

**Yearbook**  
**Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas**  
**2018-2019**



[poetsroundtableofarkansas.org](http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org)

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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  
2012, 2014, 2015, 2016.  
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.

## Officers for 2018-2019

President.....Dennis Patton  
Vice President.....Cathy Moran  
Secretary .....Fay Guinn  
Treasurer ..... Cathy Moran  
Parliamentarian .....Cathy Parker  
Historian..... Marilyn Joyner

Board Members at large: John McPherson, Donna Smith,  
Donna Henson, Frieda Patton

## Appointed Positions

Membership Coordinator ..... Cathy Moran  
*News 'N Notes* Editor.....Donna Smith  
Poetry Day Chair..... Amanda Partridge  
Monthly Contest Chair.....Renee Ramsey  
*Strophes* Reporter.....Laura Bridges  
Yearbook.....Cathy Moran  
Youth Chairman.....Laura Bridges  
Website Chair.....Karalin Rogers

## Honorary Members

Jo McDougall ♣ Don Crowson ♣  
Mildred McKinney ♣ Helene Stallcup ♣  
Faye Boyette Wise

## Poets' Roundtable Branches

### River Market Poets

President: Laura Bridges  
Vice President: Barbara Mulkey  
Meetings: Cox Center, River Market  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 10:00 a.m.

### Delta Poets

President: Vivian Hoskins  
Vice President: Faye Duncan  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tues, Phillips College 1:00

### Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs

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

### Gin Creek Poets of Searcy

President: Christine Henderson  
Sec/Treas. Amanda Partridge  
Meetings: Simmons Bank  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 6:30 p.m.  
Simmons Bank, Searcy

### Two Rivers Poetry

President: Mary Sangster  
Meetings: Sweet Bay Coffee Shop  
Third Thursday; 2:30 p.m.

### **Poets Northwest**

President: Kate Lacy  
V. President: Danna Ray  
Treasurer: Harry McDermott  
Advisor: Vivian Barcroft  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 1:00 p.m.  
479-442-8028

### **Saline County Branch**

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

### **Siloam Springs Writers**

President: Gene Linzey  
V. President: Ted Weathers  
Secretary: Rachel Kulp  
Treasurer: Jane Weathers  
Historian: Rosemary Matthews  
Meetings: First Baptist Church, Siloam Sprs.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 6:00 p.m.

### **Baxter County Poets' Association**

President: Debra Dail  
V. President: Stan Gray  
Treasurer: Douglas Bruffett  
Secretary: Elizabeth Dail  
Meetings: Fourth Friday of month

### **South Arkansas Poets of the Pines**

President: Janet Ryan  
V. President: Donna Henson  
Secretary: Melanie Moses  
Historian/PRA Rep: Marilyn Joyner  
Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.  
Barton Library, El Dorado

### **River Poets of Batesville**

President: Marla Bennett  
V. President: Kitty Smith  
Meetings: UACCB Fine Arts Building  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

### **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

<b>2018</b>	
August 15	DEADLINE for Poetry Day contest entries
October	Proclamation of National Poetry Day in Arkansas
October 13	Poetry Day in Little Rock, Arkansas
November	Notices of student contests are distributed
<b>2019</b>	
February 28	DEADLINE for Sponsor forms for Poetry Day
March 15	DEADLINE for Spring Celebration contests
March 15	DEADLINE for NFSPS contests
April	Spring Celebration
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. New first-time members joining between Jan. 1 and June 30 will pay ½ price membership dues for those few months, then full price for the new year. If a former member pays late any time during the year, full price is due. Checks for dues should be made out to PRA and sent to: Cathy Moran, 401 Auburn Dr., Little Rock AR 72205.

## 2018-2019 Roundtable Monthly Contests Topics

September: Subject - Any; Form - Sonnet; 14 lines  
 November: Subject - Any; Form - Minute; 12 lines  
 December: Subject - Automobiles; Form - Cinquain  
 January: Subject - Great Expectations; Form - Free verse; 32 lines  
 February: Subject - Any; Form - Haiku sequence, 15 lines, (5-7-5 standard form)  
 March: Subject - Any; Form - Free verse  
 May: Subject - Birds; Form - Cinquain sequence, 25 lines  
 June: Subject - The McDougall Moment: a single moment; Form - 12 lines total in 3 stanzas. No rhyming.  
 July: Subject - Humorous topic; Form - Any; 28 lines  
 August: Subject - Any; Form- rhyming couplets; 24lines

## Contest Rules

### Monthly Contests for Members

1. Poems must be postmarked by the second Saturday of the month.
2. Members may enter one poem per month with a limit of 36 lines unless directions are otherwise.
3. Entries may be mailed to: Renee Ramsey, 249 Garden Lane, Floral AR 72534.
4. Poem must be original, unpublished.
5. Two copies; place name and address on one copy only in the upper right corner.
6. Winners receive a check for \$15, \$10, \$5 and are listed on the web site.
7. Three HMs may or may not be awarded.
8. Contest results should be announced by the end of the month.

### **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, 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 2018 committee:

2014 Marcia Camp  
2015 Dennis Patton  
2016 Donna Smith  
2017 Laura Trigg

### **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.

### **Spring Celebration Poetry Contests for Members**

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 Roxie Wilson)

1. 1<sup>st</sup> place prize \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, \$20, and up to three HM.
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 Dr.

John Crawford)

1. 1<sup>st</sup> place prize of \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, \$20 and up to three HM.
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 John Crawford, 1813 Walnut St., Arkadelphia AR 71923.

#### **Mary Harper Sowell Award** (sponsored by Pat Laster)

1. 1<sup>st</sup> place prize of \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, \$20 and up to three HM.
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 one copy without a name.
5. Place 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. Poet must be present to win.

## News 'N' Notes

The 2018-2019 *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 10<sup>th</sup>  
October 10<sup>th</sup>  
January 10<sup>th</sup>  
April 10<sup>th</sup>

### Publication Dates

August 1<sup>st</sup>  
November 1<sup>st</sup>  
February 1<sup>st</sup>  
May 1<sup>st</sup>

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

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

## Anthology Information

The President shall appoint the editor who will select at least two PRA members to serve on the committee.

- A. The editor is authorized to publish the following:
  1. Poems submitted by PRA members that have
    - a. won \$5 or more in a contest,
    - b. won an HM in an NFSPS contest,
    - c. been approved by the editorial committee.
  2. The Sybil Nash Abrams contest winning poems for PRA members and students (contingent upon having written consent for publication by the poet).
  3. The Jeanie Dolan Carter Collegiate Contest winning poems (contingent upon having written consent for publication by the poet).
  4. A poem in memory of each PRA member who has died since the last edition.
- B. The editorial committee may reject any poem.
- C. The editor must place one copy of the anthology in the:
  1. Arkansas Studies Institute of the Central Arkansas Library System
  2. Arkansas State Library
  3. University of Arkansas Library
  4. Arkansas State Archives
  5. PRA President's set of archived anthologies
  6. PRA Historian's set of archived anthologies
- D. The editor will receive a \$100 stipend, plus expenses submitted to the treasurer with receipts, to be paid at the completion of the publication of the anthology.

## Anthology Sales

Vintage editions are \$5. Order anthologies for 2015 and prior years from: Marilyn Joyner, 3606 Iris St., El Dorado AR 71730.

## **Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas Constitution**

(Last amended Oct. 2016)

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 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**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, 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. **Vice President:** Shall serve in the capacity of Administrative Assistant to President.
- C. **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.
- D. **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.

- E. **Membership Coordinator:** Shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Board; shall maintain accurate membership records; shall furnish an updated membership list to the Treasurer, the President and the editors of the Newsletter and Yearbook after July 1<sup>st</sup>; 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 1<sup>st</sup>.
- F. **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.
- G. **Parliamentarian:** Shall interpret rules of order at all regular and Executive Board meetings according to the Constitution and Robert's Rules of Order.
- H. **Counselor:** Shall serve as the advisor to the President.

**Section 2.** In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside. In the event of the President's death, resignation, or inability to serve, the 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 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 2017-2018.

**Honorary Members:** Five honorary members will be maintained by the Executive Board and be selected by secret ballot. The current Arkansas Poet Laureate will be an honorary member for his/her term.

**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. First-time members joining within the fiscal year between January and June may pay half price.

**Presidential Duties Not Listed Elsewhere:** The President shall maintain the morgue, and keep current fact sheet for new/prospective members, and 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 Poetry Day Contest Chair may not enter any Poetry Day contest. Branch members may not enter the contest that their branch sponsors if their branch judges the contest. There is an allowance of \$50 reimbursement to branches for expenses for Poetry Day with submittal of receipts to the Treasurer. 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$1,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, \$400; 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Place award may be won by an individual only once every five years. The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 a 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 member, 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. There is an allowance of \$50 reimbursement to branches for expenses for Poetry Day with submittal of receipts to the Treasurer.

### **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  
2015 Dennis Patton  
2016 Donna Smith  
2017 Kate Lacy

**PRA Web site:** The website (poetsroundtableofarkansas.org) exists to attract new members and to inform current members of contests and functions. A \$500 stipend will be given to the webmaster, Karalin Rogers.

**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.