



**MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY, INC.  
2019 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**ELIGIBILITY**—Poems must be original and unpublished and should not have won or placed in any poetry contest, other than honorable mention.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 ½ x 11 or 10 x 13 mailing envelope. All entries must meet the form requirement and line limit specified by the category entered. 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 2018-2019 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 [MSpoetcon19@gmail.com](mailto:MSpoetcon19@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, and 3 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 Millsaps Cabot Lodge, Jackson, Mississippi, on April 6-7, 2019. 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](http://www.misspoetry.net). All poems that place first, second, or third will be published in the 2019 *Mississippi Poetry Journal*.

**DEADLINE**—Entries must be received by February 15, 2019. No entries received after this date will be accepted. Send entries to the following address:

Jeanne S. Kelly  
MPS Contest Co-chairman  
315 Church St.  
Madison, MS 39110-9204

## 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 2019 AWARD**—Form: Open. Subject: *Mississippi Happenings (Festivals, Fairs, Flea Markets, Football games, camp meetings, etc.)* 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> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention—up to 3.

**\*Category 3. MPS CENTRAL BRANCH AWARD**—Sponsored by MPS Central Branch. Form: Open. Subject: *Family Heritage (Forebears, ancestors)*. Line Limit: 40 line limit. (Open to MPS members only). Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$15, 4<sup>th</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: as merited

**Category 4. MPS SOUTH BRANCH AWARD** sponsored by Mississippi Poetry Society's South Branch. Form: Open. Subject: *Storms*. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 3 as merited.

**Category 5. MPS PRESIDENT'S AWARD**—sponsored by MPS President Linda Watson Owen. Form: Open. Subject: *A Mississippi Stand-out*. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$40, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 3

**Category 6. WILDLIFE OF MISSISSISSIPPI AWARD**—sponsored by Stephen L. Curry. Form: Any formal with rhyme and/or meter. Subject: *Wild Animal or Plant Life in Mississippi or Wildlife of the Southeast more generally, for example a tiger shark would be fair inclusion*. Line Limit: 100. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. Honorable Mention: 3.

**Category 7. POWER OF MUSIC AWARD**—sponsored by Stephen L. Curry. Form: Open. Subject: *Your Favorite Song*. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$35, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$15. Honorable Mention: 3.

**Category 8. WINKLEBLECK CHOICE AWARD** in memory of Mary Winklebleck—Sponsored by Barbara Blanks. Form: Open. Subject: Open, Line limit: 42. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$40, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10, Honorable Mention: 3 as merited.

**Category 9. VILLANELLE AWARD**—sponsored by Dr. Emory Jones. Form: Villanelle, Subject: open, Line Limit 19. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 5.

**Category 10. GRANDS AWARD**—sponsored by Emory D. Jones. Form: Open. Subject: *Grandparents or Grandchildren*. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 5

**Category 11. HELEN KRESSMANN TAYLOR AWARD**—sponsored by Taylor-Wright Corporation. Form: Any standard form (no free verse). Subject: *The Environment*. Line Limit: 44. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$40, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25. Honorable Mention: 4 as merited.

**Category 12. DOCTOR'S DREAMS AWARD**—sponsored by Philip Levin. Form: Free Verse. Subject: *Medical Care*. Line Limit: 32. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 2

**Category 13. THE RUTH F. RICHMOND AWARD**—sponsored by Ruth F. Richmond. Form: Open. Subject: *Stumps*. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 3.

**Category 14. NARRATIVE POEM AWARD**—sponsored by Janice Canerdy. Form: Rhymed, metered. Subject: Open. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 3 as merited.

**Category 15. THE DON BARRETT AWARD**—sponsored by Don Barrett. Form: Open. 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 16. BARRON AND DESSIE CAULFIELD MEMORIAL AWARD**—sponsored by Dorothy Wiman. Form: Open. Subject: *Make Me Laugh*. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$15. Honorable Mention 3.

**Category 17. R.L. DENNIS MEMORIAL AWARD**—sponsored by Patty Butkovich. Form: Limerick. Subject: Open. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention: 3.

**Category 18. PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD**—sponsored by Brenda Finnegan and Judy Davies. Form: Open. Subject: *Transplants*. Line Limit: 32. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable Mention-up to 3 as merited.

