

NEWS 'N' NOTES

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

Founded February 5, 1931

Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>

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February 2019

President's Address:

Winter

We are in the middle of winter.

Snow is so beautiful when you can watch it drift down and have the blessing of staying at home. There is a certain thankfulness for not having to drive in it. It brings the wonder of watching many varieties of birds visit the feeder carefully hung in front of the big window. Remember to pay extra attention so it remains filled for the many species that depend on those seeds in cold, inclement weather. Counting blessings, keeping the fireplace stoked, longingly looking out from a warm chair and enjoying another cup makes winter a most wonderful time of the year. To make it the complete heaven dreamed of are good books and writing materials a fingertip away. The world is in slow motion with traffic at a standstill. Beautiful!! These scenes are poems that write themselves.

And somewhere it's like that, but not in Arkansas. Here it's rainy with temperatures staying above thirty. People are out in t-shirts and shorts and even flip-flops. Traffic lines and Walmart lines are so uninspiring. The slosh and slog of roads and yards are ugly. Gray, overcast skies seem like water-soaked blankets on endless rolls. Where is the weather hiding that we are supposed to have? Be of good cheer, I saw buttercups today. Not opened, mind you, but they will be by week's end and after that, well, who knows. Winter will blast us with its bluster the last three days of February. It's Arkansas. Write anyway.

Life is too short to be without poetry.

Dennis Patton
President, PRA

2019 Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration April 13th:

PRA will host its annual Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration in Little Rock on April 13th from 9AM to 3PM at the Cox Building's 3rd floor on the Central Arkansas Library campus at 120 River Market Avenue. Guest speaker will be H.K. (Heather) Hummel, poet, author, and Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. Professor Hummel has a MFA in Creative Writing and a MA in English Literature. She has written two books, published two chapbooks, and had her work appear in a variety of literary journals and anthologies. Ms. Hummel also will share critiques of poems that members submit.

Members are invited to send 1-2 poems by February 28th for Professor Hummel's critique to Dennis Patton, 2512 Springhill Circle, Alexander, AR 72002. Attendees also may submit a serious poem or light poem at registration. (See guidelines on page 10 of your yearbook.) Members must be present to win. Winners will be determined by attendee vote.

Remember to mail your 3 poetry contest entries by March 15th to the sponsors listed on page 9 of the yearbook. These contests are for PRA members only.

Tentative Agenda 4/13/19:

9:00 AM - Doors Open
9:15 AM - Registration & Early-bird dues payment
9:30 AM - Welcome/Opening - Dennis Patton
Spring Celebration Chair - Christine Henderson
Brief background on Dr. Lily Peter
9:40 AM - Introduction of Professor H.K. Hummel
10:35 AM - Break
10:45 AM - Speaker continues
11:30 AM - Light and Serious Verse Contests
12:00 PM - Lunch in the River Market (on your own)
1:15 PM - College & Student winners announced by
Donna Smith and Frieda Patton
1:45 PM - Business Session - Dennis Patton
Spring Contest winners announced by
Dennis Patton, Pat Laster, Dr. John Crawford
2:45 PM - Adjourn

PRA Board Meeting Highlights of 1/19/2019:

Poetry Day 2019 - PRA will host the annual event on October 19th at the Butler Center, room 124 in Little Rock. PRA's new President will complete the arrangements.

Poetry Day Contests - Sponsorship forms (attached below) are due 2/28/19 to Cathy Moran. The contest brochure will be posted on PRA's website in March and mailed with the May newsletter. Subjects for the following contests are: O'Neal Memorial Award - "*Good Ol' Days*"; O'Neal Humor Award - "*Feet*"; Sybil Nash Abrams Award - "*Arkansas Military Heroes*".

Nominations for New PRA Officers - See attached ballot of nominees for 2019-2021. Members are asked to send their votes by 2/28/19 via email or mail to Cathy Parker (catherinep01@hotmail.com), 17102 N. Alexander Rd., Lot 587, Alexander, AR 72002.

State Fair Contests - State Fair staff changes are in progress, but PRA will continue sponsorship of *Best-of-Show* poetry winners this year. In November PRA contacted 4-H leaders statewide to encourage more student participation via mail. Entries are due in September.

Anthology Update - Printing of the book will be completed in January. Purchase price will be \$10 per book (\$13 per book if mailed in the U.S., or more if shipped out of country). President Patton plans to visit several branches with the books prior to the April 13th Spring Celebration. The books also will be available for purchase at Spring Celebration. If you wish to purchase books at the event, please bring the exact amount of cash or check payable to PRA. Central Arkansas Library System does not allow book sales on premises. So the location will be discussed at the event. Our thanks to Kate Lacy and Mark Barton for coordinating production of the anthology. Also, thanks to all who contributed poems or helped in any way.

Yearbook Changes to Vote at Spring Celebration - The board discussed several updates needed in the yearbook before the next printing in July. These include changes in the constitution and standing rules. All changes to the constitution will require a vote at Spring Celebration. See attached list of specific changes to be voted on then.

Vacant Honorary Member Position - Honorary Member Don Crowson passed away November 20, 2018, leaving a vacant Honorary Member position. Nominations were received and Dr. John Crawford was selected for this position.

Online Group: If you're not attending a branch consider joining PRA's Online Group coordinated by Kate Lacy. New participants welcome! Contact Kate at voicedancer2002@yahoo.com.

Reminder! You can still pay your PRA member dues to participate in free monthly contests, Spring Celebration contests, and NFSPS contests. Send \$20 (or \$15 for seniors and students) to PRA Membership Coordinator Cathy Moran, 401 Auburn Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205. Also please send address, phone and email updates.

Notes from Arkansas Poet Laureate Jo McDougall: **Dear PRA members and colleagues in poetry,**

It was cold and windy on January 15, Governor Asa Hutchinson's inaugural day, but even though it was chilly on the capitol steps, I was delighted, as Arkansas's poet laureate, to be included in the inauguration ceremony by invitation of the governor. He asked me to read the poem he had commissioned from me, "*Anything We Want, Anything We Dream; For the People of Arkansas*." That was an experience I'll not soon forget -- being on the platform with some of the governor's family, meeting the First Lady, seeing the crowd of my fellow Arkansans, looking east down Capitol Avenue in the city I love. I felt a part of history.

As I was sitting there, I thought how much the poets of Arkansas have encouraged and supported me, especially the River Market branch, who gave me input as I was writing the poem and patiently listened as I rehearsed reading it.

I am happy we have a governor who publicly encourages poetry. As Dennis and Frieda Patton and Stacy Pendergrast can attest, he supports the PRA and listens to our requests. If you would like to thank Governor Hutchinson, I am sure he would appreciate a note from you. Address to The Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Governor of Arkansas; State Capitol, Rm 250; 500 Woodland Drive, Little Rock, AR 72201.

December and January have indeed been highlight months in my world. In December, I received notice that I've been awarded the 2019 Porter Fund Lifetime Achievement Award. Unlike the annual Porter Prize, the Lifetime Achievement Award is given every five years for a body of work. Past winners are Donald Harington, Miller Williams, and Charles Portis. I'm honored and humbled to be in their company. A gala celebrating the event will be held on June 20, 2019, 6 p.m., at the Clinton Presidential Center. I will give a reading. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 501-347-4399. I would love to share this evening with you.

None of these good things would be happening for me without the support from you, poets of Arkansas! Thank you deeply. And keep writing!

Jo McDougall

(Contact Arkansas Poet Laureate Jo McDougall at jomcdougall@sbcglobal.net or her press secretary Stacy Pendergrast at pendergrasts@me.com.)

Did You Know? PRA members are automatically NFSPS members too, with access to other state & national contests.

Anthologies: PRA's current anthology is at the printer, per co-chair Kate Lacy. PRA will have copies for purchase at the Spring Celebration event. Meanwhile, if you would like to donate past anthologies to help complete PRA's series at the Arkansas State Archives, Arkansas State Library, and the Butler Center, please contact PRA President Dennis Patton, PRA Historian Marilyn Joyner or PRA Board Member Donna Smith.

Farewell to Don Edwin Crowson (1930-2018):

PRA's Don Crowson of Benton passed away November 20th at age 88 from an extended struggle with cancer. Don was an active member of PRA since 1976. His previous activities included: PRA State President (1996-1998), PRA Merit Award Winner (2005), anthology editor, annual Poetry Day contest sponsor, Honorary PRA member, plus Chaplain and Program Chair for the Saline County Branch. For 20 years he edited the *Saline (formerly Benton) Courier* poetry column, *Poets Forum*, possibly the longest-running feature in any Arkansas newspaper. Don also served as a lay speaker and choir member at the Parkview United Methodist Church in Benton. Born January 28, 1930 in Benton, Arkansas, Don was a U.S. Navy Veteran, retired school teacher and member of Parkview United Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence Edwin and Elise House Crowson and his twin brother, Dan Crowson. He is survived by his wife of 61 of years, Dean Crowson; brothers-in-law, Carl Fish (Robby), Frank Geiger (Delberta) & Dennis Williams (Gail) and a sister-in-law, Veda Sims. PRA sends our sympathy and best wishes to Don's family and friends.

Want a PRA Handout for Events or a Sponsor? Try the "2018 Year-in-Review" report. It includes general information about PRA and NFSPS, plus highlights of statewide activities during the fiscal year. See PRA's webpage "Resources" tab to print copies.

Poetic Wins, Activities & Publications:

Please send notice of activities & accomplishments to PRA News Editor Donna Smith, 58 Briarwood, Greenbrier, AR 72058 (tndsmith@live.com).

Congratulations to PRA Monthly Contest winners: **November** – 1st Faye Wise, 2nd Donna Nelson, 3rd Marilyn Joyner; **December** – 1st Barbara Blanks, 2nd Pat Laster, 3rd John Han.

The Siloam Springs Writers Guild announced the winners of the Roy Chesney Poetry Contest on October 8th. The annual contest is open only to writers in the Siloam Springs area. Winners include: 1st Kendra Cooke, 2nd Natasha Nathan, 3rd Rachel Kulp, plus Honorable Mentions Dana Ahnen and David Ravenhill. Also awarded was Jamie Walt as 1st of the First Time Entrants.

South Arkansas Poets of the Pines hosted an open mic event on October 26, 2018 at PJ's Coffee House in El Dorado. The event had a Halloween theme and was dedicated to the memory of PRA's Jim Barton. Several members of Jim's family were present, with his son Stephen reading his own work, and his daughter Rae Lynn reading one of Jim's poems.

Pat Durmon (Member-at-large of Norfolk, AR) judged the 2018 Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize sponsored by Poetry Society of Texas in October. Pat is an award-winning poet with her work shown in several publications, author of 4 books, past high school English teacher and mental health counselor, past PRA officer, PRA Merit Award winner, and SNA winner. See more about Pat at her website: PatDurmon.com.

Cathy Moran's (River Market) recent poetry winnings include: a 1st and 3rd from Indiana; a 1st from Ohio; a 3rd and HM from Alabama; a 2nd, 3rd and two HMs from Florida; a 1st and HM from Illinois; and a 1st from Georgia.

PRA Poets shared their prose voices in the statewide Arkansas Democrat Gazette newspaper recently. Letters to the editor were published from John McPherson of Searcy (11-22-18 on coyotes) and John Crawford of Arkadelphia (12-16-18 on cannabis). Plus another guest editorial was published from Pat Laster of Benton (1-4-19 on a family Christmas).

Marilyn Joyner (Poets of the Pines) sends her thanks to all the PRA friends who sent her good wishes during her recent hospitalization. She is now home and doing much better.

Harding Stedler (River Market) received news in January of his Pushcart nomination for 2018. The poem that won the award was titled "*Beyond the Foglift*" and was judged one of the *Best of the Small Presses*.

Reminder: PRA Members may post their Poetry Book titles on PRA's website for sale. Links to the author are included for potential buyers to deal directly with the authors. Members who wish to post their books please contact President Dennis Patton.

Upcoming Deadlines/Events/Contests

2nd Saturday each Month: PRA's Monthly Contest entries are due by mail to Chair Renee Ramsay, 249 Garden Lane, Floral, AR 72534. See details in PRA's yearbook, plus website links to poetry resources.

February 1: Deadline for middle and high school student entries in the NFSPS sponsored Manningham Trust Student Contest. See details on PRA's website or contact PRA's Youth Contest Chair Laura Bridges (llough3@gmail.com).

February 5: Happy 88th Birthday to PRA!

February 28: PRA's 2019 Poetry Day Contest Sponsorships due to PRA Treasurer Cathy Moran. (See attached sponsorship form.)

February 28: PRA's election ballots for new officers due to Nominating Committee Member Cathy Parker. (See attached ballot.) VOTE!

March: Watch PRA's website for the 2019 Poetry Day Contest Brochure. The Sybil Nash Abrams subject is "Arkansas Military Heroes." Start drafting your entries due 8/15/19.

March: Watch the Arkansas State Fair website (and PRA's website) for updated 2019 guidelines on the State Fair Poetry Contests sponsored annually by PRA. Details will be in PRA's May newsletter. Or contact PRA's State Fair Contest Chair Donna Smith (tndsmith@live.com). Entries due in September.

March 1: Deadline for middle and high school student contest entries in the Sybil Nash Abrams annual Contest. See details on PRA's website or contact PRA's Youth Contest Chair Laura Bridges (llough3@gmail.com).

March 1: Deadline for Mississippi Poetry Contests. See details at misspoetry.net.

March 15: PRA's Spring Celebration contest entries due. See details on PRA's website.

March 15: NFSPS annual contest entries due. See details on PRA's website.

March 15: Deadline for middle and high school student entries in the NFSPS Annual Student Contest. See details on PRA's website or contact PRA's Youth Contest Chair Laura Bridges (llough3@gmail.com).

March 15: PRA's Jeannie Dolan Carter Collegiate Contest entries due. See details on PRA's website or contact PRA's Collegiate Contest Chair Donna Smith (tndsmith@live.com).

April: April is National Poetry Month. Celebrate!

April 2-4: Lucidity's Annual Ozark Poetry Retreat in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. See more information at www.luciditypoetryretreat.com.

April 11: An Evening with Murphy Visiting Poet Greg Brownderville at Reves Recital Hall, Hendrix College, Conway. 7:30 p.m. Contact Henryetta Vanaman at vanaman@hendrix.edu or 501-450-4597.

April 13: PRA's Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration at the Cox Building in Little Rock. Guest speaker will be H.K. (Heather) Hummel, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Arkansas. Plan to attend and also hear student contest winners read their poems. Members – current and future - are welcome to pay your dues early for the new fiscal year at the event. For questions contact Spring Celebration Chair Christine Henderson (my1stdraft@yahoo.com) or PRA President Dennis Patton (patton_dr@hotmail.com).

May 31: Deadline for the Alabama State Poetry Society's Annual John & Miriam Morris Memorial Chapbook Contest. See details at Alabamapoets.org.

June 23-26: The 2019 NFSPS Annual Convention in Santa Fe, hosted by the New Mexico State Poetry Society. Plan to attend and represent Arkansas!

June 30: PRA membership fees and information updates due to Membership Chair Cathy Moran. Be sure to include your email address, plus any branch changes in officers/dates/times. Printing of the new yearbook is scheduled for July. If late, you may miss out on eligibility for some contests.

August: Watch the mail for your new 2020 PRA Yearbook.

August 15: PRA's Poetry Day Contest entries due. See details to be posted in March on PRA's website and in the May newsletter.

October 19: PRA's 2019 Poetry Day Celebration in Little Rock at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Room 124, 401 President Clinton Avenue. Watch PRA's website for updates.

PRA members receive the quarterly *News 'N Notes* via email and web posting. The NFSPS quarterly *Strophes* newsletter is available online via link from PRA's website. Members may request copies of both by postal mail. Branch Presidents are asked to assure that all members have access to these publications.

For More Information - Check PRA's website for updates on Arkansas activities and like us on Facebook. Also check the NFSPS web site (www.nfsps.com) for national news, contests, and links to other state poetry societies. Please alert PRA Membership Chair Cathy Moran with any changes in member contact information or branch meeting places/times/officers. PRA currently serves 117 members, 10 branches, plus an online group.



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2019 Arkansas Poetry Day Contest Sponsorship Form

Sponsorship Requirements: A minimum of \$30.00 is required to sponsor a contest, and the first place winnings must be no less than \$25.00. PRA encourages higher level awards, similar to other states, to promote contest participation. If you have questions contact PRA President Dennis Patton at: patton_dr@hotmail.com.

Form: Complete this form and return it with your payment by the deadline to assure that your contest is listed in the Poetry Day Contest Brochure posted in March on PRA's website.

Deadline: The sponsorship form and payment are due **February 28, 2019.**

Address: Send this form with your check (payable to PRA) to: Cathy Moran, PRA Treasurer
401 Auburn Dr.
Little Rock, AR 72205

Name of award: _____

Subject: _____ **Form:** _____ **Line limit:** _____

Other requirements may be noted here or on reverse: _____

<u>Awards:</u>	First place \$ _____	Second place \$ _____	Third place \$ _____
	First HM \$ _____	Second HM \$ _____	Third HM \$ _____

Eligibility: Open to all poets () Open to PRA Members only ()

Judging: I will be responsible for judging this contest () Please get a judge for me ()

Donor's name: _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____



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PRA BALLOT

Vote for new PRA Officers by February 28, 2019

The following members have been nominated to serve as PRA officers for the next two fiscal years, from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021. Please put a check mark beside each nominee for whom you wish to vote. Mail or email your completed ballot to Nominating Committee member Cathy Parker, 17102 North Alexander Road, Lot 587, Alexander, AR 72002 or catherinep01@hotmail.com by February 28, 2019.

Election results will be posted in the May newsletter. New officers will be announced and installed at PRA's Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration on April 13th in Little Rock. Our thanks to Nominations Committee members Frieda Patton, Cathy Parker, Marie Allison, Marilyn Joyner and John McPherson for conducting the nomination process.

Write-in nominations/votes

____ President	Frieda Patton	_____
____ Vice President	Laura Trigg	_____
____ Secretary	Amanda Partridge	_____
____ Treasurer	Dennis Patton	_____
____ Historian	Renee Ramsey	_____
____ Parliamentarian	John McPherson	_____
____ Counselor	Dennis Patton	_____
____ Member at large	Donna Smith	_____
____ Member at large	Laura Bridges	_____
____ Member at large	Fay Guinn	_____
____ Member at large	Kate Lacy	_____

Changes in PRA Yearbook for 2019-2021

In its January meeting, the PRA Board recommended the following updates to the Constitution. These changes will be presented for a membership vote at the Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration event on April 13, 2019.

Article III

Officers and Committees, Section 3. page 13

Discussion was held concerning Branch representatives attending Board meetings and having the same voting privileges as elected Board members. It was felt that Branch representatives should be able to attend meetings and participate in discussions but not have the voting privilege. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the Board recommend to the full membership to remove:

"The Board Representatives will have the same privileges as the elected members of the Executive Board but will not be counted as part of the quorum."

And remove from the next sentence:

"...including the Branch Representatives..."

The paragraph will then read:

"Section 3. The Executive Board shall consist of Officers and Board Members at Large designated in Section 1. Presence of any five elected Board Members shall constitute a quorum at Executive Board meetings. In addition to the elected Board Members, each Branch may designate a member as its Branch Representative to the Board meetings. The Board shall administer the affairs of the organization and shall meet on the call of the President. Members of the Executive Board shall be notified at least ten days before the time of the called meetings. Executive Board duties shall include selecting the Nominating Committee Chairman, the subject and form for the Sybil Nash Abrams Award, and the recipient of the Merit Award."

Article IV

Duties for Officers -- A. President -- page 14

There is a state law that nonprofits must file a report with the Arkansas Secretary of State's Office by August 1 of each year. Article IV of the Constitution, page 14, lists the duties of the President. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the Board recommend to the full membership to include the duty of filing the annual Secretary of State's report in the last sentence of **A. President** to read:

"Other responsibilities may include preparation of tax and grant reports, the annual Secretary of State's report, official correspondence, and other duties as requested."

Duties for Officers -- D. Treasurer

Article IV of the Constitution, pages 14-15, and Standing Rules, page 21, list the duties of the Treasurer to include reporting membership and submitting membership dues to NFSPS. The requirements are incorrect. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to remove Treasurer under Standing Rules on page 21 and recommend to the full membership to amend Treasurer under Article IV, Duties for Officers, on pages 14-15 by replacing

"shall furnish a membership list to the Treasurer of NFSPS in August, and an update in membership in January, with dues for each member of NFSPS"

with,

"shall furnish membership lists and dues to NFSPS as required by NFSPS."

Duties for Officers -- E. Membership Coordinator

Membership Coordinator is listed under Article IV, Duties for Officers, page 15. Membership Coordinator is not an elected officer position. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the Board recommend to the full membership to remove Membership Coordinator from Duties of Officers, page 15, and move to Standing Rules, page 21.