



PRESS RELEASE

November 2, 2017

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

(<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>)

Encouraging poets and poetry in Arkansas since 1931

Member of National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. (www.nfsp.com)



Pictured left to right: Dennis Patton, president of Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA); Fay Guinn, PRA secretary; Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson; and Stacy Pendergrast, PRA member.

Governor Proclaims October 21, 2017, Celebration of Poetry Day in Arkansas

Governor Hutchinson presented a proclamation on October 5th to representatives of the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) designating October 21st as Arkansas' Celebration of National Poetry Day. PRA celebrated the Poetry Day event at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock, hosted by PRA's River Market Branch. Each year the event honors past Arkansas Poet Laureate Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni who established the first Arkansas Poetry Day on October 15, 1948.

Featured speaker was Bryan 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.

PRA President Dennis Patton presented the 2017 Merit Award to Kate Lacy of Fayetteville for her service as membership chair, leader of PRA's online group, president of the Poets Northwest branch, and participant in numerous committees.

Poetry Day Contest Chair Liz Faulkner presented the winners in 30 Poetry Day Contests. Entries totaled 945 and came from all over the United States and Canada. The top prize of \$1,000 went to Laura Trigg of Little Rock for first place in the Sybil Nash Abrams annual award. Second place in that contest went to Pat Durmon of Norfolk (\$400) and third to Elizabeth Dail of Norfolk (\$250). Judge for the Sybil Nash Abrams contest was Eleanor Berry of Oregon.

PRA welcomes anyone interested in poetry. Members come from all over Arkansas and from other states. PRA is a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). Arkansas' own Jim Barton from Huttig currently serves as president of the national organization. Both organizations are non-profits established to promote poetry and poets. For more information about PRA go to poetsroundtableofarkansas.org and also link to nfsp.com.