for the Quarterly Contest was “Winter”, and the judge was Erin Robertson. There were 16 entries. Erin Robertson teaches outdoor nature writing classes (@bocowildwriters) and serves as Writer-in-Residence for Friends of Coal Creek, her local watershed protection organization. Her poetry has been published in the *North American Review*, *Cold Mountain Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Deep Wild*, and elsewhere, and has been performed by Ars Nova Singers and The Crossing choir. She lives in Louisville, Colorado with her remarkable husband, two sons, parakeet, and pup. They teach her about wonder every day. ~ Julie Cummings

## Sunflowers Rising

### PEACE POEMS ANTHOLOGY



# SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

**Poets for Peace** is creating an anthology of peace poems to raise awareness about challenges facing orphans of war in Ukraine. All proceeds from this project will provide much-needed assistance to programs that provide crucial recovery resources for Ukraine's orphans.

### Submission Guidelines

Any submission not meeting all guidelines will be disqualified.

- 1. Eligibility.** Submissions are open to all, including international poets.
- 2. Theme.** The theme of all anthology poems will be peace, including the toll of war, life during wartime, fears, hopes, challenges, dreams, etc.
- 3. Literary Standards.** We will not publish work that includes gratuitous profanity, or is obscene, sexually graphic, hate-mongering, or abusive of any social, racial, ethnic, religious, or gender group.
- 4. Poems.** By making a submission, the poet affirms poems are their original work, without A.I. assistance. Previously published poems must include source attribution.
- 5. Line limits.** Each poem is limited to 40 lines, including blank lines. Do not count the title and blank line following the title. No line will exceed 50 characters, including punctuation.
- 6. Font.** Use a plain font. Times New Roman, 12 point is preferred.
- 7. Submissions.** Make only one submission, which can include up to three poems (three is preferred). An experienced review panel will select one qualifying poem for the anthology.
- 8. Submission Files.** Submit poems, one poem per page, as pdf., .doc, .docx, or .rtf file. Poet's name, address, email address and phone number must be included on the upper left corner of each page.
- 9. Submission period.** Submissions will close at a **maximum of 150 poets**, between January 1, 2025 through midnight EST, March 31, 2025.
- 10. Submission email.** Send **only one** email. In the subject line, type **POETS FOR PEACE SUBMISSIONS**. In the body of the email, type your name as you want it to appear in the anthology, plus your address, email address, phone number, and the number of poems you are submitting. Attach poem file, and send via email to: [poets4peace.anthology@gmail.com](mailto:poets4peace.anthology@gmail.com).
- 11. Exclusions.** We cannot accept poems embedded in the body of an email or paper copies sent by mail.
- 12. Submission fee.** There is no fee for Ukrainian poets. A fee of \$10 for all other poets can be paid to our fiscal agent via PayPal, Florida State Poets Association (in the comment box please indicate Poets for Peace Anthology) OR by sending a check made payable to Poets for Peace c/o Mark Terry, 300 East Miller Street, Orlando, FL 32806.
- 13. Notification.** Poets will be notified of receipt of poems, fee payment, and anthology selection no later than May 1, 2025.

Please consider submitting your poems and share your voice with the many poets of Poets for Peace who are dedicated to this mission..

Florida State Poets Association serves as the fiscal agent for **Poets for Peace**.

## NFSPS DEADLINES AND DATES

### Manningham Submission Period:

September 15, 2024 - November 15, 2024

### Stevens Manuscript Submission Period:

August 15, 2024- October 15, 2024

### CUP Submission Period:

December 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025

### BlackBerry Peach (Spoken Word) Submission Period:

January 1, 2025 – March 15, 2025

### Annual Contest Submission Period:

January 1, 2025 – March 15, 2025

### State Membership Lists and Annual Dues Deadline:

January 15, 2025

Updates due by March 15, 2025

### Strophes Reports or Articles:

August Issue Deadline: June 25<sup>th</sup>

October Issue Deadline: August 25<sup>th</sup>

January Issue Deadline: November 25<sup>th</sup>

April Issue Deadline: February 25<sup>th</sup>

### BlackBerry Peach SLAM Entry Period:

Stay tuned for further information!

### Contest Sponsorship Forms and Payment:

March 15<sup>th</sup> for the following year

### State Annual Reports:

One week prior to convention

### Board and Committee Annual Reports:

One week prior to convention or when complete in special cases. (Treasurer, Contest Chair)

### State President Meetings:

Watch for emails!

### Learning Central Meetings:

Watch for emails!

### Quarterly Contest Submission Window

October 1-October 31

January 1-January 31

April 1- April 30

August 1 – August 31

### PLEASE BE WARY OF SCAMMERS

Whenever you get an email with my name as the sender, check to see if the message is actually sent from [president@nfsp.net](mailto:president@nfsp.net). If it isn't, I suggest you report the email as scam/phishing to your email provider. I will never ask you for money or gift cards in an email or text message.

~ Joe Cavanaugh, 36th NFSPS President

### PAST STEVENS MANUSCRIPTS

Prize-winning collections from the past may be ordered from Polly Opsahl for the prices listed on the order form available at <https://www.nfsp.net/StevensOrder.pdf>. Add to the price of the book/s mailing costs of \$2.00 for the first book and \$.50 for each additional book. Make checks payable to NFSPS. Her mailing address is on the bottom of the form.

### NFSPS QUARTERLY CONTEST ON SUBMITTABLE

The NFSPS quarterly contest window will be open on Submittable from January 1 to January 31. **This Quarter the subject is Any and the form is Any. There is a 40 line limit. The Entry Fee is \$2** Poets may submit one poem. Judging will occur in February, and the top three poems will be published in the next issue. Prizes for first, second, and third place will be a percentage of the combined entry fees (\$2 per poem, 1 poem per person), at 45%, 35% and 20%. If you need assistance with Submittable, please email [admin@nfsp.net](mailto:admin@nfsp.net) and details will be sent to you.

### ENCORE PRIZE POEMS 2024



The 2024 anthology of prize-winning poems awarded at the “Voices Set Free” NFSPS convention is available on amazon.com. All

royalties from *Encore* sales support NFSPS.

~ Kathy Cotton, *Encore* Editor

### NFSPS CONTEST BROCHURE

The NFSPS 2025 Contest Brochure is included in this issue of *Strophes* and is also available online. You may request a copy by mailing a SASE with adequate postage for 4 pages to Julie Cummings, 9428 Fallen Rock Road, Conifer, CO 80433.

### 2025 NFSPS ANNUAL CONTESTS

All mailed entries can be sent to:

2025 Contest Chair  
C/O Julie Cummings  
5858 Pintail Way  
Frederick, CO 80504-9668

[nfsp.submittable.com](http://nfsp.submittable.com)