



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America.

Strophes

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www.nfspd.com

January 2012

President's Message



Dear NFSPS Poets:

This issue contains convention information on our coming convention in Indiana. This is such a good, centrally located convention, that hopefully it will inspire many poets to want to attend. If you have never been to an NFSPS convention, think about going. I went to my first convention in 2000 because I was state

president in Tennessee and no one in Tennessee had attended for a while. I decided if I didn't like it, I would not have to go back. I have not missed a single convention since. There is nothing more exciting for a poet than to attend excellent programs on poetry while meeting some of the very best poets in the country.

Remember your members now have the option of receiving *Strophes* online, but no member will be forced to do so and no state need cut their number of copies if this raises their mailing rate or causes other difficulties. This is purely optional, but it does help us cut costs if you decided not to receive the paper copy and may cut mailing costs for your society as well.

Think about becoming a columnist. *Strophes* is basically a newsletter. At the request of many members, we want to run columns whenever space permits that help poets to write better poetry. Madelyn Eastlund has already agreed to write a column on poetry forms. Send your suggestions to me or to the *Strophes* Coeditor, Paul Ford, or, if possible, to both of us, and you may find yourself becoming a columnist for *Strophes* on a somewhat regular basis as space permits. We will not be publishing poetry in *Strophes*. This is a newsletter *about* poetry, not one containing poetry. With as many member poets as we have, it would be impossible to select poems by just a few poets for publication and exclude poems by all the others.

I promised to make this a short column so we could use most of the space in this edition for convention information. I have six more months to go as your president and still welcome your ideas and comments.

Poets are special people,
Russell H. Strauss ~ 29th NFSPS President

The Crossroads of America Poetry Extravaganza June 14 – 18, 2012 Merrillville, Indiana

Program

Wednesday, June 13

Early Bards Arrival - ISFPC Welcome
Early Registration 3-5 PM in Book Room
Dinner on your own. Possible Jim Dandy gathering.

Thursday, June 14

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Registration
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Book Room
9:00 AM Tour to Fair Oaks Dairy Farm (see page 7 for more details)
1:30 PM Board Meeting
5:30 - 8:30 PM Performance Poetry: Ethel Fields, Jeff Manes, Cornelius House

Friday, June 15

7:00 AM Open Reading
8:00 AM State President's Meeting
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Book Room Open
9:30 AM First Plenary Session
10:45 AM Belinda Potoma "Lost in Translation"
12:30 PM **Lunch** Invocation Poem, Manningham Awards, Door Prizes, Contest Awards
2:30 PM Amy Kindred "Art & Poetry"
3:45 PM Country Music: Jim Kirk, Peggy Hendricks
5:30 - 9:45 PM **Dinner** Invocation Poem, Scholarship Winners, Door Prizes, Contest Awards
10:00 PM Open Reading at Starbucks

Saturday, June 16

7:00 AM Open Reading
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Registration
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Book Room Open
9:30 AM Andy Jaske "Poetry in Song Lyrics"
10:45 AM Workshop to be announced
12:30 PM **Lunch** Invocation Poem, Youth Awards, Door Prizes, Contest Awards
2:45 PM Emily Dickinson Presentation: Paddy Lynn
4:30 PM Country Singers: Jim Kirk, Peggy Hendricks
5:30 PM **Dinner** Invocation Poem, Stevens Manuscript Winner, Door Prizes, Contest Awards
10:00 PM Open Reading at Starbucks

Sunday, June 17

7:00 AM Open Reading
8:00 AM - 2:30 PM Book Room Open
8:00 AM Business Meeting
9:30 AM Second Plenary Session
11:00 AM String Quartet
12:30 PM **Lunch** Invocation Poem, Special Awards presented by Amy Zook, Poetry Day Awards, Door Prizes, Contest Awards
2:30 PM Workshop Panel – Ed Byrnes (Valparaiso University), Janine Harrison (Purdue University), Calumet
4:00 PM Farewell Social
5:00 PM Reception
6:30 PM **Dinner** Invocation Poem, Keynote Speaker, Mark Turcotte, Door Prizes, Final Contest Awards
10:00 PM Open Reading at Starbucks

MONDAY, June 18

Tour to Albanese Candy Factory

The INDIANA STATE FEDERATION OF POETRY CLUBS would like to announce that delicious meals have been selected and all the arrangements are well underway to bring you a most delightful NFSPS convention this coming June 14-18 at the Star Plaza Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, IN. We hope to see YOU there. Director Tom Spencer of Lowell and President Glenna Glee Jenkins of Anderson will be there to greet you, along with many other Hoosiers.

A few of those that were involved with the 1994 Convention held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in downtown Indianapolis, sponsored by IFSPC, will be striving to make this one as spectacular. At this time, some of the presenters are not secured but we have the following to announce: Keynote Speaker will be Mark Turcotte of DePaul University in Chicago, a native Chippewa Indian. Paddy Lynn, who with her husband, Jon, and two daughters run a Community Theater in Mundelein, IL, will be presenting *The Belle of Amherst*. Artist Amy Kindred, presently of Terre Haute, IN, will be leading a workshop on "Art and Poetry", and other offerings are pending to be announced later. There will be several musical presentations honoring our Indianans, Cole Porter and Hoagy Carmichael.

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.**

Organized October 17, 1959 ~ Mary B. Wall, Founder

Honorary Chancellor: Ted Kooser*(Appointment made June, 2010)***EXECUTIVE BOARD ~ 2010-2012**

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RSTRpoet@cs.com

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downejm@auburn.edu

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ncolwellnell@yahoo.com

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eberry@wvi.com

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TREASURER: Lucille Morgan Wilson

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lucille_e_wilson@hotmail.com

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Contest Sponsors/Brochure Chairman:

Sharon Martin Turner, 10807 Silhouette Dr.,

San Antonio, TX 78216 ~ sdmturner@aol.com

Convention Coordinator: Jim Barton, P.O. Box 263

Huttig, AR 71747 ~ jbob214@yahoo.com

Development Chairman: Christina Foster, 709 North

Avalon, Memphis, TN 38107 ~ cfwrites@gmail.com

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Budd Powell Mahan, 7059 Spring Valley Rd.,

Dallas, TX 75254 ~ buddmahan@att.net

Manningham Trust Advisor: Sam Wood,

1570 Auburn Way, Reno, NV 89502

Special Awards Chairman: Amy Jo Zook,

3520 State Rte. 56, Mechanicsburg, OH 43044

Strophes Coeditor: Bethany Ng, 5217 S. Heath Ave.,

Kearns, UT 84118

Strophes Coeditor: Paul Ford, 10239 Hickory

Point Dr, Sandy, UT 84092 ~ pmford3@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Billy Pennington, P.O. Box. 7842,

Moore, OK 73153 ~ zodnoyeb@aol.com

Legal Advisor, Parliamentarian:

Floyd (Michaud) L. Lamrouex, 4147 Acorn Hill, Ste 1,

San Antonio, TX 78217 ~ lamrouex@sbcglobal.net

**NFSPS MEMBER STATE SOCIETIES
AND PRESIDENTS****ALABAMA: Alabama State Poetry Society**

Joe Whitten, President ~ P.O. Box 125, Odenville,

AL 35120 ~ whitten93@windstream.net

ARIZONA: Arizona State Poetry Society

Christy White, President ~ 37427 N. Ootam Rd. #104,

Cave Creek, AZ 85331 ~ christy1@prodigy.net

ARKANSAS: Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

Cathy Moran, President ~ 401 Auburn Dr.,

Little Rock, AR 72205 ~ cmoran@arml.org

CALIFORNIA: California State Poetry Society

Kate Ozbirn, President ~ 4781 Briarhill Dr.,

Yorba Linda, CA 92886 ~ kateozbirn@yahoo.com

COLORADO: Columbine Poets

Julie Cummings, President ~ 5128 S. Sicily St.,

Aurora, CO 80015 ~ jecummings@comcast.net

CONNECTICUT: Connecticut Poetry Society

Tony Fusco, President ~ 311 Shingle Hill Rd.,

West Haven, CT 06516 ~ connpoetry@comcast.net

FLORIDA: Florida State Poets Association

Cheri Neuman Herald, President ~ 18 S.J. Kellner Blvd,

Beverly Hills, FL 34465 ~ c_herald@hotmail.com

GEORGIA: Georgia Poetry Society

Robert S. King, President ~ 313 Pan Will Road, Mineral

Bluff, GA 30559 ~ gps@georgiapoetsociety.org

ILLINOIS: Illinois State Poetry Society

Mardelle Fortier, President ~ 5515A East Lake Dr.,

Lisle, IL 60532 ~ fortier@cod.edu

INDIANA: Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs

Glenna Glee, President ~ 808 E. 32nd St., Anderson,

IN 46016 ~ poetgglee@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Iowa Poetry Association

Jerry Ferrell, President ~ 2801 61st St., Des Moines,

IA 50322 ~ ferrell45@msn.com

KENTUCKY: Kentucky State Poetry Society

Rebecca S. Lindsay, President ~ 2828 University Ct,

Crestview Hills, KY 41017 ~ loisterms@fuse.net

LOUISIANA: Louisiana State Poetry Society

Charles R. Egedy, President ~ 9447 Donna Dr,

Baton Rouge, LA 70815 ~ cegegy@tigers.lsu.edu

MAINE: Maine Poets Society

Maggie Finch & Marta Finch, Co-Presidents ~ 1463

Washington St., Bath, ME 04530 (Maggie's address)

~ moimarta@comcast.net (Marta's e-mail)

MASSACHUSETTS: Massachusetts State Poetry Society

Jeanette Maes, President ~ 64 Harrison Ave.,

Lynn, MA 01905 ~ msps.jmaes@comcast.net

MICHIGAN: Poetry Society of Michigan

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MI 48307 ~ jfahearn@mac.com

MINNESOTA: League of Minnesota Poets

Christina M. Flaughner, President ~ P.O. Box 446,

Mapleton, MN 56065 ~ Chrismo14@aol.com

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Brenda Finnegan, President ~ 7606 Davenport Lane,

Ocean Springs, MS 39564 ~ writeaway@cablone.net

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Kansas City, MO 64118 ~ missi.poetess@gmail.com

NEBRASKA: Nebraska State Poetry Society

Mary L. Maas, President ~ 601 Ivy St., Stanton,

NE 68779 ~ cjmaas@stanton.net

NEVADA: Nevada Poetry Society

Sam Wood, President ~ P.O. Box 7014, Reno, NV 89510

NEW JERSEY: New Jersey Poetry Society

Edith Kaltovich, President ~ 12 Rydal Dr.,

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 ~ luciakalt@aol.com

NEW MEXICO: New Mexico State Poetry Society

Shirley Blackwell, President ~ P.O. Box 1352,

Los Lunas, NM 87031 ~ sonneteer@earthlink.net

NEW YORK: New York Poetry Forum

Daniel Fernandez, President ~ 3604 Ave. S, Brooklyn,

NY 11234 ~ dfernandezparmassianplays@hotmail.com

OHIO: Ohio Poetry Association

Mark Hersman, President ~ 608 Logan Rd.,

Mansfield, OH 44907 ~ turtlegy99@aol.com

OKLAHOMA: Poetry Society of Oklahoma

Rob Burgess, President ~ 10608 N. Council Rd. #13,

Oklahoma City, OK 73162 ~ redrob66@yahoo.com

Billy Pennington, Co-President, P.O. Box. 7842,

Moore, OK 73153 ~ zodnoyeb@aol.com

OREGON: Oregon Poetry Association

Laura LeHew, President ~ PO Box 50638,

Eugene, OR 97405 ~ laura@deer-run.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Pennsylvania Poetry Society

Richard Lake, President ~ 501 Second Street,

New Cumberland, PA 17070 ~ lakeerie@yahoo.com

SOUTH DAKOTA: South Dakota State Poetry Society

Cindy Stupnik, President ~ 1300 17th St. N.E.,

Watertown, SD 57201 ~ fandcstup@wat.midco.net

TENNESSEE: Poetry Society of Tennessee

Randall G. Stoker, President ~ 8912 Crumpler Cv.,

Olive Branch, MS 38654 ~ rainwolf23@gmail.com

TEXAS: Poetry Society of Texas

Catherine L Herisson, President ~ 518 Grinnell Dr.,

Garland, TX 75043 ~ catherinepoet@juno.com

UTAH: Utah State Poetry Society

Eric H. Read, President ~ 496 East 900 North,

Brighton City, UT 84302 ~ poeteric@hotmail.com

WYOMING: WyoPoets

Abbie Taylor, President ~ 352 W. Whitney, Sheridan,

WY 82801 ~ abbie@samobile.net

STROPHES

Strophes, the newsletter of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc., is published four times a year: August (*June 25th) ~ October (*August 25th) ~ January (*November 25th) ~ April (*February 25th). News items and information on contests may be sent via regular mail or e-mail, which is preferred, by authorized members of NFSPS member state societies to:

Paul Ford, *Strophes* Coeditor
10239 Hickory Pt. Dr., Sandy, UT 84092
pmford3@yahoo.com

Strophes is available without cost to all paid-up members of NFSPS member state societies when mailed/shipped in bulk to the president or other designated person, who is responsible for ordering the number needed by the submission deadline for each issue. Individual subscriptions are \$5.00 a year to cover handling costs. Special orders are mailed separately. To order a single issue: specify the issue ordered, include a #10 **SASE** and \$1.00 per copy.

* Submission Deadlines

**NFSPS PAST PRESIDENTS
(Presidential Advisors)**

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*Wauneta Hackleman	Nancy Baass

* Deceased

Keynote speaker, Mark Turcotte, Ojibwe poet, was born April 5, 1958 and spent his earliest years on North Dakota's Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation and in the migrant camps of the western United States. Later, he grew up in and around Lansing, MI. After leaving school he traveled the country, working and living on the road for nearly fifteen years.



Arriving in Chicago in the spring of 1993, Turcotte rediscovered his love of words and writing, quickly establishing himself as a unique voice in the city's thriving poetry scene. That summer he was winner of the First Gwendolyn Brooks Open-mic Poetry Award. Soon thereafter he was selected by Ms. Brooks as a Significant Illinois Poet and was named to the Illinois Authors Poster. During the remainder of his time in Chicago he was the recipient of a Writer's Community Residency from National Writer's Voice and was awarded the 1997 Josephine Gates Kelly Memorial Fellowship from the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers. He left Chicago in early 1998 to live and work in Door County, Wisconsin.

Turcotte is author of *The Feathered Heart*, *Songs of Our Ancestors*; a chapbook, *Road Noise*, and *Le Chant de la Route*, a bilingual selection of his work published in Paris. His latest collection, *Exploding Chippewas*, is in its third printing. His poetry and fiction have recently appeared in *LUNA*, *TriQuarterly*, *POETRY*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Ploughshares*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Seattle Review*, *Rosebud*, *Hunger Mountain*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, and *The Laurel Review*. His poem, *The Flower On*, was chosen by the Poetry Society of America for inclusion in their Poetry In Motion project, which places poetry placards on public transportation in cities across the United States.

Over the past years Mark has been awarded Literary Fellowships in 1999 and in 2003 by the Wisconsin Arts Board, and was honored with a 2001-2002 Lannan Foundation Literary Completion Grant. He has completed a National Book Foundation American Voices assignment at the Wind River Indian Reservation of Wyoming, and a Lannan Writer's Residency in Marfa, Texas. His work is included in the national high school poetry recitation project, Poetry OutLoud.

After serving as the 2008-09 Visiting Native Writer at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, he has returned to Chicago where he is Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at DePaul University.

Amy Kindred of Indianapolis, IN, is a painter with paintings in private and public collections across the United States and in Mexico, and a 2005 Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship winner. Her art work was published in *UU World Magazine*. She is also a writer, theologian, and a former art teacher and arts administrator.



Her essays are included in *Indiana Authors 2007: Twelve Writers from the Heartland* and *Indiana Authors 2007: Inspiration from the Heartland*, both titles published by New Century Publishing Company. Amy has a Master of Divinity degree, a Master of Theological Studies degree with research in art and religion, was ordained, and is currently serving the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Her book, *Twin Muses: Art and Poetry*, was published in 2010 and includes the poetry of several Indiana poets written about the pictures in the book. This combination of the arts is very fascinating.

Paddy Lynn: I was six years old. My first grade class was doing a holiday program at the local high school. I walked out on stage dressed in a white tutu, carrying an enormous lollipop bigger than my head, when the lights suddenly flashed and the sound rolled, and Walla! - It was Showtime! From that moment on, the acting bug bit me and there was no stopping me. To this day, I continue to dream and live my passion as actress and storyteller. Not a day goes by that I don't thank God and my lucky stars for the opportunity.



All through my elementary and high school days, I was active in plays, and fascinated with theatre in general. It was no wonder I majored in theatre in college at Illinois State University, where I received my BA.

After finishing college, I joined a theatre group in Evanston, IL, and helped form a children's theatre company that went into schools in the Chicago metropolitan area. I had such a wonderful time sharing a variety of programs with the students that I decided to return to the schools after taking a hiatus to have my second daughter. When I returned, I worked as a substitute teacher and a teacher's aide in the elementary schools. I was actually honing my skills as a storyteller at the time, without being fully aware that I would soon launch into a career as a storyteller.

NFSPS College/University Level Poetry Competition - 2012

All freshmen, sophomore, juniors and seniors of an accredited university or college are eligible to enter the NFSPS College/University Level Poetry Competition. Two students will receive an award of \$500 each, one as the Edna Meudt Memorial Award and the other as the Florence Kahn Memorial Award. Recipients will be selected on the following basis:

1. Submission of a completed NFSPS official application that has been duly notarized. This form as well as the rules are found on the nfsp.com website.
2. Submission of a manuscript of ten original poems. Send four copies of the manuscript.
3. Manuscript must be titled.
4. Manuscript must have a cover page with name, address, phone number in upper left corner and the title of the manuscript in center of the page.
5. One poem to each page, single-spaced with a title for each poem.
6. Each poem must be no more than 46 lines (includes the spaces between stanzas)
7. Each poem must have no more than 50 characters per line (includes spaces between words and punctuation).
8. No identification on any page other than the cover page.
9. A dedication page may be included.
10. No illustrations.
11. No entry should be mailed prior to January 1, 2012.

Notarized applications and manuscripts must be received on or before February 14, 2012. This means it must be mailed prior to February 14 with sufficient time for your submissions to arrive to the contest chair. First class mail only. No special deliveries. No email submissions. Candidates will be disqualified if any of the above requirements are not followed. Mail complete package to:

Kathryn Clement, Chair
1510 N Sinova St., Mesa, AZ 85205
email: kclement3@cox.net (questions only, no electronic submissions)

Recipients will be selected on or before March 31, 2012 and announced after April 15, 2012. Each recipient's state poetry society will be notified. Award manuscripts will be published by NFSPS, and each recipient will receive 75 copies of the published manuscript in addition to the cash award. Recipients will be invited to read from their work at the 2012 NFSPS Convention to be held in Merrillville, IN, June 14-18. NFSPS will provide an additional \$300 travel stipend to those recipients attending the Convention. Winners are responsible for the balance of costs (room and meals) at the Convention and to make their own reservations.

ENCORE COVER ART CONTEST

NFSPS members are reminded to submit photos or original art work to be considered for the cover of the 2011 *Encore* that will be presented at the June 2012 convention in Indiana. These photos/artwork may be submitted in hard copy by mail or digitally by e-mail to *Encore* editor, Valerie Martin Bailey. Send hard copies to 2207 Parhaven Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78232 or by e-mail to vbailey@satx.rr.com. Please write your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address on the back of each photo or include it with your e-mail. Vertical or horizontal layouts will be considered. In horizontal formats, the focal point of the photo must be on the right side of the photo, so it can be used as a wrap cover. A horizontal format will be scaled to 12.5 x 9 and a vertical format will be scaled to 6 x 9. Photos/art do not have to be these exact sizes, as they will be reduced or enlarged to fit. Very small or very large photos may present a problem when reduced or enlarged. Hard copies will need to be scanned and must be no larger than 8.5 x 11 in order to fit the scanner. No photos will be returned unless specifically requested and a suitable envelope with postage is provided. The editor keeps the photos/art on file and they may be used in later years as well as the current year. The deadline for sending submissions is March 1, 2012.

NFSPS NATIONAL CONVENTION POEMS:

Subject is Indiana, any aspect. May be any form, except prose poem, limited to 40 lines. Entry fee is \$10 for up to three poems. First prize is \$100 and second to tenth is \$10 each.

NFSPS NATIONAL CONVENTION INVOCATION POEMS:

Subject is a poem of thanks, appreciation, or inspirational, non-denominational; limited to 20 lines. Entry fee is \$5 per poem, no limit. Six winners will receive \$25 each.

Rules common to both contests:

- 1) No poet may win more than one prize in each contest and must attend convention to win.
- 2) Deadline for receipt is May 1, 2012.
- 3) Checks for entry fees should be made out to: 2012 NFSPS Convention Registrar
- 4) Send 2 copies of each poem, one with no identification, second with name, address, phone and email in upper right hand corner to:

Tom Spencer
1651 East Commercial Ave.
Lowell, IN 46356

BOOK ROOM INFORMATION

Please use Post-it stickers on each book for sale, listing title, author and price of book. Place on outside, upper right-hand corner of books. Prepare a sheet listing all titles, number and price of each book, with name, address and phone number at top. If mailing ahead, mail to:

Tom Spencer
1651 East Commercial Ave.
Lowell, IN 46356

MANNINGHAM TRUST STUDENT POETRY CONTEST

Rules: 2012 annual competition

1. **There are two divisions: Grade 6-8 (Junior Division) and Grades 9-12 (Senior Division).** Each state may submit ten (10) top poems in each division. Poems may have been printed and/or have won previous awards. Contests at state level may have occurred anytime in 2011.
2. **The competition is open to all USA students in grades 6 – 12.** Public, private, and home-schools are eligible for entry by individual NFSPS member states.
3. **Submit two copies of each poem.** Put the division (junior or senior) in the upper left corner of both copies. One copy must have student's ID in upper right corner. The ID information is student name, school name and address, student grade level, and teacher's (language arts/English) name. The second copy must not have ID information. Do not send a copy with any other marking - there should be no indication of prior award granted by the state.
4. **Each poem must be neatly typed or computer-generated, and have no more than 50 lines.** If a poem continues more than one page, staple the pages together. Do not staple the two copies of the poem together. It is suggested that each state representative keep a copy of poems entered.
5. **There should be no large or unusual fonts or illustrations.** Times New Roman is the suggested font. No font larger than 12 point should be used. Winning poems are scanned for the award anthology and large and/or unusual fonts impede the process.
6. **Each entrant must make a declaration of originality.** The statement should appear on the bottom of the ID copy only. The form below is acceptable:

I certify that this poem is my original work, and has not been copied in whole or part from any author's poems in print or posted on the Internet.
Signed: _____

7. **Separate poems into respective divisions.** Within each division separate the ID copy from the anonymous copy meant for judges. Include a cover letter identifying the Manningham (Youth) Chairperson to whom the report on the contests will be mailed.
8. **Entries must be received by March 1, 2012. Send entries to:**

Budd P. Mahan
7059 Spring Valley Road
Dallas, TX 75254

Ten prizes will be awarded in each division: First Place - \$75, Second Place - \$50, Third Place - \$40, Fourth Place - \$35, Fifth Place - \$30, and five Honorable Mentions - \$10 each. All winning poems will be published in the Manningham Trust Poetry Student Award Anthology. Winners will receive complimentary copies. The schools of each winning student will receive a complimentary copy for the school library. Notice of winners report will be sent to the Manningham (Youth) Chair by May 20, 2012. Awards (certificates, checks, anthologies) will also be mailed to the state chairperson. Each state is responsible for distributing prizes to winners and winning schools. The top winning poems will be read to NFSPS members at the Convention held in June 2012.

I look forward to each state's participation in the Manningham Poetry Trust's annual contests. Questions may be directed to the chairperson at the addresses or numbers below.

Budd Powell Mahan
Manningham Trust Student Poetry Awards Chairperson
7059 Spring Valley Road
Dallas, TX 75254
972-788-4944
buddmahan@att.net

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS celebrated Poetry Day in Arkansas on Saturday, October 15th, in downtown Little Rock. Terry Wright, a professor at UCA, led a dynamic discussion on spoken poetry. The annual Merit Award was given to Jim Barton of El Dorado's Poets of the Pines for his work both statewide and nationally. All in attendance had a great time. ~ *Laura Loughridge, Reporter*

COLUMBINE POETS On Saturday, September 10, 2011 the Columbine Poets Fest was co-hosted with the Community College of Aurora in the Rotunda Room of the campus Student Center. The chief organizer, Anita Jepson-Gilbert, welcomed members who had come from all over Colorado to share in this annual event, which this year featured Colorado Poet Laureate David Mason and a former Stevens Manuscript winner, Eleanor Swanson. The morning session was filled with an Open Reading by all the participants. What a treat to hear many new voices, and so many styles! After lunch, David Mason presented his workshop, "Killer Openings." David co-directs the Creative Writing program at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. His own books include *The Country I Remember*, *Arrivals*, and *Ludlow: A Verse Novel*. His second collection of essays, *Two Minds of a Western Poet*, has recently appeared along with a memoir, *News from the Village*. Regarding the theme of his workshop, "Killer Openings", David said that first lines of any poem are extremely important. As a critic and editor on the boards of several literary journals, he is likely to turn down poems that don't grab him in the first line or two. He wants to know that a scene is about to unfold, that there's a problem, that there is a human being present, that there is a dramatic situation. Like fiction, he said, poetry should bring us a drama or a scene with human relationships. David then asked us to pull out the poems-in-progress we'd brought with us. He went around the room and advised us individually on what we might do to improve them. After our workshop, the winners of the Columbine Poets Poetry Contest were announced. Many of the winners were present to receive their awards and to read their winning poems. Following a short break, Eleanor Swanson from Regis University was featured, reading from her books, *A Thousand Bonds* and *Trembling in the Bones*. David Mason then took the spotlight, reading from *Ludlow: A Verse Novel*, winner of the Colorado Book Award, as well as poems from various other books. As usual, this annual event proved to be a

most fulfilling experience as Columbine Poets got to meet members from near and far to renew friendships and forge new ones, while sharing in the passion we all have for poetry. ~ *Anita Jepson-Gilbert, Reporter*

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY was hosted by Young Harris College on Oct. 29, 2011. Janice Townley Moore was the featured member reader. Her poems have been in many journals including *The Georgia Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Shenandoah*, *Connecticut Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, and *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. Members shared poetry activities and poetry related news. After lunch, Nancy Simpson, featured presenter of the day, read her poetry and conducted a workshop. Her poems have been published in *The Georgia Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Seneca Review*, *New Virginia Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*. She was Resident Writer at the John C. Campbell Folk School in 2011. Several Georgia Poetry Society Road Show readings are being held around the state to feature Georgia poets and to encourage growth of the society. ~ *Ann Kuykendall Gillespie, Reporter*

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a gala on Aug. 20, 2011, at the Park Ridge Country Club in Park Ridge, IL. The day's event, with speakers and activities, was well attended by members from most of the Illinois chapters, which are now spread throughout the state. A new chapter is being organized, to meet at the Hinsdale Public Library, in Hinsdale, IL. Facilitated by Judith Tullis, the chapter will begin in Jan. 2012 and will meet at alternating times, so as not to conflict with the chapter which meets in Lisle, IL, its nearest neighbor. The anthology sponsored and including poems by members of Illinois State Poetry Society has been distributed to the main recipients and has been a success. ISPS continues to sponsor readings at Northbrook Library and Brewed Awakening, a coffeehouse in Westmont, IL. On Oct. 14, Northbrook Library held an evening called "Night of the Arts" to which all ISPS members were invited. ~ *Mardelle Fortier, President*

INDIANA STATE FEDERATION OF POETRY CLUBS met Oct. 21-23, 2011, at the McCormick's Creek State Park for its annual Rendezvous celebrating Poetry Day. President Glenna Glee was taken ill early Saturday morning and missed the entire meeting but Vice-President Darleen Butler very efficiently took over and the meeting went on as usual. Glenna is fine now. Nominees for new officers were Tom

Spencer of Lowell for President, Caroline Dewey of Ft. Wayne for First Vice-President and Contest Director, and Mary Couch of Noblesville agreed to continue as Manningham Chairperson. These nominees will be elected and installed at the spring meeting to be held May 5, 2012 at the Historic Falls Park in Pendleton, Indiana. Their term officially begins July 1st. Winners of the ISFPC annual contest were announced and the first three places were read by the poets if present and by a reader if they were not. On Friday evening, ISFPC's Premier Poet, Cecil Tresslar, gave a brief reading and the Indiana members that won in the National Contest read their winning poems. Shirley Reese was the winner of the Convention Poem Contest and read her poem. ISFPC is busily proceeding with arrangements for the National Convention to be held in Merrillville, IN, June 14-18, 2012. You may expect fabulous "goody-bags" and interesting table decorations honoring Indiana "greats" along with workshops and presentations to entertain and enlighten you. Indiana's membership is under 115 and the sponsorship of the National is challenging, but we intend to put on that POETRY EXTRAVAGANZA next June and show you a great time. Please plan to attend. ~ *Glenna Glee Jenkins, President*

MAINE POETS SOCIETY In September, MPS gathered in Belfast for their all-day meeting. Contests, "A Sense of Place" and terza rima, were judged by Valerie Lawson and Michael Brown, editors of *Off the Coast*, a Maine international poetry journal. The society normally meets three times a year. The next meeting will be Saturday, February 25, 2012 at the Dyer Library in Saco. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Non-members are welcome and may stay to participate in a reading-in-the-round at about 3:00 p.m. Contests, open to members only, will be "A Sense of Weather," to be judged by Dave Morrison, and Ghazals, to be judged by member Carol Bachofner. For more information, contact co-President Marta Finch: moimarta@comcast.net. For membership information, contact Membership Chair Cynthia Brackett-Vincent. Visit the MPS info page on her website, www.encirclepub.com/poetry/mps or e-mail Brackett-Vincent@encirclepub.com, or call 207-778-0467. ~ *Sally Joy, Publicity Chair*

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY met on Saturday, October 15th at the Winthrop Public Library. President Jeanette Maes read an official citation from Governor Deval Patrick proclaiming National Poetry Day. She congratulated many recent contest winners and announced several new

exciting contests. The Waterfront CREW Poets, a chapter of MSPS, presented an innovative program based on Robert Frost's *Gold Dust*, wherein each member of the chapter read a rewrite of the Frost poem. Following their original presentation, the MSPS President conducted a challenging workshop, after which everyone enjoyed a bountiful buffet lunch. The day culminated with each attendee reading three of their own works. The next meeting is scheduled for December 3rd at the Beverly Public Library. Features will include a workshop, a poetry book silent auction and a Yankee Swap. ~ *Patricia Bruen Tacelli, Reporter*

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

It is with extreme sadness I report the death of Margo LaGattuta who entered eternal life August 22, 2011. Exactly two months later at our fall meeting she was installed posthumously as our Society's first Honorary Chancellor. Inge Logenburg Kyler, PSM's historian, prepared and presented a tribute and proposal document that was immediately supported and unanimously approved by all present. This was followed by a commemorative reading of selected poems from Margo's four published collections of poetry. We then continued our meeting with reports from treasurer Julie George, 2011 NFSPS coordinator Mono D'Angelo, and contest chair Jim Ahearn. This was also the year for election of officers and any changes needed to be made to appointive positions. The six elected positions: President through Treasurer remained the same, while one appointee was changed: Ed Van Slambrouck retired from his position as parliamentarian and was replaced by Patricia Barnes. The last event of the meeting was a friendly competition, whereby members read one of their poems and after all poems had been read each member voted for their favorite one. The poem receiving the most votes had its author's name engraved on a traveling trophy. Our 2012 contest information has not yet been finalized, but we will continue to use August 1 as our deadline, so watch for additional info on our website. ~ *James F. Ahearn, President*

MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY's Fall Festival was sponsored by the Central Branch at Belhaven University in Jackson, MS on Nov. 12, 2011. In attendance was Howard Bahr, an award winning author and English professor at Belhaven. Don Hubele, former chair of the Belhaven English Dept., introduced speaker Dr. Paul Rankin, who holds an MFA from Mary Wilson College. The topic was "The Laws of Liberty," which explored ways that forms, such as the sonnet, can free writing. Afterwards, Judy Davies

informed us of grants available from the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). Doris Jones, current Poet of the Year, explained how she is a performing artist through MAC and performed her spider story. Pat Jordan was pronounced 2012 Poet of the Year by Central Branch President Jeanne Kelly and was presented a plaque. Contest winners were announced by Jeanne Kelley. During the business meeting we voted to change the form of our 2013 Mississippi Poetry Award from a gloss to a triolet. The Spring Festival, sponsored by the North Branch, will be held at Lake Tiak'O Khata in April next year. ~ *Wynne H. Alexander, MPS Secretary*

OREGON POETRY ASSOCIATION

held its Fall Conference at the Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort & Casino on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, on October 14-16. It was the first time in many years we had convened east of the Cascades. The theme, "Poetry of Witness," was ably supported by presenters Bette Lynch Husted, of Pendleton, and Veronica Golos, of New Mexico. They gave readings of their poetry of witness on Friday night, followed by an open-mic. Fall contest winners were announced on Saturday night. All winners present read their poems; first-place winners who could not attend had their poems read, as well. The location was isolated but beautiful, and many participants found time for short hikes in the hills. The hot springs there provide a large, heated pool. The Kah-Nee-Ta staff were gracious, accommodating, and very helpful, and the spaces they provided us were spacious and easy to find. Several attendees remarked that it had been one of the best OPA conferences in recent years. It was also our first under our new name; we had voted to drop the "State" from our organization's name last spring. Our local units continue to provide full menus of workshops, presentations, and other types of sessions to their members. Our Spring Conference will be held in Portland April 20 to 22, 2012. The theme will be "Collaboration". Further information will be on our website, www.oregonpoets.org. We're working to increase and diversify our membership, as well as to continue the modernization of our website so that those wanting to join and/or register for a Conference can do so on-line. This modernization will attract younger poets to our organization. And we're promoting The Poetry Box Project, the boxes are like curbside realtor boxes but with copies of poems inside for unsuspecting passersby. Our twice annually OPA-sponsored readings at the Springfield Library continue to draw large audiences. [Yes, we did change our name!] ~ *Dave Harvey, OPA Secretary and Charles F. Thielman, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS' 55th Annual Awards Banquet was held in the Skyline Room of the Doubletree Hotel at Campbell Centre - Dallas on November 12th. The theme was "In the Pink: 90 Years of PST." Budd Powell Mahan was Chairman of the event and welcomed attendees. After the meal was served, President Catherine L'Herisson made introductions and gave the President's Award to Budd Powell Mahan. Nancy Baass, Immediate Past President of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc., brought greetings from NFSPS. Budd Powell Mahan, Chairman of the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award, announced that Alan Birkelbach was the 2011 recipient. Nancy Baass, Chairman of the 2011 PST Annual Contests, gave her report. Vice President Jimmie Inez Sessions and President Catherine L'Herisson announced the names of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners. 1st Place winners who were present read their winning poems. Budd Powell Mahan, Chairman of the 2011 Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award, announced that the winner was Michael Baldwin. 2nd Place went to Annie Neugebauer and 3rd Place went to Elzy Cogswell. ~ *Nancy Baass*

WYOPOETS, friends, and family gathered around Patricia Frolander in Cheyenne, Wyoming on November 7, 2011 as Governor Matt Mead signed the executive order appointing her Wyoming's Poet Laureate. Pat and her husband, Robert are ranchers in northeastern Wyoming. She will be conducting poetry gatherings and readings throughout the state. Her first official book signings will be in Casper on November 17th and 18th. Her books, *Grassland Genealogy* and *Married Into It* are available online and in bookstores. In September WyoPoet Aaron Holst traveled to Santa Rosa, California to read his award-winning poem, "Recipe for Dragonfly Chicken" and accept his first place prize. Aaron lives in Sheridan, Wyoming. Eugene Gagliano of Buffalo, Wyoming and Lee Ann Siebken were present in Evanston, Wyoming to accept publication awards from the State Historical Society, and Linda Rühle was selected to become Senior Poet Laureate for Wyoming. Winner of the WyoPoets limerick contest was Henry Goldman. Just off the press is *Distant Horizons*, edited by Constance Brewer. This latest WyoPoets' publication is available on the WyoPoets website. Plans are underway for the Members Only Poetry Contest and a one-day poetry workshop in Casper at The Hilton Garden on April 28, 2012. An open microphone poetry reading will be held the evening of April 27. ~ *Lee Ann Siebken, Reporter*

CONTESTS**KENTUCKY STATE POETRY SOCIETY
2012 STUDENT POETRY CONTEST**

Students are invited to submit their original poetry for a chance to win cash prizes! There are five categories: Grades 3 and 4, Grades 5 and 6, Grades 7 and 8, Grades 9 and 10, and Grades 11 and 12. Each category has a cash prize for first, second, and third place winners. Honorable Mention, the judges' recognition of some special poems, may be awarded, as well. This contest is open to public, private, and home-schooled students from any state. There are no entry fees. All poems must be the original, unpublished work of the student and not be currently submitted elsewhere in any other contest. For more information and specific guidelines, email Carol Ann Mauriello at camauriello@moreheadstate.edu or consult the youth contest flyer on the KSPS web site: www.kystatepoetrysociety.org/Contests.html. Contest deadline is March 1, 2012. The contest is sponsored by Wind Publications.

MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY holds two contests each year, Spring and Fall, in conjunction with our festivals. For rules and information write to Jeanne S. Kelly, 315 Church St., Madison, MS 39110. Email: jskelly04@gmail.com (Put "contest information" in the subject line), or consult the MPS website www.misspoetry.net.

MISSOURI STATE POETRY SOCIETY Winter contest deadline: Postmarked by February 15, 2012. Two copies of each entry, category number and name in upper left corner of both copies, poet's name and address in upper right corner of one copy. If member, put "Missouri State Poetry Society" below your address, otherwise put "non-member". 40 or fewer lines. May be previously published if poet retains the rights to the poem; may enter each category as many times as poet wishes. Categories: 1) rhymed verse or blank verse, 2) free verse, 3) humorous verse, 4) any form, winter subject, 5) poet's choice, members only (any form, any subject). Members pay \$1 per entry. Non-members pay \$2 per entry. Payable to MSPS. Send to Bill Lower, 21010 S. Hwy 245, Fair Play, MO 65649. SASE or email address on a 3x5 index card for list of winners.

NEW MEXICO STATE POETRY SOCIETY will have quarterly contests in 2012 to feed our "get-ready kitty" for the 2013 Convention. Only \$1 per poem up to 15 poems; half of the entry fees pot (up to \$100 per contest) to be divided by 3 winners. Publication in early 2013. Deadlines 1st of

March, June, September, and December. For themes and contest rules, visit us at www.nmpoetry.org and click on Contests. While you're there, check out the rest of our new website.

OREGON POETRY ASSOCIATION's April, 2012 conference will feature contests in six categories: Poet's Choice, limit 80 lines; Free Verse, 40 lines; New Poets, 30 lines; Traditional Forms, 40 lines; Members Only, 6-12 lines on the theme "Indecision;" and Dueling Judges, limit 40 lines. The contest chair is Colette Tennant CTennant@corban.edu. Contest submission deadline is March 1. Please check our website for details: www.oregonpoets.org.

PENNSYLVANIA POETRY SOCIETY's 60th Annual Contest deadline: January 15th 2012. PPS members may enter one to five poems in Category 1 for \$1.00 per poem, and may enter one poem each in category 2 through 16 for a \$10.00 flat fee. Non-members may enter one to five poems in Category 1 for \$2.00 per poem, and may enter one poem each in category 2 through 13 for \$2.00 a poem. Membership period: Our membership year begins September 1st and runs through August 31th. Non-members who enter contests might consider joining PPS in order to take advantage of significantly lower contest fees for members and to avail themselves of additional contest categories open only to PPS members. PPS membership is \$18.00 a year. Our membership form is available at: www.nfsps.com/pa/join.html.

WYOPOETS Join now and enter our Members-Only Contest. For \$20 per year a quarterly newsletter is delivered to your door, you are eligible for all contests and you may submit your work for consideration by the WyoPoets chapbook judges. Just send your check, name, address and telephone number to Art Elser, WyoPoets' treasurer, 1730 Locust Street, Denver, CO 80220 and request Members-Only contest guidelines.

FROM STROPHES COEDITORS

To all who responded in a timely manner, with news and contest items, we very much appreciate you. This makes our job easier and *Strophes* more interesting. Thank you very much, Paul and Beth.

POETRY ARTICLE**Blank Is Not Free!**

For several years my Harp-Strings Poetry Journal sponsored the Robert Frost Death of the Hired Man Award. Form: blank verse. Each year the majority of poems received had to be disqualified because they were not blank verse. I would venture that the poets were writing what they thought was "free verse" and thought "blank" and "free" were interchangeable. They are not. Not all poetry without rhyme is "free verse". The term does not mean without rhyme, nor does it mean just taking prose and chopping it up into irregular lines. Nor is all poetry without rhyme "blank verse" although the term "blank verse" means verse without rhyme.

Blank verse is metered verse, written in accentual-syllabic prosody (syllabic and accents both counted), often written in iambic pentameter. However, Longfellow wrote Evangeline using dactylic hexameter blank verse and Hiawatha in trochaic tetrameter.

Blank verse is not a form of so many lines and so many stanzas: it is written in as many lines as the poet needs. It can be one long poem with no line breaks, or written in paragraphs or in sections. It is an excellent form for the dramatic, meditative, or narrative poem

Browning used it in his book-length poem, *The Ring and the Book*. Edwin Arlington Robinson used the form in many of his long narratives. William Butler Yeats used it in *The Second Coming*, while Robert Frost used it powerfully in *Death of the Hired Man* and *Mending Wall*.

Judson Jerome called blank verse "the most malleable of forms in English verse, like basic black, salt in cooking, or, for that matter, the diatonic scale in music." In this he cautioned, "When writing blank verse you want to retain the feeling of poetry, yet avoid any excess which would draw too much attention to the language itself, away from the meaning. Merely breaking lines of prose into lines that look like poetry is obviously not sufficient to provide that feeling. When one reads such lines they still sound like prose."

Madelyn Eastlund

Editor: The Harp-Strings Poetry Journal

CONVENTION TOUR JUNE 14

Fair Oaks Farms is a large commercial dairy practicing sustainable farming. They incorporate modern innovations along with educational programs such as the Birthing Barn. There is also a cheese factory tour and home-made food at their café. For more background on Fair Oaks Farms: farms.com/en/visit_us.

NFSPS STATE SOCIETY WEBSITES

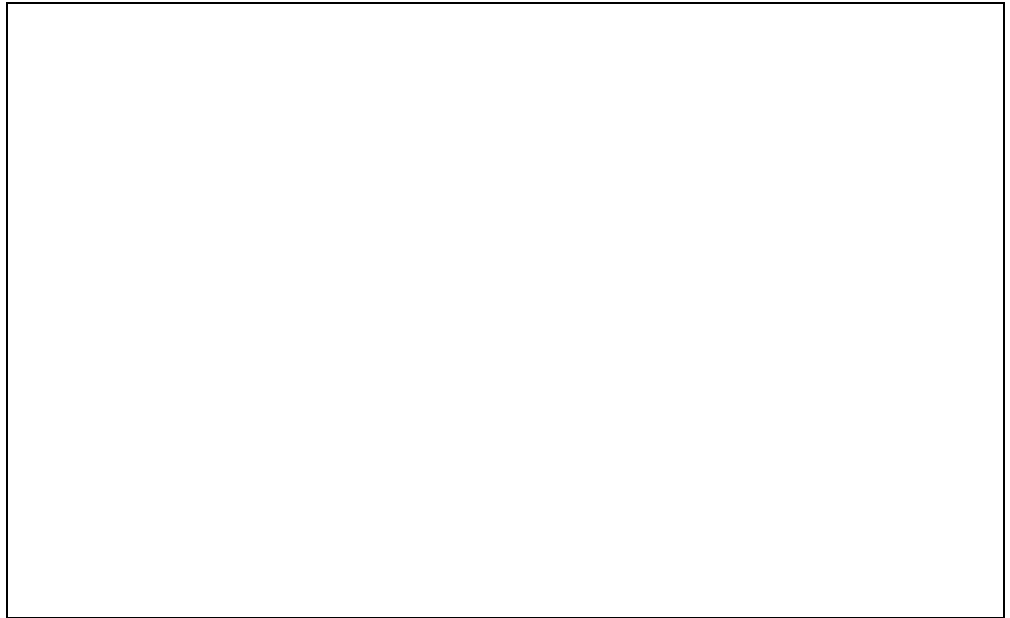
Alabama www.alabamapoets.org
Arizona azpoetry.webs.com
Arkansas www.poetsroundtable.com
Colorado
 www.columbinepoetsofcolorado.com
Connecticut www.ct-poetry-society.org
Florida
 www.floridastatepoetsassociation.com
Georgia www.georgiapoetrysociety.org
Illinois www.illinoispoets.org
Iowa www.iowapoetry.com
Kentucky www.kystatepoetrysociety.org
Maine www.encirclepub.com/poetry/mps
Massachusetts
 mastatepoetrysociety.tripod.com
Michigan www.nfsps.com/mi
Minnesota www.mnpoets.com
Mississippi www.misspoetry.net
Missouri www.nfsps.com/mo
New Jersey www.njpoetrysociety.org
New Mexico www.nmpoetry.org
Ohio www.ohiopoetryassn.com
Oklahoma www.angelfire.com/poetry/ps0
Oregon www.oregonpoets.org
Pennsylvania www.nfsps.com/pa
South Dakota
 www.sdstatepoetrysociety.com
Tennessee www.tpstn.org
Texas www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org
Utah www.utahpoets.com
Wyoming www.wyopoets.com

Over time, societies may move their websites. When this happens, please contact the nfsps.com web master, Billy Pennington (zodnoyeb@aol.com) who maintains an up-to-date list at:

www.nfsps.com/links.htm

Note: many NFSPS state societies also host facebook.com sites to enable members and poet-friends to share thoughts, photos, successes, and encouragement in the practice of poetry. When room permits in a future issue, I will provide a list of "open" society facebook.com sites (ie, the site allows anyone to view postings, not just registered members).

Paul Ford, *Strophes* Coeditor



A "HEADS UP" ABOUT 2012 REPORTS

So officers in our state societies will know ahead of time what reports will be requested, and have time to assign them to the appropriate person for preparing, we offer this checklist. You may receive reminders closer to the deadline, but this will give you advance notice. E-mail and/or postal addresses for sending them are on page 2 of each issue of *Strophes*.

- Membership list with dues payment @ \$3.00 per EACH member (includes honorary and at large). Send to Lucille Morgan Wilson by January 15. Additional names and payment may be sent until March 15.
- Youth Awards Survey (form to come from Steve Concert). Complete by April 30.
- Report of how you celebrated Poetry Day (in October) and National Poetry Month (in April) to Dena R. Gorrell by May 31.
- Update of state society's History. Send to Caroline Walton at least 10 days before Convention.
- Report of state society, prepared by President or other authorized person, presented during plenary session of the Convention, or send 10 days before Convention to Mary Christine Delea, if no one from your state is attending. Your response with information at the suggested time makes it possible for certificates to be prepared or data compiled in the interests of our entire membership. (This item prepared by the NFSPS Treasurer on behalf of the NFSPS Executive Board.)

ENCORES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

To order past prize poem anthologies, make checks payable to NFSPS, Inc. and send to Valerie Martin Bailey, *Encore* Editor, 2207 Parhaven Drive, San Antonio, TX 78232. No books may be returned.

2010 *Encore* ___ book(s) @ \$15.00 ___
 (available in June after the convention)
 2009 *Encore* ___ book(s) @ \$15.00 ___
 2008 *Encore* ___ book(s) @ \$10.00 ___
 2007 *Encore* ___ book(s) @ \$10.00 ___
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 2004 *Encore* ___ book(s) @ \$ 5.00 ___
 2003 *Encore* ___ book(s) @ \$ 5.00 ___
 2002 *Encore* ___ book(s) @ \$ 5.00 ___
 2001 *Encore* ___ book(s) @ \$ 4.00 ___
 2000 *Encore* ___ book(s) @ \$ 4.00 ___
 1999 *Encore* ___ book(s) @ \$ 2.00 ___
 1998 *Encore* ___ book(s) @ \$ 2.00 ___

Amount Due: \$ _____

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Total Amount Due: \$ _____

*Postage & Handling Costs:

One book \$3.18
 Two books \$3.58
 Three book \$3.98
 Four books \$4.78
 Five books \$5.18
 Six books \$5.58

For more than six books, follow these postage and handling guidelines:
 Add .40¢ for each additional book
 Add .80¢ for each additional mailer
 (note: 3 books fit in each mailer)