

PRESS RELEASE

July 15, 2016

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)

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) is proud to announce that Arkansas's own Jim Barton was elected President of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) in June 2016 during the national conference in Minnesota.

Barton, from Huttig, Arkansas, is an award-winning poet, published author, popular speaker, PRA's State Treasurer and Branch Treasurer for South Arkansas Poets of the Pines, a PRA branch he started in 2009. Last year he served as NFSPS 1st Vice President and Membership Chair. Arkansas is one of 31 states affiliated with NFSPS, a non-profit organization formed to recognize poetry as part of our cultural heritage. (The next NFSPS conference will be in Fort Worth, Texas June 29-July 2, 2017.)

Barton began writing seriously after taking a course in 2000 at South Arkansas Community College. Since then he has won over 400 awards nationwide for his poetry, including the Morris Memorial Chapbook award, the Award of Merit from Poets Roundtable of Arkansas, a Jim Stone Grand Prize for Poetry, and the Sybil Nash Abrams Award (twice). He has published four poetry books, plus work in more than 125 journals and magazines in 25 states and one foreign country. He has performed his work on radio, college campuses and stage. He is in demand as a speaker throughout the South, and spoke recently at the state poetry society conferences in Mississippi and Texas. He also enjoys hosting monthly "Open Mic Nights" at PJ's Coffee House in El Dorado, Arkansas.

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas is the oldest poetry organization in the state, founded in 1931 as a non-profit organization to encourage poets and poetry. PRA branches are located throughout the state. Feel free to contact any branch President with questions or visit a meeting. All poets are welcome. For more information see <http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org> and like us on Facebook. Or contact PRA President Dennis Patton at patton_dr@hotmail.com.