



MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY, INC. 2020 SPRING FESTIVAL CONTEST RULES

ELIGIBILITY—Poems must be original and unpublished and should not have won or placed in any poetry contest, other than honorable mention. A poet may not enter the same poem in more than one category.

FORM—Entries must be on regular 8.5” x 11” computer-generated paper or typewritten and submitted in an 8 1/2 x 11 or 10 x 13 mailing envelope. All entries must meet the form requirement and line limit specified by the category entered. Spaces between lines do not count as numbered lines. Participants should submit two (2) copies of each poem per category with the following distinction: (1) The first copy must show the poet’s name, complete US mailing address, email address (if available), and “MPS Member” or “Non-member” in the upper right corner. (MPS members include all entrants who have paid dues for the 2019-2020 year, including at-large members.) The category number and category title should appear in the upper left corner. (2) The second copy must show only the category number and category title in the upper left corner. If a poem runs more than one page, please staple the pages together on each copy.

Electronic copies: If you have access to email, please send an electronic PDF attachment of your first copy (including name and address) of each entry to MSpoetcon20@gmail.com. This will be in addition to the two copies you mail. (Electronic copies of winning poems will make it easier for the journal editor to set up the journal.)

ENTRY FEES: The entry fee is \$1 per category for MPS members, with a maximum of \$10 to enter all categories. The entry fee for non-members is \$3 per category, with a maximum of \$30 to enter all categories. Fees must be included with the entries. *Note that Categories 1, 2, 3, 5, and 18 are open to MPS members only. Checks should be made payable to Mississippi Poetry Society, Inc.

AWARDS—Certificates and monetary prizes will be awarded to the winners at the MPS Spring Festival at Lake Tiak O’Khata, Louisville, Mississippi, on April 3-4, 2020. Prize checks should be cashed within 45 days of their awarding. Send SASE or email address for a list of winners. Winners’ names will also be posted on the MPS website, www.misspoetry.net. All poems that place first, second, or third will be published in the 2020 *Mississippi Poetry Journal*.

DEADLINE—Entries must be received by Friday, February 7, 2020. No entries received after this date will be accepted. Send entries to the following address:

Stephen Curry
MPS Contest Co-chairman
917 Fairview Street
Jackson, Mississippi
39202

CONTEST CATEGORIES

BEST OF THE FEST

\$250 is contributed by Marilyn Denington in memory of Michael R. (Mick) Denington. The first place winners in each category will be collected and sent to a special outside judge who will decide which one of the winning poems in this year's Festival deserves this special award. Decision of the judge will be final.

***Category 1. MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY 2020 AWARD**---Form: Open. Subject: "Mississippi Roads." Line Limit: 100. (Open to MPS members only). Prizes: 1st \$100, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25. Honorable Mention: 3 as merited.

***Category 2. MPS NORTH BRANCH AWARD**—Sponsored by MPS North Branch. Judge, Michael Shelton. Form: English or Shakespearean Sonnet. Subject: Open. Line Limit: 14. (Open to MPS members only). Prizes: 1st \$30, 2nd \$20, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 3. MPS CENTRAL BRANCH 'WEATHER OR NOT' AWARD**—Sponsored by MPS Central Branch. Form: Open. Subject: "Weather." Line Limit: 40. (Open to MPS members only). Prizes: 1st \$50, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20, Honorable Mention: as merited

***Category 4. MPS SOUTH BRANCH AWARD**--- Sponsored by MPS South Branch. Form: Open. Subject: "Storms." Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: 3 as merited.

***Category 5. MPS President's Award**—Sponsored and judged by MPS President Linda W. Owen. Form: Free Verse (...with poetic qualities that rise above a flat prose style. Use the tools in your poet's 'tool box,' but without regular end rhyme or regular rhythm.) Subject: "Chosen." Line Limit: 40. (Open to MPS members only). Prizes: 1st \$50, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 6. On the Face of It: The Scope of Poetic Endeavor Award**---Sponsored by Dr. Fernando Cesani. Judged by Professor Sue Brannan Walker. Form: Open (including prose poems). Subject: "The scope of poetic endeavor." Line limit: 50. Prizes: 1st \$50, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 7. Carpe Diem Award**---Sponsored by Dr. Stephen Curry. Form: Metered and rhymed verse. Subject: "Seize the day! Put a new twist on an ancient theme." Line limit: 50. Prizes: 1st \$50, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 8. The Sky is the Limit Award**---Sponsored by Daniel Pickett. Form: Free Verse, unrhymed. Subject: Open. Line limit: 50. Prizes: 1st \$50, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 9. Barron & Dessie Caulfield Memorial Award**---Sponsored by Dorothy Wiman. Form: Open. Subject: "Keeping up appearances." Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$50, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 10. Potts Camp Bank Award**---Sponsored by Potts Camp Bank. Judged by Janice Canerdy. Form: Open. Subject: Open. Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$50, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 11. Doctor's Dreams Award**---Sponsored and judged by Dr. Philip Levin. Form: Free style. Subject: "Medical care." Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$45, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$25. Honorable Mention: Up to 3, as merited.

***Category 12. Helen Kressman Taylor Memorial Award**---Sponsored by Taylor Wright Corporation. Form: Any recognized form, but no free verse. Subject: "The Real World." Line limit: 50. Prizes: 1st \$40, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$30. Honorable Mention: Up to 3, as merited.

***Category 13. Ekphrastic Award**---Sponsored and judged by Dr. Emory Jones. Form: Ekphrastic, as in based on a plastic art form such as a painting, sculpture, etc. Subject: Open, as per the form. Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$30, 2nd \$20, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 14. Narrative Poem Award**---Sponsored by Janice Canerdy. Form: Rhymed, metered. Subject: Open. Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$30, 2nd \$20, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 15. Visions of Our World**---Sponsored by Jason Ervin. Form: Open. Subject: "Climate change." Line limit: 50. Prizes: 1st \$30, 2nd \$20, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 16. Gail Special Award**---Sponsored by Gail Denham and an anonymous co-sponsor. Form: Free verse. Subject: "Use at least three of the following words: carrots, boat, bucket, thistle, quilt, remorse." Line limit: 30. Prizes: 1st \$30, 2nd \$20, 3rd \$15. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 17. Grands Award**---Sponsored by Dr. Emory Jones. Form: Open. Subject: "Grandparents or grandchildren." Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 18. Mary Winklebleck Memorial Award**---Sponsored and judged by Barbara Blanks. Form: Any rhyming form such as sonnet, villanelle, triolet, etc. Please specify the form used. Subject: Open. Line limit: Per chosen form. (Open to MPS members only.) Prizes: 1st \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: Up to 3, as merited.

***Category 19. Ruby L. Dennis Memorial Award**---Sponsored by Patty Butkovich. Form: Open. Subject: "Gardens." Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 20. The Linger Longer Award**---Sponsored by Poets Anonymous. Form: Open. Subject: "A time you lingered.... Yes, it's a fast-paced world, but Poets Anonymous wants to encourage you to linger longer...and plans to reward you for it!" Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 21. Memories of Railroads**---Sponsored by Barron and Elizabeth Caulfield. Judged by Ann Carolyn Cates. Form: Couplet. Subject: "Memories of Railroads." Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 22. Ruth Richmond Award**---Sponsored by Ruth J. Richmond. Form: Open. Subject: "Gravel." Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 23. Past Presidents' Award**---Sponsored by Brenda Finnegan and Judy Davies. Form: Villanelle. Subject: "Most memorable family vacation or trip." Line limit: 19. Prizes: 1st \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: Up to 3, as merited.

***Category 24. The Spirit of Meridian Award**---Sponsored by Dr. Joe Jacobs. Form: Open. Subject: "Humorous poem." Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 25. The Fletcher Award**---Sponsored by Grace Fletcher. Form: Open. Subject: "Heaven." Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1st \$15, 2nd \$10, 3rd \$5. Honorable Mention: as merited.

***Category 26. Limerick Award**---Sponsored by Burnham Drugs-Gautier, Greg Spanier. Form: Limerick. Subject: Open. Line limit: 5. Prizes: 1st \$12, 2nd \$8, 3rd \$5. Honorable Mention: as merited.