



POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS

Founded February 5, 1931

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

<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>

2025 POETRY DAY CONTESTS

Open Only to PRA Members Who Are Arkansas Residents

1. Sybil Nash Abrams Award: \$1,000/\$400/\$250. (First place winners are not eligible to enter this contest for four years after winning.) Poem must be historically accurate, original, and unpublished. Enclose bibliography (not included in line count) on a separate page. Subject: **Gangsters and Outlaws in Arkansas.** Form: Any. Line limit: 60 – 100. Chair: Dr. John Crawford

Open to PRA Members Only

2. Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni Award: \$50/\$30/\$20, HM \$10/\$10/\$10. Subject: Humor. Form: Any. Line limit: 20. Chair: Larry and Desiree Witherspoon.

3. Three Little Lines: \$30/\$20/\$10, Subject: Any. Form: Haiku-traditional, 17 syllables (short, long, short lines; 5/7/5). Line limit: 3. Chair: Fay Guinn.

4. Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs: \$25/\$15/\$10, HM \$5/\$5/\$5. Subject: Famous Arkansan. Form: Free Verse. Line limit: 24. Chair: Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs.

5. Neville Saylor Memorial Award: \$50/\$30/\$20, HM \$15/\$10/\$5. Subject: Any. Form: Neville. Line Limit: 7. See <https://poetscollectivepoetryforms.wordpress.com/2014/09/20/neville/> Chair: Dr. John Crawford.

6. Banner Mountain Girl Award: \$75/\$50/\$30, HM \$15/\$15/\$15. Subject: The homeplace. Form: Any. Line limit: 36. Chair: The Family of Freeda Baker Nichols.

Open to All Poets

7. Couchwood Award: \$35/\$20/\$15, HM \$10/\$10/\$10. Subject: A current event, your reaction. Form: Any. Line limit: 40. Chair: Pat Laster.

- 8. Baker Nichols Award: \$75/\$50/\$30, HM \$15/\$15/\$15.** Subject: Why I Love America. Form: Baker Sonnet. (Baker Sonnet format: iambic pentameter- aBbcaabdcddBee). Line limit: 14. Chair: The Family of Freeda Baker Nichols.
- 9. Opal Jane & Harry O'Neal Memorial Award: \$50/\$35/\$25, HM \$5/\$5/\$5.** Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 32. Chair: Ben H. O'Neal.
- 10. Opal Jane & Harry O'Neal Humor Award: \$50/\$35/\$25, HM \$5/\$5/\$5.** Subject: South. Form: Any. Line limit: 24. Chair: Ben H. O'Neal.
- 11. Sharp Award: \$50/\$30/\$20, HM \$5/\$5/\$5.** Subject: Any. Form: Free Verse. Line limit: 38. Chair: Cathy Moran.
- 12. Arts & Crackers Award: \$25/\$15/\$10.** Subject: Any. Form: Whitney. Line limit: 7. (Keep it family friendly. See https://www.writing.com/main/books/entry_id/431020 Chair: Alyssa Darby
- 13. L.C. Bridges Memorial Award: \$60/\$25/\$15.** Subject: Christian poetry. Form: Free Verse. Line limit: 24. Chair: Pat Bridges.
- 14. Tom J. Smith Memorial Award: \$50/\$30/\$20.** Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 24. Chair: Donna Smith.
- 15. Hazel J. Alexander Memorial: \$50/\$30/\$20.** Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 24. Chair: Donna Smith.
- 16. Poet's Choice Award: \$60/\$40/\$25, HM \$5/\$5/\$5.** Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 24. Chair: Dennis Patton.
- 17. Saddle and Spurs Award: \$30/\$20/\$10.** Subject: Old West. Form: Persona. Line limit: 24. See <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/what-is-a-persona-poem#4kD6bltIGJUHL9A9F94TEL> Chair: John McPherson.
- 18. Nature's Wonders: \$30/\$20/\$10, HM \$5/\$5/\$5.** Subject: Nature in its natural setting. Form: Any. Line limit: 40. Chair: Two Rivers Poetry of Ft. Smith.
- 19. Jim Barton Memorial Award: \$35/\$20/\$10, HM \$5/\$5/\$5.** Subject: Country Roads. Form: Any. Line limit: 24. Chair: SAPOP.
- 20. That's Life Award: \$25/\$15/\$10.** Subject: Dancing. Form: Free Verse. Line limit: 32. Chair: Laura Bridges.
- 21. Saline County Branch Award: \$40/\$25/\$15, HM \$5/\$5/\$5.** Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 24. Chair: Saline County Branch.
- 22. Florence Gibbs Memorial Award: \$25/\$15/\$10.** Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 36. Chair: Roxie Wilson.
- 23. Betty Heidelberger Memorial Award: \$25/\$15/\$10.** Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 36. Chair: Roxie Wilson.

- 24. Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award: \$25/\$15/\$10.** Subject: Planes, trains or cars. Form: Any. Line limit: 10 - 30. Chair: Russell H. Strauss.
- 25. Baxter County Poets' Award : \$50/\$35/\$15.** Subject: Underneath the stars. Form: Any. Line Limit: 36 Chair: Baxter County Poets' Association
- 26. Gin Creek Poet's Award: \$30/\$20/\$10.** Subject: My favorite song. Form: Any. Line limit: 24. Chair: Gin Creek Poets.
- 27. Grands: \$30/\$10/\$5.** Subject: Grandchildren or Grandparents. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40. Chair: Dr. Emory Jones.
- 28. A Tale From a Fish: \$25/\$15/\$10, HM \$5/\$5/\$5.** Subject: Gone Fishing. Form: Any. Line limit: 28. Chair: Terrie Jacks.
- 29. Pen to Paper: \$50/\$30/\$20 HM \$5/\$5/\$5.** Subject: Roots. Form: Free Verse. Line limit: 32. Chair: Diane Stefan and Pat Durmon
- 30. Elsie Larson Memorial Award: \$25/\$15/\$10. (Clarification in red)** Subject: Humor - makes us chuckle. Form: Lune (**Kelly**), 3 line poem with 5/3/5. See ~~<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-write-lune-poetry#wMPsFRS4vT0ImXSBX68IL>~~ **<https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/poetic-form-lune>** Line limit: per form. Chair: Gail Denham.
- 31. Mattie Campbell's Ozark Award: \$50/\$35/\$25 HM \$15/\$15/\$15.** Subject: Celebrating the Ozark Spirit. Form: Any. Line limit: 30. Chair: Joanie Roberts
- 32. Haiku Classical and Modern: \$25/\$15/\$10.** Subject: Any. Form: Classical or Modern Haiku. Line as required – Classical: 5-7-5; Modern: 17 syllables or less in 3 lines. Chair: The Arkansas Haiku Society
- 33. Glassworks Award: \$25/\$15/\$10.** Subject: Any. Form: Kyrielle. Line limit: 16. Chair: Christine Henderson

CONTEST RULES

1. Mail all entries and fees in one envelope postmarked no earlier than July 1, 2025, and no later than August 15, 2025, to John McPherson, 111 Jawanda Lane, Searcy, AR 72143.
2. Non-members may enter all contests for which they are eligible for \$15; members may enter for \$10. Make check or money order payable to "PRA." (PRA only accepts US currency, checks, or money orders.)
3. Submit one typed Times New Roman or similar font (12) original, and one copy for each contest entered with no illustrations or embellishments on entries. Type number and name of award in upper left corner of both copies. On duplicate only, place name and address in upper right corner (labels accepted).
4. Submit a separate typed page listing name, address, phone number and/or email address, and total number of contests entered.
5. Titles and blank lines are not counted in line limits.

- 6. All poems must be original, unpublished work of the poet. PRA defines publication as having an ISBN or ISSN. First place winning poems MAY NOT BE RESUBMITTED to the same contest for which they won that award.**
- 7. Submit only one poem in each contest. No poem may be entered in more than one contest.**
- 8. No entries will be returned. All manuscripts will be destroyed.**
- 9. Contest chairs are not necessarily judges.**
- 10. Three honorable mentions will be awarded without prizes unless otherwise specified.**
- 11. Entries not following rules will be disqualified.**
- 12. If a different website is not listed for the contest, the poetry form should be found at shadowpoetry.com**