

# 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 2017

### President's Address:

Fellow Poets,

This is the year of the Poet! Know how I know it? If you wrote anything about winter, snow, ice, bad weather or any of the seasonal elements this year, you used imagination. That describes a poet--one who uses imagination with descriptive thoughts and word pictures in connecting with readers.

The year started off with overcast, gray skies which produced two days of winter and immediately jumped into March weather with strong, warm winds. Jonquils are bursting through and green stems point toward blue skies. We can see these miracles and that makes it easy to write about springtime. But, this winter? We had to break out our past experiences and fold them into a mixing bowl, then stir in emotion before spooning out poems like cookie dough. But that is what we do when we use imaginable realities to set scenes and present them. It's called life. Congratulations, you do it well.

We have much to look forward to this year. Quickly, it will be April and time for the Spring Celebration meeting will be here. Plans are being finalized and more information can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. Then, NFSPS is at the end of June and is in Ft. Worth this year. If at all possible, make plans to be there to support President Jim Barton and to make Arkansas a visible presence during the national meeting. As you know, we are promoting the Jeanie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Contest which is sponsored by her husband, Roger Carter. Please use any opportunity to share the information available on the website with family members or friends. In fact, I usually ask checkout clerks and waiters/waitresses if they are enrolled in college. Even now, we are preparing for Poetry Day and contests information will be available soon. Mix in that this is the year we elect officers and voilà a full year has come and gone. Don't let the pace keep you from documenting each day with poetry. Poetry is your legacy. Write. Life is too short to be without poetry.

Dennis

### Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration April 22<sup>nd</sup>:

PRA's Saline County Branch will host this year's Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Parkview Methodist Church, 514 N Border Street in Benton from 9AM to 4PM. Our thanks to this group for their hospitality. Featured speaker will be Russell Strauss, current President of Poetry Society of Tennessee and past President of NFSPS. **Members are invited to send 1-2 poems by mail or e-mail to Dennis Patton by March 10<sup>th</sup> for Russell's critique.** His comments will be presented as part of the program. Also, attendees may submit a serious poem or light poem at registration. (See guidelines on page 10 of your yearbook.) Winners will be determined by attendee vote. **Remember to mail your 3 poetry contest entries by March 15<sup>th</sup>** to the sponsors listed on page 9 of the yearbook. These contests are for PRA members only. Winners will be announced on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Registration opens at 9AM. The program begins at 9:15AM. Lunch will be provided by the Saline County Branch (hamburgers, fixings, drinks and desserts) for \$6.50 each to be paid at registration. If you wish to buy lunch there please notify Dennis Patton by April 15<sup>th</sup> at 501-847-5328, patton\_dr@hotmail.com, or 2512 Springhill Circle, Alexander, AR 72002.

### Directions from I-30 East Bound from Hot Springs and points west to 514 N Border St, Benton, AR:

Take exit #117/AR-5/Benton/AR-35-----0.1 mi.  
Turn right onto AR-35, AR-5----- 0.6 mi.  
Proceed through stoplight -----0.1 mi.  
Turn left onto E North St-----0.6 mi.  
Turn right onto N Border St-----515 ft.  
Parkview Methodist Church is on right.

**Directions from Little Rock I-430/I-30 interchange to 514 N. Border St, Benton, AR:**

Proceed west on I-30 approximately-----9 mi.  
Take exit #117/AR-5/Benton/AR-35 onto I-30 frontage road W-----0.5 mi.  
Turn right on Hot Springs Hwy (AR-5) to light--0.2 mi.  
Turn left onto AR-35, AR-5 -----0.7 mi.  
Proceed through stoplight-----0.1 mi.  
Turn left onto E North St -----0.6 mi.  
Turn right onto N Border St-----515 ft.  
Parkview Methodist Church is on right.

**Vote for PRA's New Officers by February 28th:**

Complete the attached ballot and send it by February 28th via mail or email to Nominations Chair Kate Lacy, 2017 East Magnolia Dr., Fayetteville, AR 72703 or [voicedancer2002@yahoo.com](mailto:voicedancer2002@yahoo.com). New officers will be announced at the Spring Celebration on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, noted in the May newsletter, and posted on the website for the new term from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019.

**Poetry Day Contest Sponsorships Due Feb. 28th:**

Please consider sponsoring &/or judging a contest for Poetry Day. Or if you know of a potential sponsor (business or private) alert PRA President Dennis Patton. The Contest Sponsorship form is attached. Send completed forms with appropriate payment to PRA Treasurer Jim Barton (P.O. Box 263, Huttig, AR 71747) by February 28<sup>th</sup>. Please note that a sponsor is needed for the Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni contest this fall and into the future. Each year this conference honors Marinoni as the past Arkansas Poet Laureate (1953-1969) who established the first Arkansas Poetry Day on October 15, 1948. (Also, the Verna Lee Hinegardner Memorial Award, which honors another past Poet Laureate each spring, needs a sponsor in 2018 and forward. Each of these long-term contests needs \$100 per year to continue.) The Poetry Day contest brochure is produced in March, posted promptly on the PRA website, and mailed with the May newsletter. Our thanks to Little Rock's River Market Poets for hosting Poetry Day this year, and to Liz Faulkner for serving as the 2017 Poetry Day Contest Chair.

**January Board Meeting Results:** PRA's board addressed many issues in January, including: 1) a bill currently on the Arkansas Legislative agenda to term-limit the Arkansas Poet Laureate to 4 years and allow PRA some selection input; 2) progress on the JDC Collegiate Contest including member contact with all 50 colleges statewide in November plus a reminder email to 140 college administrators in January; 3) renewing a partnership with the Arkansas State Fair for Poetry Best-of-Show contest winners in 2017; 4) the need for a new Youth Contest Chair to replace Laura Loughridge after her years of service in that role (& many others); 5) discussing anthology research accomplished and the need for recommendations before June; 6) agreeing to 2 new repositories for past and future anthologies at the Arkansas State Archives and

Arkansas State Library (& encouraging members to donate old anthologies to help complete a series at each entity); 7) seeking sponsors for the Hinegardner contest in spring 2018 and the Marinoni contest in fall 2017 (both need long-term sponsors for honoring past Poet Laureates); 8) deciding subjects for several Poetry Day contests - the Sybil Nash Abrams subject is "*An Arkansas Destination*"; 9) approving half price membership fees for first time members joining amidst the fiscal year between January & June; 10) amending duties of PRA's Membership Coordinator in the constitution to match updated processes (this requires a vote at Spring Celebration); 11) changing the timeline when PRA's scrapbooks will be archived at the Butler Center after the June fiscal year end; and 12) reviewing/continuing progress on many changes resulting from the 2015 member survey. Contact President Dennis Patton with any questions.

**Vote to amend the constitution on April 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

regarding duties of Membership Coordinator, in Article IV-Section 1-F: *Membership Coordinator: Shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Board; shall ~~receive the checks for dues and maintain accurate membership records; shall transmit checks for dues to the Treasurer for deposit, and shall send a Yearbook to each new member.~~ 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.*

**Youth Chair Needed:** Please consider becoming PRA's Youth Chair, serving junior and senior high students through 3 annual state and national poetry contests. Kudos to outgoing Chair Laura Loughridge who has served in this role for several years. She will be happy to train the incoming chair. The rules, timelines and duties change very little each year: 1) update the NFSPS and Manningham national student contest guidelines in September along with the Sybil Nash Abrams Arkansas student contest; 2) set deadlines and prepare brochures for these 3 contests accordingly; 3) distribute brochures in November through PRA's website, newsletter, branch presidents, newspapers, libraries, past winners, and the AETN website for teachers; 4) find judges for the Manningham and SNA contests; 5) receive entries by deadline; 6) forward blind copies to judges; 7) notify SNA winners upon receipt of judge's selections and invite them to read at Spring Celebration; 8) create winner certificates and request winning amounts from PRA's Treasurer; 9) distribute winnings at Spring Celebration or after. If you are interested in this role please contact Dennis Patton or Laura Loughridge.

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

**Anthology Research:** Kate Lacy and Mark Barton are studying PRA's options on continuing the anthology publications. Recommendations are due in June. Send comments to them at: [voicedancer2002@yahoo.com](mailto:voicedancer2002@yahoo.com) and [drspook1302@suddenlink.net](mailto:drspook1302@suddenlink.net). The anthology will not be published in 2017. Sets of 15 PRA anthologies dating from 1991 to 2015 were delivered to the Arkansas State Archives and the Arkansas State Library in January. Both agencies are repositories for historical documents and they were delighted to receive the anthologies. Several years were missing from the sets. If you would like to donate past anthologies, please bring them to the Spring Celebration, and/or contact Dennis Patton, Marilyn Joyner or Donna Smith.

**Notes from Jim, NFSPS President:** The January NFSPS *Strophes* newsletter offered many good pointers (pages 6-7). Jim Barton's address as NFSPS President was full of them too. He said, "The strength of words is in the reaction . . ." and, "The strongest writing should produce . . . action." He also highlighted two outstanding PRA members who are putting their poetry into action – Karen Hayes of Little Rock and Patricia Oplinger of Cherokee Village. Both make us proud here in Arkansas with their efforts "to breathe life back into poetry. . ." by reciting, performing and tying their poetry to other art forms. Speaking of Arkansas pride, Jim encourages all PRA members to attend the NFSPS conference June 29-July 2 in our neighbor state of Texas at Fort Worth's historic Hilton Hotel. Call now for your reservations (817-870-2100) and mention NFSPS for discounted conference rates (expiring June 6th). Contest entries are due March 15th, including a new audio contest (BlackBerryPeach \$1,000 prize) and the TEXAS HOLD'EM contest (\$100 prize for attendees only). See details at [nfsps.com](http://nfsps.com). Let's make Arkansas proud and win.

### **Yearbook Corrections:**

Please make the following corrections to your 2016-2017 yearbook. General information also is posted on PRA's website, excluding member names/addresses.

Two Rivers Poetry branch meets at 2:30 PM each 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at the Sweet Bay Coffee Shop, 3400 Rogers Avenue #110, Fort Smith. President is Mary Sangster.

Siloam Springs Writers Guild changed their meetings to each 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6PM at First Baptist Church, West Entrance, 2000 W. Dawn Hill Rd., Siloam Springs.

**Online Group:** PRA members, if you're not attending a branch consider joining the Online Group. Contact Kate Lacy to do so at [voicedancer2002@yahoo.com](mailto:voicedancer2002@yahoo.com). New participants always welcome.

**PRA Sends Condolences** to PRA members Russell Strauss of Memphis and Kitty Yeager of Arkadelphia. Both lost loved ones in January – Russell's sister and Kitty's husband. Please keep them in your prayers.

### **Farewell to Lee Ann Russell (1942-2017):**

Lee Ann Russell, PRA Member-at-large of Springfield, Missouri, died of pancreatic cancer on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Her daughters reported that, "She departed peacefully as loved ones read her poetry." She was born July 26, 1942 to Richard M. and Retha (Barnard) McDowell. She attended schools and college in Springfield where she also held several different administrative jobs over her lifetime. But her true love was writing. In 1964 she married Eugene Russell III and had 2 daughters, Penny and Peggy. Survivors include her daughters, their husbands, a grandson, her mother, many cousins and friends. Lee Ann was an Honorary Life Member of the Springfield Writer's Guild and the Missouri State Poetry Society, member of the Missouri Writers' Guild, Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas and Springfield Poets & Friends. Her book, *How to Write Poetry, Ballad to Villanelle* is used by writers all over America. She wrote over 800 poems and won myriad awards in poetry, prose and photography. She also wrote articles for Springfield Magazine, Writer's Digest, Poetry Collection, Farm and Ranch Living, Old House Journal, Ozarks Magazine, The News-Leader, Senior Living and The Ozarks Mountaineer. As a PRA member for years, Lee Ann sent news of her accomplishments through the end of 2016. She also judged the Betty Heidelberger Memorial Poetry Contest for PRA last fall. PRA extends our sympathy to her family and friends.

### **Poetic Wins, Activities & Publications:**

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

PRA Monthly Contest winners are: **November** - 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Barton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sara Gipson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cathy Parker, 1HM Don Crowson; **December** – 1<sup>st</sup> Dennis Patton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amanda Partridge, 3<sup>rd</sup> Kim Vernon; **January** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sara Gipson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathy Moran, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jim Barton, 1HM Dennis Patton, 2HM Amanda Partridge, 3HM Barbara Blanks.

John Crawford (Hot Springs) won a 1<sup>st</sup> place from the OWL Writers in Branson in November.

Vivian Barcroft and Kate Lacy (Poets Northwest) placed in the Poetry Society of Texas November annual contest. Vivian won a 2nd. Kate won a 3rd and 8th.

Pat Durmon (Member-at-large, Norfolk) has expanded from Poet, Writer, and Speaker to add Blogger. Email her at [patdurmon@gmail.com](mailto:patdurmon@gmail.com) to receive blog notices. Pat was a counselor before becoming a poet, and tends to share her heart. She says, "I write because I cannot not write." See also: [www.patdurmon.com](http://www.patdurmon.com).

Cathy Moran (River Market) won 2<sup>nd</sup> from Arizona State Poets; a 2<sup>nd</sup> and HM in the International Poet Laureate competition; 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> from Art Affair in Oklahoma; a 3<sup>rd</sup> and HM from Bay Area Poets of CA.

## Upcoming Deadlines/Events/Contests

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each Month:** PRA's Monthly Contest entries are due by mail to Liz Faulkner, 3 Ridge Oak Cove, Little Rock AR 72223. See PRA's yearbook and website for rules, plus links to resources on poetry forms. **PRA members may send one poem per month for free critique to PRA's State Critic Todd Sukany, 5443 South 188th Road, Pleasant Hope, MO 65725 ([editor@upstarespress.com](mailto:editor@upstarespress.com)).**

### **February 5, 2017: Happy 86<sup>th</sup> BD to PRA!**

**February 28:** Vote for PRA's new officers! Ballots are due to Kate Lacy, 2017 East Magnolia Dr., Fayetteville, AR 72703 or [voicedancer2002@yahoo.com](mailto:voicedancer2002@yahoo.com).

**February 28:** Poetry Day Contest Sponsorships due. Send completed forms and payment to PRA Treasurer Jim Barton. See attached sponsorship form.

**March:** Watch PRA's website for Poetry Day Contest details. The Sybil Nash Abrams topic is *An Arkansas Destination*. Entries due August 15<sup>th</sup> to Contest Chair Liz Faulkner, 3 Ridge Oak Cove, Little Rock, 72223.

**March 6:** Deadline for Lucidity contest poems. See details at [www.luciditypoetryretreat.com](http://www.luciditypoetryretreat.com)

**March 10:** Members may send 1-2 poems to Dennis Patton for critique at the Spring Celebration.

**March 10:** Mississippi spring contest entries due. See details at [www.misspoetry.net](http://www.misspoetry.net).

**March 15:** PRA's Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration contest entries due, open to members only. See details in your yearbook and on PRA's website.

**March 15:** NFSPS annual contest entries due. See details on all contests at [www.nfsp.com](http://www.nfsp.com).

### **April is National Poetry Month – Celebrate!**

**April 4-6:** Lucidity Ozark Poetry Retreat in Eureka Springs. See more at [www.luciditypoetryretreat.com](http://www.luciditypoetryretreat.com).

**April 22:** Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration hosted by the Saline County Poets in Benton.

**May:** Arkansas State Fair Poetry Contests posted. PRA sponsors Best-of-Show poetry winners in 4 age groups. See details at [www.arkansasstatefair.com](http://www.arkansasstatefair.com), plus summarized guidelines on PRA's website. Entries are free, for Arkansans only, and due in September by posted deadlines. Prizes will be awarded in November.

**June:** Watch for the Arkansas Writers' Conference. See details at [arkwritersconf.org](http://arkwritersconf.org).

**June 6:** Discounted room rates expire at the NFSPS conference at Ft. Worth's Hilton. Call 817-870-2100.

**June 29-July 2:** NFSPS conference in Fort Worth, TX.

**June 30:** Deadline for PRA 2017-2018 member dues. Send fees (\$20 regular or \$15 for seniors & students) with updates on address, phone and email to PRA Treasurer Jim Barton, P.O. Box 263, Huttig, AR 71747 ([jbob214@yahoo.com](mailto:jbob214@yahoo.com).) Also send updates on officers, meeting dates, places & times. New yearbooks will be printed in July with available information. Late payment will affect your eligibility for various contests.

**August:** PRA's new 2017-2018 yearbook mailed.

**August 15:** Deadline for PRA's Poetry Day Contest entries. Send entries to Poetry Day Contest Chair Liz Faulkner, 3 Ridge Oak Cove, Little Rock AR 72223.

**September 30:** Mail-in deadline for the Arkansas State Fair Poetry Contests. See details on PRA's website.

**October 21:** Poetry Day 2017 in Little Rock hosted by the River Market branch at the Butler Center. Featured speaker is Brian Borland, a Pushcart nominee, editor of *Assaracus*, publisher of Sibling Rivalry Press in Little Rock, and winner of numerous honors. The American Library Association named his new book "DIG" a 2017 Stonewall Honor Book. More details to come.

**November:** Junior/Senior High and College Student contests will be distributed this month. PRA branches are asked to help promote these contests in their area.

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.nfsp.com](http://www.nfsp.com)) for national news, contests, and links to other state poetry societies. Please alert PRA Membership Chair Kate Lacy with any changes in member contact information or branch meeting places/times/officers. PRA currently serves 138 members, 11 branches, and an online group.



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## PRA 2017-2018 BALLOT

### Vote for new PRA officers by February 28, 2017

The following members have been nominated to serve as PRA officers for the next two fiscal years, from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019. Please put a check mark beside each nominee for whom you wish to vote. Mail or email your completed ballot to Nominating Committee Chair Kate Lacy (2017 East Magnolia Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72703, [voicedancer2002@yahoo.com](mailto:voicedancer2002@yahoo.com)) by February 28, 2017.

Election results will be posted in the May newsletter and on PRA's website. New officers will be announced and installed at PRA's Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Benton, Arkansas. Our thanks to Kate Lacy, Don Crowson and Kathy Helmer for conducting the nomination process.

#### Write-in nominations/votes

____ President	Dennis Patton	_____
____ Vice President	Mark Barton	_____
____ Secretary	Fay Guinn	_____
____ Treasurer	Jim Barton	_____
____ Historian	Marilyn Joyner	_____
____ Parliamentarian	Cathy Parker	_____
____ Counselor	Cathy Moran	_____
____ Member at large	Cat Donnelly	_____
____ Member at large	Donna Henson	_____
____ Member at large	Frieda Patton	_____
____ Member at large	Helene Stallcup	_____



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## 2017 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](mailto: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, 2017**.

**Address:** Send this form with your check (payable to PRA) to: Jim Barton, PRA Treasurer  
P.O. Box 263  
Huttig, AR 71747

**Name of award:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Form:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Line limit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other requirements may be noted here or on reverse:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Awards:** 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:** \_\_\_\_\_