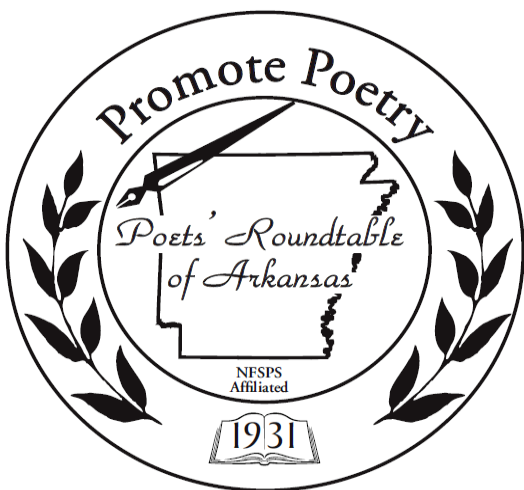


POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS



**Yearbook
2026/2027**



poetsroundtableofarkansas.org

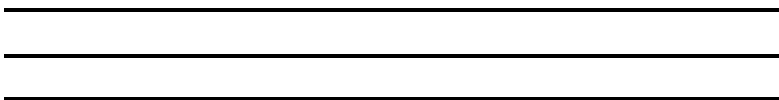
Arkansas Poet Laureate



Suzanne Underwood Rhodes is the Arkansas Poet Laureate and has served on the PRA board since 2021. She's the author of six poetry collections and has won many awards, including first place in the 2024 Sybil Abrams Nash Poetry Award sponsored by PRA and the Governor's Individual Artist of the Year in 2025. She's given over a hundred workshops and talks throughout Arkansas and the region to promote poetry, literacy, and community. She teaches English as an adjunct instructor at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, where she lives, and leads virtual poetry workshops at the Muse Writers Center in Norfolk, Virginia.

Warm greetings to my fellow PRA members who hold up the sky with their words. Poetry is a strong antidote to the artificiality of the digital world with its unnatural separations from nature, creativity, and community life, and

I'm so thankful to be part of this devoted body of poets here in Arkansas and the region, and even as far as Canada. Writing and sharing our poems is not only personally gratifying, it's also a way in which we improve the culture at large with the beauty, truth, and necessary disruptions of our words. So, I encourage us all to stay curious, read much, and keep dipping our pens in the ink of real words to make poems.



(Yearbook cover picture - **Respite** - at Two Rivers Park-Lawrance Franklin)

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POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS

Charter Members

Mae Lorraine Bass ♣ Ruth Arnold LeVeck
Stella Payne Crow ♣ Josie Frazee Cappleman
Marguerite Lanier Kaufman ♣ Laura Lewellyn
Bertha Meredith

History of Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA)

Organized February 5, 1931
Constitution Adopted October 9, 1976
Constitution Amended 1977, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983,
1986, 1990, 1992, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2009,
2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019
Incorporated in Arkansas April 28, 1977
Nonprofit Declaration April 17, 1978
PRA Colors: Silver and Purple; PRA Flower: Aster

Purpose of the Roundtable

PRA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study of poetry and the encouragement of poets. The purpose of the organization is to foster and encourage poets in the art, to promote an appreciation of poetry in the community, and to secure a fuller recognition of the works of poets in the state of Arkansas.

Officers for 2026/2027

President.....Christine Henderson
Vice PresidentFay Guinn
Secretary Marie Allison
Treasurer Vacant
Counselor Dennis Patton
Parliamentarian Suzanne Rhodes
Historian..... Larry Witherspoon

Board Members at large: Ali Mattese, Michelle Stoll, Rick Houston, John McPherson

Appointed Positions

Collegiate Contest Chair.....
Membership Coordinator Larry Witherspoon
News 'N Notes Editor Karen Moulton
Poetry Day Contest Chair John McPherson
Monthly Contest Chair.....Ali Mattese
Strophes Reporter.....Christine Henderson
Yearbook Larry Witherspoon
Student Contest Chair Ali Mattese
Webmaster..... Steve May
Website Coordinator Karen Moulton

Honorary Members

John Crawford ♣ Pat Laster
Suzanne Rhodes ♣ Jo McDougall
Elizabeth Faulkner

Poets' Roundtable Branches

Apple Blossom Poets

President: A J Wentz
VP: Melissa Hite
Meetings: Main Branch of the Central
Arkansas Library System
3rd Saturday, 10:00a.m.

Baxter County Poets' Association

President: Elizabeth Dail
VP/Sec/Treas: Debra Dail
Meetings: Baxter Library, Mt. Home
3rd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.

Gin Creek Poets of Searcy

President: John McPherson
Sec/Treasurer: Christine Henderson
Meetings: Simmons Bank, Searcy
2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m.

Ozark Mountain Poets

President: Toni Huffman
Sec/Treasurer: Harry McDermott
Meetings: Fayetteville Public Library, room 411
(401 Mountain Street)
last Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.

Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs

President: Marie Allison
Vice President: Laura Bridges
Sec/Treasurer: Marie Allison
Counselor: John Crawford
Meetings: Garland County Library, Hot Springs
2nd Saturday, 11:00 am

Saline County Branch

President:	Dennis Patton
Vice President	Larry Witherspoon
Sec/Treasurer:	Frieda Patton
Sunshine:	Sue Watson
Historian:	Lydia Cheatham
Meetings:	Parkview Methodist Church, Benton, 1:00 p.m. 4 th Saturday, Aug-Sept., Jan-May 3 rd Saturday, Nov, Dec

Siloam Springs Writers Guild

President:	Daniel Mason
Secretary:	Elijah Mason
Treasurer:	Gail Davis
Meetings:	First Baptist Church Siloam Springs 2 nd Monday, 5:30 p.m.

South Arkansas Poets of the Pines

President:	Janet Ryan
Vice President:	Marilyn Joyner
Meetings:	Mahoney Family Library, SouthArk College 2nd Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.

Two Rivers Poetry

President:	Mary Sangster
Meetings:	Main Library Carnegie Room, Ft. Smith Third Thursday, 2:30 p.m.

Guidelines for Establishing Branches

1. Have minimum of five dues-paying members of PRA
2. Establish regular meeting dates for the study of poetry and encouragement of poets
3. Adopt PRA State Constitution
4. Elect officers

Membership Information

Dues for seniors (65) and students (under 18) are \$15. Regular dues for all others are \$20. The fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. First-time members joining between January 1 and March 31 will pay a reduced fee – (Dues for seniors (65) and students (under 18) are \$10. All others are \$15.) – then full price through the new year. If a former member pays late any time during the year, full price is due. (PRA only accepts US currency, checks, or money orders.)

Payments for dues should be made out to PRA and sent to: **Larry Witherspoon, 6701 Pleasant Place, Little Rock, AR 72205**. Please include the following information: name, address, phone number, and email address (if available).

Dates to Remember

	2026
August 15	DEADLINE for Poetry Day contest entries
October	Proclamation of National Poetry Day in Arkansas
October 17	Poetry Day at Parkview Methodist Church, Benton, Arkansas
November	Notices of student contests distributed
	2027
February 28	DEADLINE for Sponsor forms for Poetry Day
February 28	DEADLINE for Spring Celebration contests
March 15	DEADLINE for NFSPS contests
April	Spring Celebration at Parkview Methodist Church, Benton, Arkansas
June 30	DEADLINE for membership dues and information to be included in Yearbook

2026/2027 Roundtable Monthly Contests Topics

MONTH	SUBJECT/FORM/LINE LIMITS
2026 September	Thresholds/Free Verse/36 Lines
November	Harvest of Memory/Narrative poem/36 Lines/ See: https://writers.com/narrative-poem-definition
December	Light in The Dark/Pantoum or Free Verse/36 Lines
2027 January	Ekphrastic Poem Inspired by Painting by Georgia O'Keeffe/Any/40 lines/Include a copy of painting with poem
February	Stormy Time/Minute
March	Any/Free Verse
May	Humor in Spring/Nonet/9 Lines
June	Whimsical/Any/24 Lines
July	Owls/Free Verse/30 Lines
August	Money/Free Verse/16 Lines/Single Spaced

Contest Rules

Monthly Contests for Members

1. Poems must be postmarked by the first Saturday of the month.
2. Members may enter one poem per month with a limit of 36 lines unless directions are otherwise.
3. Entries must be mailed to: Ali Mattese, 230 Old Tram Road, Mountain Pine, AR 71956
4. Poem must be original, unpublished.
5. Two copies; place contest month and contest subject in the upper left corner; place name and address on one copy only in the upper right corner.
6. Winners receive a check for \$15, \$10, \$5 and are listed on the website.
7. Three HMs may or may not be awarded. Contest results are to be announced by the end of the month.
8. If a different website is not listed, poetry form should be found at shadowpoetry.com.
9. Titles and blank lines are not counted in line limits.

Sybil Nash Abrams Award

1. Open only to PRA members who are Arkansas residents; 60 – 100 lines.
2. Poem must be original, historically accurate, unpublished.
3. List sources (historical) on separate page.
4. First place winner cannot enter for the next four years.
5. Executive Board selects subject, to be published on the website and in *News 'N' Notes*.
6. Executive Board compiles a list of nominations of judges to present to the Committee Chair.
7. Last four winners form the committee chaired by the earliest PRA member winner; Committee members make nominations to the Committee Chair. Committee Chair selects a judge. The 2026 committee:

2022	Marilyn Joyner
2023	Alyssa Darby
2024	Suzanne Rhodes
2025	Fay Guinn

Student Awards

On June 27, 2024, Gregory Lathrop donated funds to the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas to fund the PRA Student Contest. In the event that Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas ceases to function, the funds in the account shall be made available to another Arkansas poetry association selected by the Trustees (PRA). Trustees are the PRA President, PRA Treasurer, and any other PRA Board Member the PRA Board deems needed. Lathrop Investment Management Corporation manages the account and Charles Schwab is custodian.

Awards shall be paid to winners by the PRA Treasurer at the Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration. Amounts of the awards shall be: Senior Division - 1st Place, \$75; 2nd Place, \$50; 3rd Place, \$40; 1st, 2nd, 3rd Honorable Mentions, \$10 each. Junior Division - 1st Place, \$50; 2nd Place, \$35; 3rd Place, \$25; 1st, 2nd, 3rd Honorable Mentions, \$10 each. Amounts of awards may be increased at the discretion of the trustees. Only Arkansas students shall be eligible to enter this contest.

Rules for the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas Student Contest, the Manningham, and NFSPS Student Contests will be distributed to schools, PRA branches and newspapers by the Contest Chair. Local branches are encouraged to recognize winners in their areas.

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas student winners will be invited to the Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration to read their poems and to receive their awards. Contest Chair will mail awards to the winners unable to attend the meeting.

Spring Celebration Poetry Contests for Members

Members need not be present to win. Only original, unpublished poems may be entered in any contest. The same poem may not be entered in more than one contest. Only one poem may be entered in each contest. All judges will be non-PRA members.

Dr. Lily Peter Memorial Award

(sponsored by Lydia Cheatham)

1. 1st place prize, \$50; 2nd place, \$30; 3rd place, \$20; and up to three HM.
2. Contest open to PRA members only.
3. Poem must be original, unpublished, 36-line limit.
4. Submit two copies, name of contest top left on both.
5. Place name and address of poet on one copy only.
6. Mail no earlier than January 1 and no later than February 28
See website for mailing address or contact PRA President

Verna Lee Hinegardner Memorial Award

(sponsored by John Crawford)

1. 1st place prize, \$50; 2nd place, \$30; 3rd place, \$20; and up to three HM.
2. Contest open to PRA members only.
3. Poem must be original, unpublished, 36-line limit.
4. Submit two copies, name of contest top left on both.
5. Place name and address of poet on one copy only.
6. Mail no earlier than January 1 and no later than February 28
See website for mailing address or contact PRA President

Freedra Baker Nichols Memorial Award

(sponsored by Pat Laster)

1. 1st place prize, \$50; 2nd place, \$30; 3rd place, \$20; and up to three HM.
2. Contest open to PRA members only.
3. Poem must be original, unpublished, 36-line limit.
4. Submit two copies, name of contest top left on both.
5. Place name and address of poet on one copy only.
6. Mail no earlier than January 1 and no later than February 28
See website for mailing address or contact PRA President

Spring Celebration Serious or Light Verse Contest

1. One original, unpublished poem may be entered in either the Serious or Light Verse contests.
2. The light verse will have a 16 line limit.
3. The serious verse will have a 16 line limit.
4. Submit one copy without a name.
5. Place category in upper right corner.
6. Judging will be by secret ballot (popular vote).
7. \$10 award, each category, (\$10 each, for tie).
8. Poems must be turned in by the end of the first break.
9. Poet **must be present** to win.

News 'N' Notes

The 2026/2027 *News 'N' Notes* will be published on the website quarterly. Because *Strophes* appears on the NFSPS website, printed copies will be mailed to members by request only. The editor is paid a stipend of \$50 for each published issue, plus expenses. The Yearbook editor is paid a stipend of \$50, plus expenses.

Submission Deadlines

July 10
October 10
January 10
April 10

Publication Dates

August 1
November 1
February 1
May 1

Members are encouraged to submit news of their personal winnings. Send to:

Karen Moulton
2234 MC 7055
Flippin, AR 72634
jkmoultons@yahoo.com

Anthology Information

The President shall appoint the editor who will select at least two PRA members to serve on the committee.

- A. The editor is authorized to publish the following:
 - 1. Poems submitted by PRA members that have
 - a. won \$5 or more in a contest,
 - b. won an HM in an NFSPS contest,
 - c. been approved by the editorial committee.
 - 2. The Sybil Nash Abrams contest winning poems for PRA members and PRA student contests (contingent upon having written consent for publication by the poet).
 - 3. The Collegiate Contest winning poems (contingent upon having written consent for publication by the poet).
 - 4. A poem in memory of each PRA member who has died since the last edition.
- B. The editorial committee may reject any poem.
- C. The editor must place one copy of the anthology in the:
 - 1. Arkansas Studies Institute of the Central Arkansas Library System
 - 2. Arkansas State Library
 - 3. University of Arkansas Library
 - 4. Arkansas State Archives
 - 5. PRA President's set of archived anthologies
 - 6. PRA Historian's set of archived anthologies
- D. The editor will receive a \$100 stipend, plus expenses submitted to the treasurer with receipts, to be paid at the completion of the publication of the anthology.

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas Constitution

(Last amended April 13, 2019)

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas was organized in Little Rock, Arkansas, February 5, 1931. The Constitution was adopted October 9, 1976 (in Little Rock). Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas was incorporated in the State of Arkansas April 28, 1977. Nonprofit status was attained April 17, 1978, and sales tax exemption July 1, 1979. (Federal identification number: 71-0503194).

Article I

Name, Description, Purpose

Section 1. This organization shall be called Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas.

Section 2. Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study of poetry and to the encouragement of poets.

Section 3. The purpose of this organization shall be to foster and encourage poets in the art; to promote an appreciation of poetry in the community; and to secure a fuller recognition of the works of contemporary poets in the state of Arkansas.

Article II

Membership and Dues

Section 1. The membership of this organization is open to all persons with a sincere interest in poetry, whose dues are current.

Section 2. If a member of Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas is accused of harassing any officer or committee member, or

of striving to disrupt and undermine the goals of this organization, or is accused of deliberate plagiarism, a committee of the Executive Board will investigate the charges. The membership may be withdrawn upon recommendation of at least two thirds of Executive Board and the approval of members by a vote at a regular business meeting.

Section 3. The fiscal year of this organization shall be from July 1 through June 30.

Section 4. Dues shall be reviewed and set by the Executive Board from time to time.

Article III Officers and Committees

Section 1. Officers of this organization shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Parliamentarian, Counselor, and four elected Executive Board Members at Large, designated by the Nominating Committee. All officers will be elected in February by written ballot for a period of two years. Succession to any office is not automatic.

Section 2. The President of this organization shall serve no more than two terms consecutively.

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.

Section 4. Committees may be appointed by the President as deemed necessary and approved by the Board.

Article IV Duties for Officers

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall perform individual duties as listed:

A. President: Shall preside over all meetings of the organization and of the Executive Board; shall call meetings of the Executive Board; shall appoint chairpersons for all standing committees; shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee; shall serve as official representative of the organization; shall provide executive leadership in the promotion of organization functions and, in the absence of the Treasurer, will have authority to sign checks for the organization. Delegated responsibilities may include securing grants, copyrights, proclamations, and special certificates. Other responsibilities may include preparation of tax and grant reports, the annual Secretary of State's report, official correspondence, and other duties as requested.

B. Vice President: Shall serve in the capacity of Administrative Assistant to President.

C. Secretary: Shall record the minutes of the statewide meetings and of the Executive Board meetings; shall

furnish the President with a copy of the minutes of the previous meeting, in advance of the next meeting; shall read the minutes at the organization's meetings at the request of the President or members; shall maintain copies of minutes for transmittal to successor in Office; and shall assist President with correspondence.

D. Treasurer: Shall receive and account for all monies accruing to the organization, according to auditing requirements; shall present a financial report at all regular meetings; shall be responsible for the disbursement of organization's funds; shall prepare an annual financial report; shall have authority to sign checks for the organization; shall provide for an annual audit of the Treasurer's book of the organization's accounts; shall furnish membership lists and dues to NFSPS as required by NFSPS.

E. Historian: Shall arrange for displaying the Scrapbook at state and national NFSPS meetings; and shall be responsible for proper retiring of old scrapbooks at the Little Rock library archives after National Poetry Day in Arkansas.

F. Parliamentarian: Shall interpret rules of order at all regular and Executive Board meetings according to the Constitution and Robert's Rules of Order.

G. Counselor: Shall serve as the advisor to the President.

Section 2. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside. In the event of the President's death, resignation, or inability to serve, the Vice President shall serve as President during the remainder of the fiscal year; or in the event of the temporary inability of the President to serve, so long as such inability continues

during the remainder of the fiscal year. In the event the Vice President is unable to serve as President, the Executive Board shall fill the vacancy for the period of the inability of the President.

Section 3. In the event of vacancies in offices other than the President or of such an officer's inability to serve, the office shall be filled by the Executive Board for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Article V Meetings

Section 1. Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas shall hold two annual statewide meetings. These meetings are to be held on Poetry Day in October and the Spring Celebration. Items included in the agenda shall be submitted to the President as follows: Branches may submit a maximum of two items and at-large members may submit one. All submitted items must be included in the business meeting unless, in opinion of the President, time will not permit the inclusion of all agenda items. In such event, the President shall consult with at least two board members to determine priority of agenda items.

Section 2. Poetry Day is celebrated on October 15, and it will be celebrated by PRA on one of the Saturdays in October. At each annual Poetry Day Meeting, responsibility for the next year's Poetry Day Meeting will be decided.

Section 3. The Spring Celebration will be held in the spring provided that an invitation to host it has been received from a branch or group of poets by the time of the Poetry Day events the previous October.

Section 4. Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum at statewide meetings.

Section 5. All voting at state meetings shall be done in person.

Section 6. Absentee and Proxy Votes:

A. All members of Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas may vote for state officers. A list of candidates will be included in the February *News 'N' Notes*. Space will be provided for write-in nominations. Ballots must be received by the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee no later than February 28 of the election year. New officers will be announced and installed at the Spring Celebration.

B. If, in the opinion of the President, a quorum (5) will not be present for an Executive Board meeting in which essential business is to be conducted, the President may accept up to two proxies from the Board Members so that a vote may be taken. The total number of Board Members present, plus the number of proxies, must satisfy the quorum requirements. Essential business is defined as the election of honorary members, election of a Merit Award recipient, or any other business in which time is of the essence.

Article VI Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended by the publication of amendments in *News 'N' Notes* and approved by a majority vote of those present at the state meeting immediately following the publication of the proposed changes. Or if mail-in ballots are included with the *News 'N' Notes* edition containing the proposed amendment, a

majority vote of the mail-in ballots received within one month of the publication date of the *News 'N' Notes* will determine the affirmation or rejection of the proposed changes.

Article VII

Branches

Section 1. Affiliated branches of this organization are granted autonomous rule in their respective units, provided that the general tenets of this Constitution, particularly Articles I, II, and VI, are deemed governing.

Section 2. A branch must have no fewer than five of its members paying state dues. All officers listed in the *Yearbook* must be members of Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas.

Standing Rules

This revised copy of the standing rules incorporates all changes that were voted by the Executive Board through fiscal year 2026-2027.

Arkansas Merit Award: Nominations are presented to the President by the Executive Board or by petition from any branch without a Board Representative. The Executive Board votes by secret ballot. The President counts the votes and breaks any ties. The President is responsible for obtaining the plaque and presenting it at the Poetry Day meeting. The Arkansas Merit Award shall be awarded only once to any individual member, and selections of the award will be based on cumulative contributions promoting poetry.

Merit Award Winners

1988	John Crawford
1989	Tillie Bogard Smith
1990	Ida Crane Walker
1991	Akers Pence Johnson
1992	Mary Harper Sowell
1993	May Gray
1994	Ted Badger
1995	Liz Faulkner
1996	Harry O'Neal
1997	Patricia Laster
1998	Betty Heidelberger
1999	Cathy Moran
2000	Harding Stedler
2001	Johnye Strickland
2002	Faye Boyette Wise
2003	Ann Talley Kinnaird
2004	Doris Ferguson

2005	Don Crowson
2006	Jeanie Carter and Nina Tillery
2007	Annetta Beauchamp
2008	Mildred McKinney
2009	Freedra Baker Nichols
2010	Wanda Jones
2011	Jim Barton
2012	Diane Stefan
2013	Pat Durmon
2014	Laura Loughridge
2015	Dennis Patton
2016	Donna Smith
2017	Kate Lacy
2018	Frieda Patton
2019	Karen Hayes
2020	Stacy Pendergrast
2021	Marilyn Joyner
2022	Renee Ramsey
2023	John McPherson
2024	Christine Henderson
2025	Karen Moulton

Guidelines for Poet Laureate Nomination

In accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated 1-4-114, upon the death or resignation of the current Poet Laureate or at the upcoming lapse of the current Poet Laureate's term, the President of Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) shall appoint a Chairperson for the PRA Poet Laureate Nomination Committee. The Chairperson shall select a PRA member to assist on the Nomination Committee.

The PRA Poet Laureate Nomination Chairperson will contact PRA members and request nominations for Poet Laureate be submitted to the Chair. Any nomination needs to be discussed with the nominee and agreed to prior to the

nomination by a PRA member. A detailed resume should be developed for each nominee. The resume will be developed with assistance from the nominee. If applicable, nominee's personal web address should be included in the resume. This resume will be used by the full four-person committee to determine the final nomination(s) to the Governor and will be presented to the Governor for review.

A.C.A. Section 1-4-114 specifies that this title is to be in recognition of outstanding accomplishments and contributions in poetry by a person who is a resident of the state of Arkansas. There are no job duties specifically named for the position of Poet Laureate. However, former Poets Laureate have:

- lived in Arkansas
- been members of PRA
- written and/or published poetry
- developed a poetical form
- been recipients of state and/or national awards
- edited poetry columns or magazines
- been active in literary societies and activities that promote a greater appreciation of poetry
- served as ambassador for the enhancement of poetry throughout the state and, possibly, nation
- participated in other applicable activities or accomplishments

Once nominations from PRA members are received by the PRA Poet Laureate Nominations Chairperson, the PRA Poet Laureate committee will review and select nominations to be reviewed by the full (four person) Poet Laureate Nominations Committee.

The PRA Poet Laureate Chairperson will contact the Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education to establish the method of review of nominations by all four committee members. The method of review may be by e-mail, phone, meeting, etc.

A letter of nomination to the Governor will be developed by the Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education and the PRA Poet Laureate Chairperson. Detailed resumes will be included in the letter. It is recommended that no more than two nominations be included in the letter to the Governor.

Honorary Members: Five honorary members will be maintained by the Executive Board and be selected by secret ballot. The current Arkansas Poet Laureate will be an honorary member for his/her term.

Membership: Dues for seniors (65) and students (under 18) are \$15. Regular dues for all others are \$20. The fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. First-time members joining between January 1 and March 31 will pay a reduced fee – (Dues for seniors (65) and students (under 18) are \$10. All others are \$15.) – then full price through the new year. If a former member pays late any time during the year, full price is due. (PRA only accepts US currency, checks, or money orders.)

Membership Coordinator: Shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Board; shall maintain accurate membership records; shall furnish an updated membership list to the Treasurer, the President and the editors of the Newsletter and Yearbook after July 1st; and shall furnish to the same officers, all additional names, as well as changes in address, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses, received after July 1st.

News 'N' Notes: The deadline is noted on page 11 for publication in August, November, February, and May. Late material will be printed in subsequent issues. Members' achievements will be listed as space permits. Editor is responsible only for processing and editing news items. Members will be advised by *News 'N' Notes* of motions and resolutions. Dues notification is included in the February and May issues. Postage fees will be prepaid. Secretary sends minutes to editor after they are revised.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee Chairman will be selected by the Executive Board at the meeting preceding Poetry Day on an election year. The Chairman will select five members and this must include one or more members not on the Executive Board. The official ballot must be submitted to the *News 'N' Notes* editor by January 10 of the election year and included in the February *News 'N' Notes*. Ballots must be received by the Nominating Committee Chair by Feb. 28 of the election year.

Poetry Day: A donation of \$30 or more is required to sponsor a contest. Smaller donations will be used as needed or designated. The two categories to be listed on the Poetry Day solicitation page of the February newsletter are: (1) PRA Members Only, and (2) All Poets. Except for correction of errors deemed critical by the Poetry Day Chairman, Poetry Day Contest Chairman and President, no revisions may be made to the Poetry Day Brochure after mailing. Entry fee will be a total of \$10 for PRA members, including the Sybil Nash Abrams Memorial Award Contest. Entry fee for non-members is \$15. The only awards that may be presented in Poetry Day festivities are those listed in the Poetry Day Brochure, the Arkansas Merit Award, and those that have received Executive Board consent prior to Poetry Day. The Poetry Day Contest Chair may not enter any Poetry Day

contest. Branch members may not enter the contest that their branch sponsors if their branch judges the contest. Expenses for poetry day will be reimbursed. A stipend of \$300 will be given to the featured speaker.

PRA Website: The website: poetsroundtableofarkansas.org exists to attract new members and to inform current members of contests and functions. A \$500 (a year) stipend will be given to the webmaster.

Presidential Duties Not Listed Elsewhere: The President shall maintain the morgue, keep current fact sheet for new/prospective members, and will arrange for PRA logo to appear on all official publications and order stationery with logo and letterhead, as approved by the Executive Board, for official use. The President will schedule two Executive Board meetings. The President shall divide the morgue into two files, keep the most complete file and designate a member of the Executive Board to keep the smaller file.

President's Plaque: The Counselor shall be responsible for obtaining the plaque for the outgoing president.

Published Poems: A poem shall be considered published if it has appeared in a publication with an ISBN or ISSN number.

Spring Celebration: Expenses for Spring Celebration will be reimbursed. A stipend of \$300 will be given to the featured speaker.

Sybil Nash Abrams Award: On January 21, 2023, the PRA Trustees of the Sybil Nash Abrams Trust donated the Sybil Nash Abrams Trust funds to the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas Sybil Nash Abrams Account. The Account will

continue to be managed and the funds in the Account will continue to be disbursed in the same manner as the Trust. In the event that Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas ceases to function, the funds in the Account shall be made available to any other Arkansas poetry association selected by the Trustees (PRA). (Lathrop Investment Management Corporation manages the Account and Charles Schwab is custodian.) Trustees are the PRA President, PRA Treasurer, and any other PRA Board Member the PRA Board deems needed.

Funds from the Account will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of the poetry contest sponsored by Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas. Only PRA members who are Arkansas residents shall be eligible to enter this contest.

Awards shall be paid to winners by the PRA Treasurer on Poetry Day in Arkansas. Amounts of the awards shall be: 1st Place, \$1,000; 2nd Place, \$400; 3rd Place, \$250. The Sybil Nash Abrams Memorial 1st Place award may be won by an individual only once every five years. The 1st Place winner is not eligible to enter the contest for four years after winning.

The Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas will select poetry form and subject, confining as far as practical to persons, places or things pertaining to Arkansas. The Account will allow up to \$200 fee for a competent judge for the contest as selected by the Chair of the Selection Committee. The committee for the selection of the judge shall be the last four winners of the award. The PRA member who has served longest will be the Chair. The Chair of the Selection Committee will receive nominations from the President and Selection Committee members. The President will provide the Chair of the Selection Committee with a list of nominees selected by the Executive Board along with the guidelines. The judge must not have any connections with Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas or its members. A non-resident of Arkansas is preferred.

Once the judge is selected by the Chair of the Selection Committee, the name of the judge will be shared with the Poetry Day Contest Chair. The name of the judge shall be kept secret by the Poetry Day Contest Chair and the Chair of the Selection Committee until the awards presentation on Poetry Day.

Use of PRA Name and/or Logo: No person or organization may use the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas name or logo without prior written approval of the official PRA Board.

Yearbook: No member will be listed more than once in the yearbook membership roster. Pen name or actual names will be noted in parentheses. The latest revision of the Constitution and Standing Rules will be printed in the yearbook.

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