



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

(<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>)

Encouraging poets and poetry in Arkansas since 1931

Affiliated with National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. ([www.nfsps.com](http://www.nfsps.com))



Picture left to right is Jim Barton, president of National Federation of State Poetry Societies; Governor Asa Hutchinson; Peggy Vining, Arkansas poet laureate; and Dennis Patton, president of Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

### Arkansas Celebration of National Poetry Day

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) recently met for celebration of National Poetry Day in Arkansas at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Hot Springs, AR. Governor Hutchinson had previously presented a proclamation to PRA members designating October 22, as Arkansas Celebration of National Poetry Day.

Kai Coggin of Hot Springs was guest speaker at the celebration. Coggin, a poet and author, is a specialized teaching artist of creative writing and is on the Arts in Education Roster for the

Arkansas Arts Council. She also teaches a community adult creative writing class at Emergent Arts called Words & Wine. A number of PRA members' poems were critiqued by Ms. Coggin at the meeting.

Donna Smith of Greenbrier was presented the PRA Merit Award for 2016. Poetry Day contest winners were announced. Among the contest awards presented was the Sybil Nash Abrams Award. First place was presented to Donna Smith, second place to Fay Guinn of Jonesboro, and third place to Don Crowson of Benton. The Sybil Nash Abrams Award is the top contest award presented on Poetry Day.

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas is the oldest, non-profit poetry organization in the state. PRA was established in 1931 to encourage the art of poetry and poets in Arkansas. Members are from all around the state, including past and present Arkansas Poet Laureates. PRA is an affiliate of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). Arkansas's own Jim Barton of Huttig is currently serving as President of NFSPS. PRA and NFSPS sponsor educational poetry conferences and contests throughout the year for all age groups. For more information on PRA (and link to NFSPS) see PRA's website at: <http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>.