



POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS

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

<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>

2026 Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration Contest Winners April 18, 2026

Dr. Lily Peter Memorial Award – 18 entries - judged by Dr. Robert Lamm and Dr. Kerri Bennett – ASU, Jonesboro AR – sponsored by Roxie Wilson

1st Place	Dennis Patton	“An Important Difference”
2nd Place	Janice Canerdy	“Autumn Majesty”
3rd Place	John McPherson	“Vernon”
1st Honorable Mention	Mike Wahl	“Continental Drift”
2nd Honorable Mention	Sara Gipson	“Dripping Dreams”
3rd Honorable Mention	Donna K. Smith	“The Hero”

Verna Lee Hinegardner Memorial Award – 18 entries - judged by Dr. Robert Lamm and Dr. Kerri Bennett – ASU, Jonesboro AR – sponsored by John Crawford

1st Place	Karen Moulton	“Sometimes at Night”
2nd Place	Teresa H. Klepac	“Cut the Too-Tight String”
3rd Place	Marilyn Joyner	“Up a Tree in Fall”
1st Honorable Mention	Sara Gipson	“Saxophone Blues”
2nd Honorable Mention	Jerri Hardesty	“Infinite Potential”
3rd Honorable Mention	Pat Laster	“Yes Virginia, There Was a Verna Lee Hinegardner”

Freeda Baker Nichols Memorial Award – 18 entries - judged by Jan Hamlett – sponsored by Pat Laster

1st Place	Lorraine Jeffery	“The Other Book”
2nd Place	Karen Moulton	“With You”
3rd Place	Teresa H. Klepac	“Generational Conversation”
1st Honorable Mention	Dennis Patton	“January”
2nd Honorable Mention	Cathy Moran	“All the Common Steps”
3rd Honorable Mention	John McPherson	“Darkness and Light”

Spring Celebration Serious Verse – five entries - judged by conference attendees

1st Place Fay Guinn “The Power of Love”

Spring Celebration Light Verse – five entries - judged by conference attendees

1st Place Dennis Patton “I’ve Been Mugged”

2026 Pat Laster Collegiate Poetry Contest – 24 entries – judged by Joan Barrett Roberts – sponsored by Lydia Cheatham

1st Place	Kyler Like	“I’m a Foxtail.”
2nd Place	Skylar Nelsen	“morning tidings”
3rd Place	Genna Crafton	“A Graveyard, a Front Door”
1st Honorable Mention	Rachel Miller	“Tarrying on Beaver Lake”
2nd Honorable Mention	Zachary Walter	“Icarus’ Last Letter”
3rd Honorable Mention	Caleb Givens	“Loves Greatest Cost”

PRA Student Contest – Senior Division – 22 entries – judged by Denise England

1st Place	Tristen Caudell	“I wake like something borrowed...”
2nd Place	Austin Headley	“The Table, Unnamed”
3rd Place	Palmer Hopkins	“A Lily’s Sacrifice”
1st Honorable Mention	Josiah Boone	“The Box”
2nd Honorable Mention	Karsen Sledge	“It Is Always There”
3rd Honorable Mention	Mia Warren	“Peekaboo”

PRA Student Contest – Junior Division – 22 entries – judged by Rhonda Roberts

1st Place	Benjamin Trip	“Dish of you”
2nd Place	Olivia Strawn	“Life Recycles”
3rd Place	Da’Layah Sawyer	“I Miss Who I Was Before You”
1st Honorable Mention	Isabella Clark-Yarbrough	“When I yell, you ask me why I am yelling...”
2nd Honorable Mention	Braydee Hammons	“The Shimmer”
3rd Honorable Mention	AirieAnna G. Criswell	“The Pounding of a Heart”