

Yearbook
Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas
2015-2016



poetsroundtable.webs.com

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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
Incorporated in Arkansas April 28, 1977
Nonprofit Declaration April 17, 1978
PRA Colors: Silver & Purple, PRA Flower: Aster
*SSN/Tax ID: 71-0503194 – Federal Tax Exemption
*Tax Exemption No. 7-26-001331, July 1, 1979
*Arkansas Exemptions for Tax-Specific Organizations, Paragraph GR-3, Arkansas Tax Code
(Organization exempt when purchasing taxable goods or services)

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.

Poet Laureate of Arkansas: Peggy Vining

Officers for 2015-2016

President..... Dennis Patton
First Vice President..... Stephen Johnson
Second Vice President Charlie Southerland
Secretary Laura Loughridge
Treasurer Jim Barton
Parliamentarian Cathy Parker
Historian..... Betty Heidelberger
Counselor Cathy Moran

Board Members at Large: Robin Burrows, Sara Gipson,
Donna Henson, Frieda Patton

Appointed Committees

Membership Kate Lacy
News 'N Notes Editor Donna Smith
Poetry Day Chair..... Laura Loughridge
Monthly Contest Chair..... Stephen Johnson
Strophes Reporter..... Laura Loughridge
Yearbook..... Cathy Moran
Anthology..... Dennis Patton
Youth Chairman..... Laura Loughridge
Website Chair..... John Moran

Honorary Members

Peggy Vining ♣ Don Crowson ♣
Mildred McKinney ♣ Helene Stallcup ♣
Faye Boyette Wise

Poets' Roundtable Branches

Baxter County Poets' Association

President: Debra Dail
Vice President: George M. Dreger
Secretary: Elizabeth Dail
Treasurer: LeRoy Buffon
Meetings: Baxter County Library,
4th Friday (3rd Friday, Nov/Dec)

Delta Poets

President: Betty Heidelberger
Vice President: Vivian Hoskins
Treasurer: John Fewkes
Meetings: 1st Tues, Phillips College 1:00

Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs

President: John Crawford
Vice President Bethel Kay Kymes
Treasurer: Delores Hinde
Parliamentarian: Marie Allison
Historian: Linda Woodberry
Counselor: Terry Rutledge
Meetings: Garland County Library,
2nd Thursday, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Poets Northwest

President: Kate Lacy
Treasurer: Harry McDermott
Programs: Leatha Jorgensen
Meetings: 1st Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
479-442-8028

Saline County Branch

President: Dennis Patton
V. President: Don Crowson
Sec/Treas: Cathy Parker
Sunshine: Cathy Parker
Chaplain: Don Crowson
Meetings: Ashley Street Fire Station, 1:00 p.m.
4th Saturday, Sept. – Oct., Jan-May
3rd Saturday, Nov., Dec.

Siloam Springs Writers

President: Margaret Weathers
Vice Pres: Caroline Geer
Secretary: Rachel Kulp
Treasurer: Ted Weathers
Contest Chair: Rosemary Matthews
Meetings: 1st Bank Social Room, Progress Ave.
1st Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

River Market Poets

President: Laura Loughridge
V. Pres: Doug Bently
2nd V. Pres: Harding Stedler
Meetings: Central Arkansas Library, River Market
2nd Saturday, 10:00 a.m.

South Arkansas Poets of the Pines

President: Donna Henson
Co-Vice Presidents.: Mary Griffith & Janet Ryan
Secretary: Melanie Moses
Treasurer: Jim Barton
Historian: Marilyn Joyner
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.
Barton Library, El Dorado

River Poets of Batesville

President: Marla Bennett
V. President: Kitty Smith
Meetings: 1st Mon, 7:00-9:00, library

Free Verse Poetry Group of Mountain Home

President: Charlie Southerland
Vice-President: Barbara Robinette
Secretary: Diane Stefan
Treasurer: Jackye Swyers
Slam Officer: Monterey Sirak
Meetings: Donald Reynolds Library,
3rd Saturday, 1:00 – 3:00

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

Dates to Remember

2015	
August 15	DEADLINE for Poetry Day contest entries
October	Proclamation of National Poetry Day in Arkansas
October 3	Poetry Day in Little Rock, Arkansas
October 18	Deadline for Anthology pages and contest
November	Notices of student contests are distributed
2016	
February 28	DEADLINE for Sponsor Forms for Poetry Day
March 15	DEADLINE for NFSPS contests
March 15	DEADLINE for Spring Celebration contests
April	Spring Celebration in El Dorado
June 30	DEADLINE for membership dues and information to be included in Yearbook

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. Checks for dues should be made out to PRA and sent to: Kate Lacy, 2017 East Magnolia, Fayetteville AR 72703

2015-2016 Roundtable Monthly Contests Topics

September: Subject – In praise of earthly things; Form – Any
 November: Subject – The end; Form – Free verse
 December: Subject – Winter; Form – Rondelet
 January: Subject – How it begins; Form – Any
 February: Subject – Love for our pets; Form – Sonnet
 March: Subject – Food/cooking; Form – Rhymed couplets
 April: Subject – Brooms; Form – Free verse
 June: Subject – Stars; Form – Quintain
 July: Subject – Any; Form – Any
 August: Subject – Any; Form – Any

Contest Rules

Monthly Contests

- Poems must be postmarked by the second Saturday of the month.
- Members may enter one poem per month with a limit of 36 lines unless directions are otherwise.
- Entries may be mailed to: Stephen Johnson, 93 Old Tracy Road, Mountain Home AR 72653
- Poem must be original, unpublished.
- Two copies; place name and address on one copy only in the upper right corner.
- Winners receive a check for \$15, \$10, \$5 and are listed on the web site.
- Three HMs may or may not be awarded.

Spring Celebration Awards

Sybil Nash Abrams Award

1. Open to Arkansas residents only; 60 – 100 lines.
2. Poem must be original, historically accurate, unpublished.
3. List sources (historical) on separate page.
4. Poet is eligible for First Prize once every five years.
5. Executive Board selects subject and line limit, to be published on the web site and in *News 'N' Notes*.
6. Executive Board compiles a list of judges.
7. Last four winners form the committee chaired by the earliest winner; they select a judge. The 2015 committee:

2013 Jim Barton

2014 Marcia Camp

Sybil Nash Abrams Memorial Student Awards

1. Prizes and contest expenses will be paid from the annual interest on the fund established for these awards by Mr. & Mrs. Julian Smith and Mr. Nash Abrams.
2. Rules for this contest and for the Manningham, AR Writers Conference, 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 area.
3. Sybil Nash Abrams student winners will be invited to the Spring Meeting to read their poems and to receive their awards. Contest Chair will mail awards to the winners unable to attend luncheon.
4. Winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd Place) Junior & Senior Divisions, Manningham Award, and NFSPS student contest #50 will be considered for publication by PRA in annual anthology. Anthology copies will be mailed to the published students and to their schools by Contest Chair.
5. For copies of rules, send SASE to Laura Loughridge, 102 Oakridge Cove, Maumelle AR 72113.

Members need not be present to win. The same poem may not be entered in more than one contest. All judges will be non-PRA members.

Dr. Lily Peter Memorial Award (sponsored by the Peters family)

1. 1st place prize \$50, 2nd place, \$30, 3rd place, \$20, and up to three HM to be awarded from yearly CD interest.
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 by March 15 (postmark) to: President, Dennis Patton, 2512 Springhill Circle, Alexander AR 72002.

Verna Lee Hinegardner Memorial Award (sponsored by PRA)

1. 1st place prize of \$50, 2nd place, \$30, 3rd place, \$20 and up to three HM to be awarded from yearly CD interest.
2. 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 by March 15 (postmark) to Stephen Johnson, 93 Old Tracy Road, Mountain Home AR 72653.

Mary Harper Sowell Award (sponsored by Pat Laster)

1. 1st place prize of \$50, 2nd place, \$30, 3rd place, \$20 and up to three HM to be awarded from yearly CD interest.
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 by March 15 (postmark) to Pat Laster, 7433 Samples Rd., Benton, AR 72019

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 two copies, with name on only one.
5. Place name and 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 9:30 am deadline.
9. Poets must be present to win.

News 'N' Notes

The 2015-2016 *News 'N' Notes* will be published on the website quarterly. Because *Strophes* appears on the NFSPS web site, 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 10th
October 10th
January 10th
April 10th

Publication Dates

August 1st
November 1st
February 1st
May 1st

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

Donna Smith
58 Briarwood
Greenbrier AR 72058
tndsmith@live.com

State Critic

1. PRA members may mail or e-mail one poem per month to

Jeff Rawlings
P.O. Box 76
Yellville AR 72687
jeffr50g@gmail.com

2. Poems must be original work of poet, clearly typed, with name and address on poem and on envelope. Send SASE for reply. At critic's discretion, extra poems may be accepted for a fee. The Board recommends \$5 per page. Check before sending extras.
3. The State Critic will be paid a stipend of \$200 per year in advance of the year of critique.

2015 Anthology Information

1. PRA members may publish poems in the anthology.
2. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of the Sybil Nash Abrams student contests will be published at PRA expense with a copy to each student and the respective school library.
3. To be eligible for publication, poems must have been:
 - a. published in a literary journal, magazine, or newspaper column, or
 - b. won \$5 or more in a contest, or
 - c. won an HM in an NFSPS contest, or
 - d. approved in writing or e-mail by state critic or previously approved by former critic.
4. Deadline for poems/page fees: October 18th postmark.
5. Anthology fee is \$10 per page. Poet will receive two anthologies per page published.
6. Each poet may purchase up to three pages.
7. Sybil Nash Abrams' winning poem is allowed 4 pages and will be published at the expense of PRA with a copy to the winner.

8. Check or money order payable to PRA should be sent, with poems, to Dennis Patton, 2512 Springhill Circle, Alexander AR 72002.
9. Preferred method to submit anthology poems and contest poems is by e-mail - patton_dr@hotmail.com. Send a word document attachment to Dennis Patton. If not possible, mail to Dennis. Document is to be typed in Times New Roman, font size 12. Starting at the upper left of page and in the following order should be: Author's name; title or poem; poem left justified unless "shaped" poem or line arrangement is necessary for meaning; thirty-two lines maximum per poem includes poem title and identifying information at the bottom of the page; fifty-five characters and spaces maximum per line. At end of poem, bottom left, identifying information is to include name of contest or award; name of conference or organization; year award given, name of publication and summer, winter, or day, month, year, in order. This will eliminate retyping of poems before they are formatted for printing.
10. Committee may reject any poem considered obscene.
11. The editor must place one copy of the anthology in the archives of the Central Arkansas Library System, Arkansas Studies Institute.
12. Stipend for the anthology editor is \$100, plus expenses.
13. At PRA's expense, a copy of the Anthology will be presented to: the family of each poet recognized in the "In Memoriam" section; the Anthology Contest Judge; the Central Library System; and the University of Arkansas Library. Two copies will be placed in the PRA archives.

Annual Anthology Contest (October 18th deadline)

1. Each member may enter one unpublished poem in the annual Anthology contest.
2. Entry poem is limited to 30 lines, submitted in duplicate.
3. Type "Anthology contest" in upper left corner of both copies and envelope.

4. Place name and address in upper right corner of one copy only— address labels accepted.
5. Deadline: October 18, 2015.
6. Entry cannot be withdrawn after deadline.
7. Poems entered in annual Anthology contest must not be entered in other contests or submitted for publication until after the Spring Celebration.
8. Awards: Publication in 2015 Anthology (first five pages at the expense of PRA). 1st place winner will receive two free copies. 2nd through 5th place winners receive one free copy.
9. Editor will select a non-PRA judge. (out-of-state)

Anthology Sales

Vintage editions are \$5. Order anthologies for 2009 and prior years from: Betty Heidelberger, Chair, 18 Looper, Sherwood, AR 72120 501-834-9628.

Anthology Memorial Fund

Donations may be made for the Anthology Fund to: Marcia Camp, 5128 "B" St, Little Rock, AR 72205. This fund was established for acceptance of donations. At no time will the amount drop below the required minimum of \$200, nor will the account be cancelled or moved to another bank without a vote of the Board. Chairman of the fund shall be responsible for receiving donations from donors, and informing the families of persons being honored or memorialized.

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas Constitution

(Last amended June, 2015)

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 1st through June 30th.

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, First Vice President, Second 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 Representatives will have the same privileges as the elected members of the Executive Board but will not be counted as part of the quorum. The Board, including the Branch Representatives, 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, official correspondence, and other duties as requested.
- B. **First Vice President:** Shall serve in the capacity of Administrative Assistant to President.
- C. **Second Vice President:** Shall serve as Monthly Contest Chairperson and secure judges for the monthly contests.
- D. **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.
- E. **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 a membership

list to the Treasurer of NFSPS in August, and an update in membership in January, with dues for each member of NFSPS.

- 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 editor of the newsletter 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.
- G. **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.
- H. **Parliamentarian:** Shall interpret rules of order at all regular and Executive Board meetings according to the Constitution and Robert's Rules of Order.
- I. **Counselor:** Shall serve as the advisor to the President.

Section 2. In the absence of the President, the First Vice President shall preside. In the event of the President's death, resignation, or inability to serve, the First 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 First 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 of the changes that were voted by the Executive Board through fiscal year 2015-2016.

Remembrances: When a member dies, an anthology will be placed in the library designated by next of kin. The branch of which the deceased was a member will be responsible for an appropriate inscription and delivery. Cards will be sent to members who are ill and bereaved. A memorial page will be included in the anthology for deceased president, honorary members, and previously active members, in the form of a poem by the deceased or one in tribute by another member. Honorary pages for living members will not be accepted.

Honorary Members: Five honorary members will be maintained by the Executive Board and be selected by secret ballot.

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.

Yearbook: No member will be listed more than once in 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.

News 'N' Notes: The deadline is noted on page 10 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. 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. Postage fees will be prepaid. Secretary sends minutes to editor after they are revised.

Membership Paid dues will be in effect until the following June 30.

Presidential Duties Not Listed Elsewhere: The President shall engage the critic, maintain morgue, and keep current fact sheet for new/prospective members; 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.

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. 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 NPD Contest Chair may not enter any NPD contest. Branch members may not enter the contest that their branch sponsors if their branch judges the contest.

The next year's site will be decided by Poetry Day. Poetry Day speaker shall be paid a \$100 stipend.

Sybil Nash Abrams Trust: Income from the Trust will be paid annually to Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas to be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of the poetry contest sponsored by Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas. Only Arkansas poets shall be eligible to enter this contest. The Trust will allow up to \$200 fee for a competent judge as selected by the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas who will also select poetry form and subject, confining as far as practical to persons, places or things pertaining to Arkansas.

Awards shall be paid to winners by the Trustee, through the PRA Treasurer on National Poetry Day. Amounts of the awards shall be: 1st Place, \$1,000; 2nd Place, \$400; 3rd Place, \$250. In the event that Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas ceases to function, the award shall be made available to any other Arkansas poetry association selected by the Trustee. (Charles Schwab & Company manages the trust.)

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. A list of suitable judges will be gathered by the committee Chairperson. The judge must not have any connections with Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas or its members. A non-resident of Arkansas is preferred, although an Arkansas judge may be selected with Executive Board approval. The committee for the final selection of one judge shall be the last four winners of the award. The member who has served longest will be the Chairman.

The President will provide the Chairman of the Committee with a list of nominees selected by the Executive Board along with the guidelines. The name of the judge shall be kept secret by the Poetry Day Contest Chairman and the Chairman of the Selection Committee until the awards presentation on Poetry Day. The Chairman of the Selection Committee shall place the name of the judge within a sealed

envelope, and see that it is placed in safekeeping with a member of the committee in case of an unforeseen problem.

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 Luncheon. The Arkansas Merit Award shall be awarded only once to any individual, and selections of the award will be based on cumulative contributions promoting poetry.

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

Treasurer: Must send \$3 per member dues to NFSPS by August and \$3 for new members by January 15. Books are to be audited at change of treasurer.

Spring Celebration: At the annual Poetry Day, a site for the Spring Celebration will be designated. \$100 will be the stipend for the luncheon speaker.

Merit Award Winners

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 Freeda Baker Nichols
2010 Wanda Jones
2011 Jim Barton
2012 Diane Stefan
2013 Pat Durman
2014 Laura Loughridge

PRA Web site: The website (poetsroundtable.webs.com) exists to attract new members and to inform current members of contests and functions. A \$200 stipend will be given to the webmaster, John Moran.

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

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.