



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

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

Strophes

Vol. LXIII No. 2

www.nfspd.net

October 2026

Dear Poets,



I hope everyone who was able to attend the 2026 NFSPS Convention in Overland Park, Kansas, whether in-person or virtual, walked away overflowing with inspiration and energy to take back to your state society. I hope you were able to reconnect with old friends. And I hope you were able to make new friends, both personal and professional, that develops into a lifelong bond. When time allows, be sure to share your experience with members of your state society.

Including this year, I have attended a total of twenty three NFSPS conventions: twenty one have been in-person and two were virtual—I missed Coos Bay, OR, in 2002, and St. Petersburg, FL, in 2015. Because I do not fly, never have, and except for the Amtrak ride in 2001, I have logged a lot of road miles in the name of poetry. Before retiring, most of the travel was directly to convention and then back home, with little to no time available for sightseeing—life always finds an inconvenient way to intervene. At twenty six days, the road to this year's convention was my longest road trip and I was fortunate enough to be able to spend time at the League of Minnesota Poets' Woodtick retreat, plus get lots of "me" time between there and the convention. It's never too early to start your own adventure planning to attend the 2027 NFSPS Convention in Arizona, it will be here before you know it.

I am working on appointments for the NFSPS Board. Divided into Elected and Appointed Board members. Elected members require the majority approval of membership during the convention's plenary session. Elected members are then assigned a specific role by the President. Appointed members are assigned a specific role by the president, but do not require the approval of the Elected Board. While the entire NFSPS Board will meet to discuss important matters, everyone's input is important, however, only the elected board can vote on their outcome. And a quorum is required for any official business requiring a vote to be conducted.

Volunteerism is important for the longevity of many nonprofit organizations. NFSPS is no different. Without the dedication of volunteers, it is unlikely that we would still be here 67 years later. I believe many individuals want to be more hands-on but they shy away from helping out because they often do not know what is necessary to be successful in the available roles: how much of their time might be required, what specific tasks may need to be completed, specific deadlines, how much of the work is an individual or team effort, etc. In addition to individual roles, there are also committees which could use our assistance. My own experience with NFSPS is that most, if not all, of the volunteers are willing to guide and assist each other.

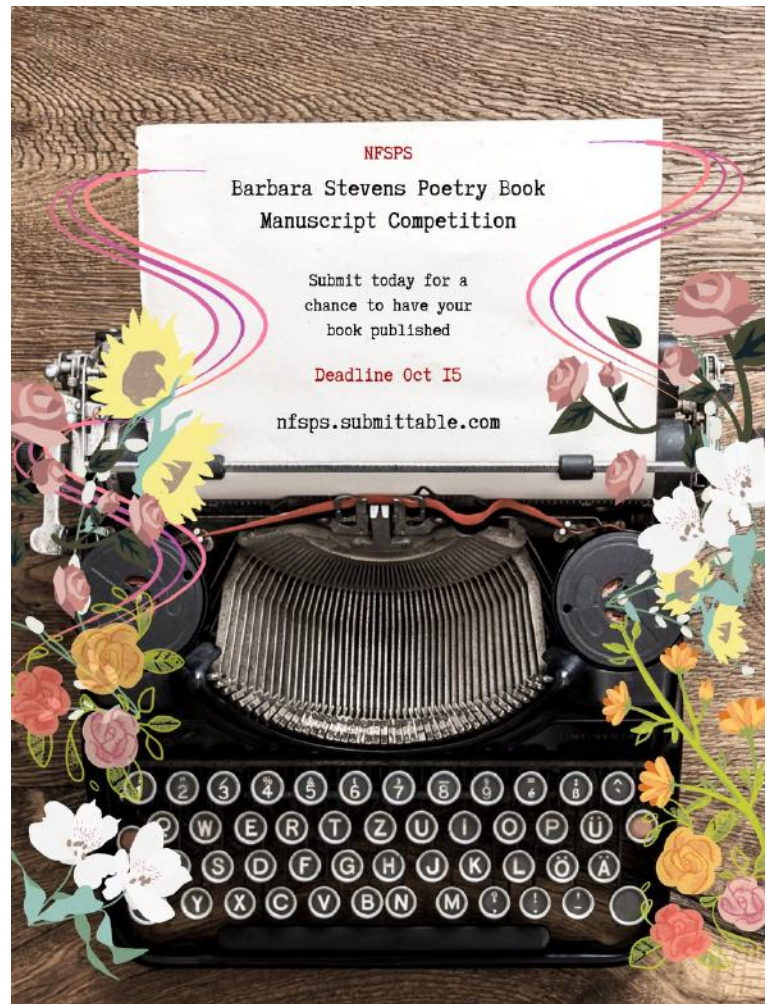
For the 2027 NFSPS Convention in Arizona, I will be recognizing an individual for their volunteer service to poetry with the Concert-Cronauer Poetry Service Award. The recipient will receive a plaque

or award acknowledging their service. If the awardee is able to attend in-person, I will cover their cost for convention registration, convention meals, as well as hotel guest room costs for the recipient. The individual will be responsible for their own travel costs to and from the conference. If unable to attend the convention, there will not be a cash equivalent and the plaque/award will be shipped to the individual. Anyone who volunteers their time or funds in service to poetry may apply for the award, membership in an NFSPS member-state is not a requirement. A digital application will be available shortly, and a link will be added to the NFSPS website. If you need a paper application, please reach out to me ASAP via mail. The deadline for applying will be February 27, 2027 (received).

Yours in poetry and service,
~ Steven Concert, 37th NFSPS President

BARBARA STEVENS POETRY MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION

DEADLINE OCTOBER 15
NFSPS.SUBMITTABLE.COM



NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY The 60th Year Annual State Conference, will be held October 24, 2026, in Mesa, Arizona. We are finalizing our plans for our annual conference with the theme of The Past, Present & Future of Poetry. Our program includes a welcome speech from the current Arizona State Poet Laureate, Laura Tohe, and presentations/workshops from Paul Tunis, Penny Peyser, and Rosemarie Dombrowski. There will be a panel discussion on the topic as well. Participants are invited to join us Friday evening, 23rd, and Saturday evening for open mic readings. Also, Sunday afternoon, 24th, Penny Peyser will be featured in a performance at additional cost. The invitations will be going out in the next month. Anyone that would like an invitation should email christywhite.smp@azpoetry.net or visit our website: azpoetry.net ~ CChristy White, Co-President

The COLUMBINE POETS engage! Our community of poets offers weekly online and in-person workshops, various contests, annual gatherings, and, most importantly, camaraderie. **Every Saturday morning 10am – 12 noon**, Colorado poets get together to “poet” – a new verb for you to fill in the definition!

The first Saturday of each month is an online critique, organized by Marleine Yanish. Attendees submit one poem in advance and attending poets makes comments during the zoom after each poet reads their poem. As is customary, the writer listens quietly and then comments after others have contributed their thoughts. Since *writing is rewriting*, the poet then has the opportunity to rewrite their poem, or not, inspired by friendly poets’ insights.

On other Saturdays during this fast-moving 2026 summer, workshop presenters included Lynne McNamara on July 18, “How to Begin Writing a Poem”; Brenda Wildrick on August 8, “Writing What You Don’t Know”; and Laura Border on August 29, “Poetry of Rimbaud.”

Additional free **monthly events** offered poets further enticing opportunities:

1. **2nd Thursday:** Cannon Mine Poets, hosted by members Val Szarek and Abigail Seber, meet 7–9pm at the East Simpson Coffee Company in Lafayette with readings and an open mic. Featured poets included Alexander Shalom Joseph (July 9) and Michele Battiste, Lafayette Poet Laureate (August 13).
2. **3rd Monday:** The Love Shack Lines Poetry Open Mic is hosted by member Annmarie Fore at the Love Shack in Loveland, 6 - 8pm, sponsored by the Loveland Poet Laureate Program.

As always, Fort Collins promotes poetry! On July 26, Wolverine Farm Public House hosted an event to meet the new Fort Collins Poets Laureate, Jake Friedman and member Erica Reid.

Above all, Colorado is soaring with poetry! Several Columbine poets attended the NFSPS Convention in person or by zoom in Overland Park, Kansas, July 23-27, 2026, co-hosted by the Sunflower Poetry Society—THANK YOU, Kansas! Colorado’s own Rosemarie Wahtola Trommer was keynote speaker.

Just to keep everyone fully engaged, here are additional events offered for poets this summer by members: a workshop by Melissa Huff, “Beyond Description: The Natural World as Point of Departure,” in Loveland (August 8); a workshop on navigating grief through writing by Nancy Jakobsson and Lynn Kincanon at the Loveland Museum, sponsored by the Loveland Poet Laureate Program (August 20); an online generative workshop by Gia Nold via Zenful Conversations (August 20); Crestone Poetry Fest (August 21-23); and Erin Robertson, Coal Creek writer-in-residence, led a “Poetry and Full Moon Walk” in Lafayette (August 27).

Yes, Columbine Poets of Colorado are here, there, and everywhere! Come join us sometime! ~ Lynne McNamara, Vice President

The FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION will hold our Autumn Assembly of Poets on October 2-4 in historic Sanford, Florida. Featuring our special guest Richard Blanco, who will present “Writing Epistolary/Letter Poems,” our line-up of workshops includes Charles Hines and D-Rod’s workshop “Your Voice – Inside and Out,” Chancellor Carol Frost on “Poetry Dares,” Four First Names with “Expanding Your Creative Routine While Staying True to Your Process,” and a presenters’ roundtable facilitated by Chancellor M. B. McLatchey. Our Saturday events will also be available via Zoom. Winners of our state contests will be announced and highlighted during our contest reading and open mic hours, and our anthology, *Cadence*, will be distributed. For the full schedule, registration (both in-person for the full conference, and Saturday only online), and more information, please go to flpoets.org. ~ Diane Neff, Secretary

MAINE POETS SOCIETY met on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church in Wilton. The morning session included the results of the September contest from the judge, Bill Schulz. The subject was “a place poem.” A special lunch was provided by our Hospitality Chair. After lunch there was a celebration of our 90th anniversary and the official launch of our 2026 Anthology, *Timberline and Shoreline* (available from Amazon). Activities included some group writing experiments. On Saturday, October 17, Bill Schulz will conduct a workshop on the poetry of place at the Windham Public Library from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. It will be a hybrid meeting. Details about the workshop will be available on the society’s website, www.mainepoetsociety.com, as are membership application forms. ~ Sally Joy, Reporter

MASSACHUSETTS POETRY SOCIETY We had our final meeting in August with a workshop entitled What If? Followed by lunch and individual readings of original poetry. A card was signed by all for Pres. Jeanette Maes who turns 92 in September. Our National Poetry Day Contest is being judged and a winners list will be available soon. October 31st will be our final day as a poetry society. The members are planning various gatherings throughout the year and also the Round-Robin mail critique will continue. Best wishes to all! ~ Beverley Barnes, Reporter

The POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN PSM’s Fall Poetry Conference will be held Saturday, October 17, 2026, in the Lake Michigan Room at the Library of Michigan in Lansing. One anticipated highlight of the conference will be the launch of our Five-Year Anthology, featuring the work of PSM members active between 2021 and 2025. ~ Susan Herman, Historian

NEVADA POETRY SOCIETY Here in NPS, our individual members are remaining very active during our chapter meeting summer hiatus. We have Carol Quinn and Phyllis Peacock remaining active within the Reno Arts Consortium and maintaining wonderful relationships with our local Artists Co-Op Gallery of Reno where five of our members were special performers alongside visual artists for THE ART OF WORDS on August 2nd. Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers and poets for making this such a memorable event. We also run a weekly poetry open mic called Monday Night Poetry and a bi-monthly all ages poetry group, True Colors, at our local community gathering spot Our Center. We hope everyone will be well travelled, well rested and well energized for when we return to business as usual in September. ~*Jesse James Ziegler, President*

The POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA PSO is looking ahead to Autumn and celebrating National Poetry Day in October which is also our annual business meeting. To celebrate National Poetry Day 2026, we will focus on the theme of WONDER. We will also read winning poems, recognize poets and give out awards.

We invite everyone to check our new website poetrysocietyofoklahoma.weebly.com and our Facebook page for current PSO information. As always, we welcome all to “Come and grow at PSO!” ~ *Patti Koch, President*

PENNSYLVANIA POETRY SOCIETY The Pennsylvania Poetry Society's annual poetry competition is underway and accepting entries postmarked by November 30, 2026. The Brochure was emailed to state presidents and is available on the NFSPS Website under “State Poetry Societies”. Thank you, and enjoy your writing! ~*John "Pom" Benson, President*

WYOPOETS Eugene V. Shea Contest opens October 1, 2026. With a deadline of December 31, 2026.

PRIZES: 1st PLACE: \$100.00 2nd PLACE: \$50.00 3rd PLACE: \$30.00 Up to five Honorable Mentions, at the judge's discretion. Winners and Honorable Mentions will be invited to read their winning poems at the 2027 WyoPoets Spring Workshop in Casper, WY on Friday, April 23, 2027. **ENTRY FEE:** \$3.00 per submitted poem (e.g., 5 poems for \$15.00). Limit 20 poems total per person (this includes multiple submissions). Full submission guidelines are available from Mandie Hines at mhines517@gmail.com, or on the website <http://wyopoets.org/contests.html> ~*Mary Whalen, President*

CONTEST CHAIR REPORT

The 2027 Contest Brochure is printed with this issue and will be published on the website and available for download. Please consider entering the contests and attending convention in Arizona next year. We'd love to celebrate you during the awards presentations! ~*Julie Cummings, Contest Chair*

REPORTING LEADERSHIP CHANGES TO NFSPS

When a new president, officer, or other leadership position changes in your society, please send the updated information to both the

Strophes Editor stropheseditor@nfsp.net and the **NFSPS Webmaster** admin@nfsp.net

Providing this information promptly allows NFSPS to update the official website and include the changes in the next issue of the *Quarterly Strophes* newsletter.

Keeping leadership information current helps maintain clear communication between NFSPS and its member societies and ensures that the correct individuals receive important announcements and updates.

Thank you for helping keep our records accurate.

DO SOMETHING HUMAN WITH IT: THE POETIC FORM AND THE RE-HUMANIZATION OF LIFE

“A poem,” once said the celebrated poet Lucille Clifton, “is the sum of everything we are. It’s a balance between intellect and intuition, between sound and sight. You should be able to physically feel a poem.”¹

Poetry, by its nature, both requires and rewards this interrogation of intuition and attention. It asks us to consider words in singular, with their potential for multiple meanings to unfold; to match our breath to its line breaks and cadence; to often be willing to wait until the final stanzas to make sense of the author’s full intention. Yet poetry, while defying sound bites and simplification, also manages to defy verbosity. Its very leanness, its sparse beauty, is what gives the sharp point which pierces us so deeply.

I think about poems I return to: *Four Quartets*, by T.S. Eliot, grappling not just with the external chaos of air raids and bomb shelters, but with the existential chaos of distraction and entropy; the works of Langston Hughes, witnessing not only the joys but the frustrations of life during the Harlem Renaissance (in his words, “people up today and down tomorrow, working this week and fired the next, beaten and baffled, but determined not to be wholly beaten...”); or the astonishing and prescient voices of Adrienne Rich or Maya Angelou. Each of these poets and their words have endured by touching something deep in the human condition that continues to resonate with my own.

Clifton, with her disarming visual style and unforgettable lines, was particularly skilled at saying much with very few words. “The first thing that strikes us about Lucille Clifton’s poetry,” one reviewer wrote, “is what is missing... We see a poetry so pared down that its spaces take on substance, become a shaping presence as much as the words themselves” (Peggy Rosenthal). Another poet described her work as “physically small poems with enormous and profound inner worlds” (Elizabeth Alexander).

In a piercingly brief poem titled “Night Vision”², Clifton tells us of a girl who “is a stalk, / exhausted”, a girl who, before going to sleep, “fits her body in / to the space between the bed / and the wall.” We are given little biography other than this image and the description of the girl’s “red and raging” dreams; yet by the end of the poem Clifton has left us with one of these profoundly internal stories —

told not from the viewpoint of abandonment or despair, but from a place of empathy and power. Although the girl begins by making herself nearly invisible, by the ¹ *Wild Blessings: The Poetry of Lucille Clifton*, by Hilary Holladay, pg. 20 ²“night vision,” by Lucille Clifton, found in *The Book of Light* end of the poem she instead leaves us with the knowledge that “she will train her tongue / to lie still in her mouth and listen.../ she will remember / to do something human with it.”

There are, of course, many ways to read Clifton's poems (Toni Morrison called her work “highly complex, explosive underneath an apparent quietude”). But each time I read this piece, I am struck by the movement from the personal to the universal, from the exhaustion to the embodiment of memory. I am left with the question: in times of upheaval or outrage, when exhaustion is an ever-present danger, how do we remember to take what we hear and do something truly *human* with it? What does *human* even mean in this act of listening, of remembering?

We use the term “dehumanizing” as a way to describe the opposite: the process of forgetting, sometimes willfully; the onset of blindness which rejects the humanity in another person and instead sees them as irrelevant, even expendable. Particularly in times of violence or distress, the greatest dilemma we face seems to be how to hold on to this very essence, this latent potential in each of us for connection and therefore communion - to remember to be what we are, or at least what we have the potential to be. To reclaim our human-ness and the human-ness of those around us in the midst of dehumanization is to insist on the act of memory, to insist on witness. In a sense, it is an act of poetry.

Poet and Vietnam War objector John Balaban quotes W.H. Auden's famous passage from “In Memory of W. B. Yeats” in discussing the role of poetry in times of chaos:

*For poetry makes nothing happen: it survives
In the valley of its making where executives
Would never want to tamper, flows on south
From ranches of isolation and the busy griefs,
Raw towns that we believe and die in; it survives,
A way of happening, a mouth.*

Balaban argues that Auden's meaning is not that poetry only exists in the rearview mirror, but is something in fact much deeper. Poetry makes nothing happen because it itself is the happening: it is a mouth only because it is first bearing witness.

“Auden's apparent criticism in fact points to poetry's power, including war poetry and political poetry,” Balaban reflects. “When its voice is memorable, poetry's ‘mouth’ can speak to our innermost selves and to the universe beyond us. This is no slight thing. This changes everything... poetry makes everything happen, extending our own voice and human self, opening paths to address our inmost thoughts and the universe outside of us.”³

³ <https://www.literarymatters.org/14-2-war-poetry-political-poetry-and-the-invisible-powers/>

In her poem to William Blake⁴, Clifton writes:

we need new words

*for what this is, this hunger entering our
loneliness like birds, stunning our eyes into rays
of hope
we need the flutter that can save
us, something that will swirl across the face
of what we have become and bring us grace.*

What would it be like if the poetic act was the way we all made sense of the chaos surrounding us? What if this is what it might take for us to find, collectively, what exactly it is we have become?

This is the role of the poet: to hone our words to the sharp point of all we mean to say below the saying; to let our tongue lie still in our mouth for a brief while while we feel, and hear, and consider. We ask ourselves: what does it mean to do something human with what I have been given? We let all left unsaid haunt what is; we force both writer and reader to slow to the pace of the saying. We invite us all into the kind of listening that makes us more human together: the kind of listening that heals. ~ Jenna K Funkhouser

⁴“blake,” by Lucille Clifton, found in *The Terrible Stories*

BEFORE THE HAIKU

One of the haiku's direct ancestors is the tanka. Also known as the waka, the poem's early structure was influenced by Uta, Japanese songs to the gods. A favorite of the Imperial court for over 1,300 years, twenty-one anthologies of tankas survive, compiled between 905 and 1433. This publication record has preserved more tanka over a longer period than any other poetry form worldwide. The first of the court anthologies is the *Kokinshū*, *A Collection of Ancient and Modern Poems* (ca. 905). It may be found at your local library, if not on the shelves, then through interlibrary loan, or it can be purchased at various sites on the Internet.

Adapted into American form, the traditional tanka consists of five lines in a 5,7,5,7,7 pattern (thirty-one or fewer syllables). Example:

Since I have loved you
I compare my former thoughts
to those I have now,
and realize that I then
had no ideas at all.

Atsutada, 10th century. tr. Frances Stillman

The form is untitled and unrhymed, and like much other poetry, alliteration, assonance, onomatopoeia, and occasional repetition may be used. As with its descendant, the haiku, a sudden revelation or an aha moment at the end increases its power. In Medieval Japan, tanka were routinely exchanged between lovers. One partner would send the first three lines to the other, printed on a fan or on decorative paper knotted around a flower, the last two lines to be completed by the recipient and returned. Or, the exchange could be a somonka, two full tanka, one from each.

Write some tanka; you may find a use for the form. And, there are a number of journals that accept tanka for publication. ~ Dennis Maulsby, Past President Iowa Poetry Association

POETS FOR PEACE



Poets for Peace is a program of National Federation of State Poetry Societies, a registered nonprofit organized as a 501(c)(3)

Please join us, **Saturday, Oct. 10,** **5:00-7:00 p.m. for a cool event to warm orphans in Ukraine**

They need your support!

We are raising funds to fulfill a urgent need to keep Ukrainian orphans warm and secure in the face of severe weather this winter by providing a new autonomous heating system for their orphanage.

Event features:

Live music, peace poetry, special videos and Ukrainian food including pirogies, potato pancakes and a special dessert!

The evening will also include the participation of Nobel-Prize-nominated Peoples Poet of Ukraine, **Ihor Pavlyuk** who will speak to us directly from Ukraine about his life, his childhood as an orphan, and the current dire need.

Let's celebrate the prospect for peace in Ukraine and help keep the orphans warm this winter.

To be held at:

Unitarian Universalist Church
56 N Halifax Drive , Ormond Beach, Florida.

The event is free!

Bring friends and family. Consider becoming a sponsor. All donations are appreciated.

Available on Zoom, too!

This event will also be live-streamed via Zoom. A few minutes before the event (~ 5:15 pm) open the Zoom application on your computer or phone. Select "Join Meeting." Enter Passcode and Meeting ID number. Select "Join." **ID: 704 830 6738 Passcode: 11aqGA**
Extremely Important: Everyone attending via Zoom must keep their Zoom muted.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Poets for Peace president at: jcavanaugh1@gmail.com

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
STATE POETRY SOCIETIES**



MANNINGHAM STUDENT POETRY COMPETITION

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 Youth Awards Student Poetry Anthology. Winners will receive complimentary copies. The schools of each winning student will receive a complimentary copy for the school library. There is no entry fee.

1. There are two divisions: Grade 6-8 (Junior Division) and Grades 9-12 (Senior Division). Any Middle School or High School student in the U.S., whether in public or private school or home schooled, is eligible.
2. Poems may have been previously published and/or have won previous awards.
3. Students may submit only one poem per person.
4. All entries must be entered through Submittable. All students can open a Submittable account for no cost.
5. Each student must fill out the submission form with their contact information, school, and current grade.
6. Each poem must be neatly typed or computer-generated and should appear on a single sheet. In order to fit on the page, the line width limit is 60 characters, including punctuation marks and spaces between words. Lines longer than 60 characters will be wrapped with a hanging indent by the editors. Any poem that exceeds the 60-character limit may be disqualified. Because our printed format will be a 6 x 9 book, some winning poems may end up printed on more than one page.
7. Do not send illustrations or any type of graphic. Poems should be in Times or Times New Roman in a 12 point font if written on a computer.
8. The poem submitted must not have identifying information. There should be no indication of prior awards granted or publication information. If applicable, winners will need to submit that information at the time of publication.
9. The decisions of the judge and/or the editor are final.
10. Each entrant must make a declaration of originality. Poets that do not sign this statement will be disqualified. In Submittable, you will be asked to electronically sign your name. "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. My poem has not used text generated by AI, and I did not use any language model tool for brainstorming, generating lines, or revisions. I understand that if I am found to have signed this statement knowing it is not true, my poem will be disqualified from the contest and a statement will be posted on the NFSPS website. I will be subject to a permanent ban from this contest and from all NFSPS contests going forward."
11. Entries must be received on Submittable between September 15, 2026 and November 15th, 2026.
12. Go to [NFSPS.submittable.com](https://nfspssubmittable.com) and check the appropriate grade level to submit your poem.
13. Notice of winners will be sent to each winner's member state society (President and/or Manningham Youth Chair). Awards (certificates, checks, anthologies) will be mailed directly to the student. Each member state is responsible for celebrating their state's winners. The top winning poems will be read at the Annual NFSPS Convention to be held in Phoenix in July 2027. Please visit the NFSPS website for more information about the convention.

Literary Standards. We honor the First Amendment right of free speech, but submitters and teachers need to be aware that the winning poems will be published and distributed to school-age children.

Any questions can be directed to manningham@nfsp.net.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

Organized October 17, 1959
Mary B. Wall, Founder

Honorary Chancellor: Diane Glancy

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Elected, NFSPS Convention, June 2026

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MISSISSIPPI: Mississippi Poetry Society

Philip Levin, President ~ 451 Bordeaux Cove,
Biloxi, MS, 39531 writerpllevin@gmail.com

MISSOURI: Missouri State Poetry Society

Vicki Arnett, President ~ 16086 County Rd 437, Preston,
MO 65732 ~ vickidb@yahoo.com

NEBRASKA: Nebraska Poetry Society

Charlene Pierce, President ~ Omaha, NE
charlene_pierce@icloud.com

NEVADA: Nevada Poetry Society

Jesse James Ziegler, President ~ Sparks, NV 89431
~sidewayseightprojects@gmail.com

NEW MEXICO: New Mexico State Poetry Society

Bernadette Perez, President ~ 19645 Hwy. 314,
Belen, NM 87002~ president@nmpoetry.com

NORTH DAKOTA: North Dakota Poetry Society

Jamie Parsley, President ~ frjamieparsley@gmail.com

OHIO: Ohio Poetry Association

Holly Brians Ragusa, President ~ 1414 Elm St.,
Cincinnati, OH 45202 ~ president@ohiopoetryassn.org

OKLAHOMA: Poetry Society of Oklahoma

Patti Koch, President ~ pattikoch0@gmail.com

OREGON: Oregon Poetry Association

David Goodrum, President ~ president@oregonpoets.org

PENNSYLVANIA: Pennsylvania Poetry Society

Pom Benson, President ~ 257 Ashton Hollow
Catawissa, PA 17820 ~ pombenson@att.net

**SOUTH DAKOTA: South Dakota State Poetry
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Vermillion SD 57069 ~ surfaceworld@yahoo.com

TENNESSEE: Poetry Society of Tennessee

Lisa Kamolnick, President ~ 259 Cain Drive
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TEXAS: Poetry Society of Texas

Holly Jahangari, President ~ 12310 Vintage Leaf Cir
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UTAH: Utah State Poetry Society

Markay Brown, President ~ 1647 N Artesia Dr, St.
George, UT 84770 ~ nadbmarb@gmail.com

VIRGINIA: Poetry Society of Virginia

Kathy Smaltz, President ~
president@poetrysocietyofvirginia.org

WYOMING: WyoPoets

Mary Whalen, President ~ wyopoets@gmail.com

**For information on forming a state society, contact
Susann Moeller at smoeller@nfspns.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 email, which is preferred, by
authorized members of NFSPS member state societies
to:

Julie Cummings, *Strophes* Editor

5858 Pintail Way, Frederick, CO 80504-9668

Stropheseditor@nfspns.net

* Submission Deadlines

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 **SASE with adequate postage for
up to 12 pages and \$2.00 per copy.**

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NFSPS DEADLINES**NFSPS DEADLINES AND DATES****Manningham Submission Period:**

September 15- November 15

Stevens Manuscript Submission Period:

August 15 - October 15

CUP Submission Period:

December 1– January 31

BlackBerry Peach (Spoken Word) Submission Period:

January 1 – April 15

Annual Contest Submission Period:

January 1 – March 15

State Membership Lists and Annual Dues Deadline:

January 15

Updates due by March 15**Strophes Reports or Articles:**August Issue Deadline: June 25thOctober Issue Deadline: August 25thJanuary Issue Deadline: November 25thApril Issue Deadline: February 25th**BlackBerry Peach SLAM Entry Period:**

Stay tuned for further information!

Contest Sponsorship Forms and Payment:March 15th for the following year**State Annual Reports:**

One week prior to convention

Board and Committee Annual Reports:

One week prior to convention or when complete in special cases. (Treasurer, Contest Chair)

State President Meetings:

Held Quarterly. Watch for emails!

Learning Central Meetings:

Held Quarterly. Watch for emails!

HOW TO ORDER PAST NFSPS PUBLICATIONS

Whether you are looking for past editions of the annual *Encore* contest anthology, award-winning books from the College Undergraduate Poetry (C.U.P.) competition, Stevens Manuscript winners, or previous BlackBerry Peach Poetry collections, ordering past titles is straightforward.

1. Visit the Official NFSPS Bookstore:

Head to the official NFSPS website at nfsp.net/nfsp-bookstore to view the current catalog.

If you are searching for an out-of-print back issue or past quarterly newsletter (*Strophes*), reach out directly to the NFSPS publication editor.

Inquiries about publications can be made to Polly.Opsahl@nfsp.net. You will be responsible for shipping.

ENCORE PRIZE POEMS

The 2026 anthology of prize-winning poems awarded at the annual convention will be available on amazon.com. Look for an

announcement on Facebook, Instagram, and nfsp.net. Past issues are available as well. All royalties from *Encore* sales support NFSPS. ~ McKenna Hall, *Encore Editor*

PLEASE BE WARY OF SCAMMERS

Whenever you get an email with my name as the sender, check to see if the message is actually sent from steven.concert@nfsp.net. If it isn't, I suggest you report the email as scam/phishing to your email provider. I will never ask you for money or gift cards in an email or text message, nor will any member of the NFSPS Board. ~ Steven Concert, *NFSPS President*