

**MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY, INC.  
2021 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**ELIGIBILITY:** Poems must be original and unpublished and should not have won or placed in any poetry contest, other than honorable mention.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. Titles and 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 2020-2021 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.

**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 [mspoetrycontest21@outlook.com](mailto:mspoetrycontest21@outlook.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, and 4 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 2021 Spring Festival. If the festival is not possible, due to Covid restrictions, prizes and certificates will be mailed. Prize checks should be cashed within 45 days of their awarding. Send SASE with entries for a list of winners. Winners' names will also be posted on the MPS website, [www.misspoetry.net](http://www.misspoetry.net). All poems that place first, second, or third will be published in the 2021 Mississippi Poetry Journal.

**DEADLINE:** Entries must be received by Friday, February 5, 2021. No entries received after this date will be accepted.

**Send entries to the following address:**

**Daniel B. Pickett  
MPS Contest Chairman  
108 Windy Hollow  
Madison, MS 39110**

# 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 deserves this special award. Decision of the judge will be final.

### \*Category 1: Mississippi Poetry Society 2021 Award:

Sponsored by Mississippi Poetry Society, Inc. Form: Open. Subject: "Mississippi - This is Home." Line Limit: 100. (Open to MPS members only). Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25. Honorable Mention: 3 as merited.

### \*Category 2: MPS North Branch Award:

Sponsored by MPS North Branch. Form: English Sonnet. Subject: Open. Line Limit: 14. (Open to MPS members only). Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. Honorable Mention: as merited.

### \*Category 3: MPS Central Branch Award:

Sponsored by MPS Central Branch. Form: Open. Subject: The Soaring Power of Music. Line Limit: 40. (Open to MPS members only). Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. Honorable Mention: as merited. (This category is in memory of Matthew VanDeburgh who brought not only his guitar, but also joy and music to our central branch meetings.)

### \*Category 4: MPS South Branch Award:

Sponsored by MPS South Branch. Form: Open. Subject: Something Uplifting that Happened During the Pandemic. Line Limit: 40. (Open to MPS members only). Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 3 as merited.

### Category 5: Sound and Sense Award:

Sponsored by Robert K. Goddard. Form: English Sonnet. Subject: Open. Line Limit: 14 (no more, no less). Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$150, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$50. Honorable Mention: 1 (Form should be 3 quatrains and a concluding couplet of 5 iambic feet per line. Rhyming pattern of: ABAB CDCD EFEF GG).

### Category 6: Barron and Dessie Caulfield Memorial Award:

Sponsored by Dorothy Wiman. Form: Open. Subject: The Royals- Keeping Up Appearances. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$35. Honorable Mention: 3

### Category 7: Childhood Memories Award:

Sponsored by Daniel B. Pickett. Form: Free verse, unrhymed. Subject: Childhood Memories. Line Limit: 50. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25. Honorable Mention: 3.

**Category 8: Biblical Voices Award:**

Sponsored by Rev. Randy and Linda Owen. Form: Open. Subject: Enter the mind of a Biblical character, and write a poem from that person's perspective. Line Limit: 50. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$35, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$15. Honorable Mention: as merited.

**Category 9: Ferguson Enterprises Award:**

Sponsored by Jason J. Walker and Ferguson Enterprises for Carey Myers. Form: Open. Subject: Open. Line Limit: 50. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. Honorable Mention: as merited.

**Category 10: Helen Kressmann Taylor Memorial Award:**

Sponsored by Taylor Wright Corporation. Form: any rhyming form. Subject: Any humorous subject. Line Limit: None (no more than 2 pages). Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$40, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$30. Honorable Mention: as merited.

**Category 11: Doctor's Dreams Award:**

Sponsored by Doctor's Dreams Publishing. Form: Free Style. Subject: Women's Health. Line Limit: 36. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$40, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. Honorable Mention: 3.

**Category 12: Bank of New Albany and Potts Camp Bank Award:**

Sponsored by Bank of New Albany and Potts Camp Bank. Form: Free verse. Subject: Open. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$35, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$15. Honorable Mention: as merited, up to 3.

**Category 13: Narrative Poem Award:**

Sponsored by Janice Canerdy. Form: Open. Subject: Open. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

**Category 14: Mix it Up Award:**

Sponsored by Jason Ervin. Form: Open (If using a formal form, please indicate what it is). Subject: Break your own writing habits. We probably all exhibit some habits in our writing. The idea here is to invigorate your work by being aware of some of your habits and trying to break out of them. If you'd like to include a little explanation along with your poem, that would be welcome but not necessary. Line Limit: 100. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

**Category 15: R. L. Dennis Memorial Award:**

Sponsored by Patty Butkovich. Form: Open. Subject: This Beautiful Earth. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 3

**Category 16: Ekphrastic Award:**

Sponsored by Emory D. Jones. Form: Any- must be based on another art form. Subject: Open. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited

**Category 17: Terry Family Memorial Award:**

Sponsored by Mary Lee Terry. Form: Open. Subject: Vietnam Memories (In memory of C.H. Terry, Jr.). Line Limit: 32. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 3

**Category 18: Ruth Richmond Award:**

Sponsored by Ruth Richmond. Form: Open. Subject: Promises. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 3

**Category 19: Transitions Award:**

Sponsored by Jeanne S. Kelly. Form: Free Verse. Subject: Facing Life's Unexpected Challenges. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited.

**Category 20: Love Thy Neighbor Award:**

Sponsored by Von S. Bourland. Form: Any Rhyming (name form). Subject: Matthew 22:37. Line Limit: 25. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 3

**Category 21: Grands Award:**

Sponsored by Emory D. Jones. Form: Open. Subject: Grandparents or Grandchildren. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 5

**Category 22: Peggy Duke Memorial Award:**

Sponsored by John Michael Shelton. Form: Couplet. Subject: Open. Line Limit: 24. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$20, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$10, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$5. Honorable Mention: 3.

**Category 23: Fletcher Award:**

Sponsored by Grace A. Fletcher. Form: Open. Subject: Blessings. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$15, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$10, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$5. Honorable Mention: as merited, up to 3.