



POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS

Founded February 5, 1931

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

<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>

2026 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 Poem must be historically accurate, original, and unpublished.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: **Arkansas Native Wildlife**. Form: Any. Line limit: 60 – 100. Chair: Marilyn Joyner

Open to PRA Members Only

2. Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni Award: \$50/\$30/\$20, HM \$10/\$10/\$10. Subject: Humor. Form: Any. Line limit: 24. Chair: Larry and Desiree Witherspoon.

3. Three Little Lines: \$30/\$10/\$10, Subject: according to form. Form: Haiku, 17 syllables or less (short, long, short lines). Line limit: 3. Unrhymed, present tense, moment in time, season word (Kigo), no metaphor, personification, simile, minimal capitalization & punctuation, no periods. Show, don't tell. Chair: Fay Guinn.

4. Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs: \$25/\$15/\$10, HM \$5/\$5/\$5. Subject: Haunted. Form: Any. Line limit: 36. 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.

7. Batter Up! Award \$50/25/\$25 Subject: Sports. Form: Any. Line limit: 24. Any sports-related theme. Chair: Fay Guinn.

8. Couchwood Award: \$35/\$25/\$15, HM \$5/\$5/\$5. Subject: Any. Form: Heroic Blank Verse. Line limit: 36. Chair: Pat Laster.

9. The Wendy Taylor Carlisle Prize: \$50/\$30/\$20. Subject: The Sacred Ordinary. Form: Narrative or Lyric or Free Verse. Line limit: 30. *Should reflect an attentive presence to the world as it is lived rather than imagined from afar. Embody clarity, emotional honesty, and a generous attention to the sacredness embedded in ordinary experience.* Chair: e-Merge Literary Magazine (published by Charles Templeton)

Open to All Poets

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. Opal Jane & Harry O'Neal Humor Award: \$50/\$35/\$25, HM \$5/\$5/\$5. Subject: Vacation(s). Form: Any. Line limit: 32. Chair: Ben H. O'Neal.

13. Sharp Award: \$50/\$30/\$20, HM \$5/\$5/\$5. Subject: Any. Form: Free Verse. Line limit: 40. Chair: Cathy Moran.

14. L.C. Bridges Memorial Award: \$50/\$30/\$20. Subject: Christian poetry. Form: Free Verse. Line limit: 24. Chair: Pat Bridges.

15. Tom J. Smith Memorial Award: \$50/\$30/\$20. Subject: Kindness. Form: Any. Line limit: 36. Chair: Donna Smith.

16. Hazel J. Alexander Memorial: \$50/\$30/\$20. Subject: Thankfulness. Form: Any. Line limit: 24. Chair: Donna Smith.

17. Poet's Choice Award: \$60/\$40/\$25, HM \$5/\$5/\$5. Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 24. Chair: Dennis Patton.

18. We Are All in This Together Award: \$25/\$15/\$10, HM \$5/\$5/\$5 Subject: Belonging. Form: any. Line limit: 24. Chair: Lydia Cheatham.

19. Jim Barton Memorial Award: \$35/\$20/\$10, HM \$5/\$5/\$5. Subject: The Long Way Home. Form: Free Verse (some internal rhyme) Please no use of AI. Line limit: 24. Chair: SAPOP.

20. That's Life Award: \$30/\$20/\$10. Subject: House(s). Form: Free Verse. Line limit: 32. Chair: Laura Bridges.

21. Saline County Branch Award: \$40/\$25/\$15, HM \$5/\$5/\$5. Subject: Any. Form: Persona. Line limit: 24. Chair: Saline County Branch.

22. Florence Gibbs Memorial Award: \$25/\$15/\$10. Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 36. Chair: Anna Noack.

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: Event that occurred on a holiday. *NO CHRISTMAS POEMS. Sponsor wants events occurring on holidays excluding Christmas.* Form: Any. Line limit: 20-40. Chair: Russell H. Strauss.

25. Baxter County Poets' Award: \$50/\$25/\$15. Subject: A Midsummer's AI Dream. *Your interpretation of what Shakespeare would be like in today's world, or who is the best - Shakespeare or AI?* No actual AI entries, please. Form: Any. Line Limit: 36. Chair: Baxter County Poets' Association.

26. Gin Creek Poet's Award: \$25/\$15/\$10. Subject: Any event from the perspective of an inanimate object: Form: Any. Line limit: 36. Single-spaced, please. Chair: Gin Creek Poets.

27. Grands Award: \$25/\$10/\$5. Subject: Grandchildren or Grandparents. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40. Chair: Dr. Emory Jones.

28. My Favorite Poet Award: \$25/\$15/\$10. Subject: Poets. Form: Ode. Line limit: 32. Chair: Nancy LaChance.

29. Pen to Paper: \$50/\$30/\$20 HM \$5/\$5/\$5. Subject: A New Beginning. Form: Free Verse. Line limit: 32. Chair: Diane Stefan and Pat Durmon.

30. Bobbie Christianson Award: \$25/\$15/\$10. Subject: Humor that makes one chuckle. Form: Etheree. Line Limit: per form. 1st line-one syllable, 2nd line- two syllables, etc. reaching 10 syllables on 10th line – 10 lines total. Chair: Gail Denham

31. Mattie Campbell's Ozark Award: \$40/\$30/\$15, HM \$5/\$5/\$5. Subject: Celebrating the Ozark Spirit. Form: Any. Line limit: 30. Chair: Joanie Roberts.

32. Arts & Crackers Award: \$25/\$15/\$10. Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40 *Please keep it family friendly* Chair: Alyssa Darby.

33. Hall of Writers Excelsior Springs Poetry Award: \$30/\$20/\$10. Subject: Water. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40 *Please keep it family friendly* Chair: Hall of Writers Excelsior Springs.

34. Dr. Richard L. Klepac Memorial Award : \$50/\$30/\$20, HM \$10/\$10/\$10. Subject: Any. Form: Free Verse. Line Limit: 30. Chair: Teresa H. Klepac.

35. White County Creative Writers Award: \$25/\$15/\$10. Subject: Spring. Form: Free Verse. Line Limit: 40. Chair: White County Creative Writers.

36. Nature's Wonders Award \$30/\$20/\$10, HM \$5/\$5/\$5. Subject: Any. Form: Free Verse. Line Limit: 30. Chair: Two Rivers Poetry of Ft. Smith.

CONTEST RULES

1. Mail all entries and fees in one envelope postmarked no earlier than July 1, 2026, and no later than August 15, 2026, to Christine Henderson, P.O. Box 9122, Searcy, AR 72145
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 (12pt) 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. (*Listing helps*)
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