

Language of Enchantment



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This issue has lots of opportunities to showcase your poetry.

Check out the article for the state convention coming up in April.

Want to be an elected official?

Peruse these pages.

We're on the Web!
www.nmpoetry.com

Message From The President

The March 15 deadline is fast approaching to submit your poetry to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies' annual competition for 2015. Winners will be announced at the annual convention in St. Petersburg, FL in June. Contest rules may be found at www.nfspd.com.

Albuquerque poets Katrina Guarascio (feature), Zack Kluckman, Jesus Lucero, Vineet Bansal and I traveled to Tucumcari for a poetry reading and open mic in the Art Space on February 6. Levi Mericle headlined local Tucumcari poets; he and four members of his family are new NMSPS members. As a result of NMSPS outreach to that community, other plans are underway.

Gregg Howard of Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari is planning to hold a poetry open mic sponsored by the college and held on its campus. Gregg is shooting for a date of late March or early April so that Albuquerque's Poet Laureate, Helen Jessica

Lopez, can feature. NMSPS will help with transportation expenses for her and others who want to go and represent the NMSPS; anyone for a poetry road trip? If so, contact me at president@nmpoetry.com.

ABQ member John Candelaria and Alvarado Elementary School Librarian Alison O'Leary coordinated a great day of "Poets In The Classroom" on February 20. NMSPS provided 135 composition books for the children to use as poetry journals, and we will pay printing costs for Alvarado's first anthology of students' poetry! Plans are to expand the program to two schools next year. Members from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Rio Rancho, and Belen took part, and I, for one, found it to be great fun to teach a basic poetry device (alliteration) and see students respond with a poem--or three--within 20 minutes.

We have been asked to provide listener-judges for events at "English Expo" at Oak Grove Classical Academy on March 25. If

you are willing to help judge spoken-word poetry and prose readings, please let me know.

Thanks to all who volunteered to judge the NFSPS poetry competitions. The response was terrific, and we hope we can call on those volunteers to expand contest opportunities in our own Society.

We'll be having our NMSPS State Convention on April 26 at Albuquerque Open Space. For those who don't know that venue, it is in a lovely, park-like area in northwest Albuquerque. Don't let the name fool you; in addition to the scenic outdoor areas, there are ample indoor facilities for workshops and meetings and a huge kitchen to hold a potluck luncheon (also in the works).

Thanks for your energetic support of poetry around the state...and beyond.

Fil Peach
NMSPS
President



Shirley Blackwell
NMSPS Chancellor

We over-fulfilled the plan-- Plan B, that is!!

Thanks to all of you who so generously volunteered to be judges for the National Federation of State Poetry Societies' (NFSPS) national contests this year. Charmaine Donovan, NFSPS Judges Chair, got more offers than she could accommodate for the 2015 running. She is now compiling a list that she can draw from in 2016.

I confess that I went about this backwards. I didn't realize that, traditionally, State society presidents or people who have been around in the various NFSPS state affiliates "nominate" members of their societies that they think would make good judges, and then the Judges Chair (the person who gets the 50 judges lined up) contacts the nominee and invites them to judge a particular contest. I just asked NMSPS members to contact Charmaine directly and CC me.

My philosophy is to turn mistakes into possibilities. For instance, I would never have thought to "nominate" some of the incredibly qualified New Mexicans who answered the call for volunteers because I don't know all of them or their capabilities (we have lots of new members). I'll bet the same is

true of our sister societies, which means there is a limited cadre of nominees. That is an unfortunate situation, in my opinion, and an issue our delegates will bring up at the NFSPS convention in June.

It occurs to me that we could maximize the value to both the Federation and NMSPS if we knew who was willing to serve as judges and what are their credentials and qualifications. We tried to do this by having a written Member Survey, but that turned out to be a cumbersome process. Charmaine's idea of a central email to which members can respond for one function is so much more efficient, but we need someone to be the repository and monitor of that information; i.e, a Project Leader for Contests, who could "assign" judges to various contests. I discussed this issue with Fil, and he agreed that we need someone in the NMSPS to do this job. If you would be willing to take this on, please call or email Fil and let him know.

Having a handy roster of judges would benefit our own Society in other ways that aren't obvious. For example, within the Federa-

tion, the state affiliates often go to other member societies to request out-of-state judges for their local contests. Having a pool of NM judges would make it easier for NMSPS to get judges for and start running more contests of its own, in addition to giving the NMSPS more to go on when recommending candidates to the Federation. The more we can do to pump new blood into the NFSPS, the better. We have already effected significant change. Let's not quit yet.



Shirley Blackwell
 NMSPS Chancellor

Poetry Society Notices

And the Nominees are?

It's that time again. NMSPS elects its state Board at the state convention in each odd-numbered year. President Fil Peach has appointed a nominating committee chaired by Shirley Blackwell (Rio Grande Valencia chapter), and including Jim Raby (Santa Fe Poetry Trails chapter) and John Candelaria (Albuquerque chapter) to compile a slate of nominees for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chancellor.

The Committee is now seeking members to fill those posts, and we ask for your help. If you would be willing to serve as an officer or you want to nominate members (with their knowledge and consent), or just suggest that the Committee recruit a certain member, please call or email one of the Nominating Committee members. If you do not have their telephone numbers, you can email them from our website, www.nmpoetry.com. Just go to the left box on the home page, click on "Contact Us" and then click on the person's name in the list of officers and project leaders.

Officers serve a 2-year term. A brief list of duties is on the next page. The full job descriptions and qualifications are posted on our website. Just click on the "Archives" tab on the website home page for a link to the job descriptions. In the past, the Committee has presented a slate of nominees, but there is nothing to prevent there being more than one candidate for a post.

NMSPS has made great strides in recent years on both local and national fronts. We are in the best position in decades to carry out our mission of promoting poetry in New Mexico and beyond. Please be part of this exciting era by helping us find leaders who will carry our Society forward.

Elected Position

Descriptions

Below are partial descriptions of each position. Full descriptions can be found on our website at: <http://www.nmpoetry.com/nmsps-archives.shtml>

President

Duties:

1. Deal in all administrative and official ways on behalf of the Society and in a manner that benefits the Society as a whole over its respective parts.
2. Serve as the Society's representative to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS).
3. Preside at meetings of the Board and at annual meetings of the Society.
4. Present a "State of the Society" report to the membership at the annual State Convention.

Vice President

Duties:

1. In the absence of the President, perform all the duties of that office as listed above.
2. Work in close partnership with the President to ensure that the Society's goals are met.
3. Oversee project teams. Keep track of which project teams are active, including the project descriptions and time frames and the members serving on the teams. The President may delegate to the VP, with the VP's consent, the job of recruiting Project Leaders.
4. The Vice President may, as needed and with the VP's consent, chair a project team or be in charge of a particular event or initiative.

Secretary

Duties:

1. Maintain and preserve records of the NMSPS, including the minutes of conventions, general membership meetings, and Board meetings.
2. Work closely with the Treasurer and/or Membership Project Leader to maintain an accurate roster of current members.
3. If the Treasurer cannot or does not send the Federation Contest Chair a list of paid-up members by January of each year, the NMSPS Secretary shall do so, so that our NMSPS members may meet NFSPS

Contest requirements.

4. If so directed by the Board, send out annual dues notices; notify members of meetings; notify officers, if elected in absentia; and send letters of congratulation, sympathy, etc.

Treasurer

Duties:

1. Receive, deposit, and disburse all monies having to do with the NMSPS as approved by the Board.
2. Serve as one of two authorized persons (the other being the NMSPS President) for Society expenditures and contracts.
3. The Treasurer and the President are responsible for keeping in their possession any credit or debit cards, checks, or other financial instruments that can be used to access NMSPS funds. Neither the Treasurer nor the President may allow anyone else to use those cards except in their presence.
4. Ensure that all payments are approved by the Board before the monies are disbursed, with the following exceptions: 1) payment of National Federation assessments; 2) payment for copies of approved publications sent to members; 3) reimbursement for postage, bank charges, contest costs and other necessary routine business of the Society.

Chancellor

Note: This post generally is held by the Immediate Past President of the NMSPS, or, if that person is unable or unwilling to serve, the post should be filled by another Past President or veteran member of the Society.

Duties:

1. Act as guardian of the Society's principles and mission and ensure that the Society's activities follow the guidelines set forth in the NMSPS Constitution.
2. Advise the President and the Board when called upon to do so.
3. Serve as ombudsman for the Society.
4. Understand or become familiar with the processes by which the NMSPS interacts with the National Federation and what responsibilities the NMSPS has as an affiliate of the NFSPS.

Know Your NMSPS Board

Elected Board (Officers and Chapter Chairs)

Appointed Board (Project Leaders)

Fil Peach
President
505-307-3348
president@nmpoetry.com

Vicki Holmsten, Chair
4 Corners Poets (Farmington)
505-326-6145
4CornersChair@nmpoetry.com

Dawn Huffaker
PL for Newsletter
505-990-6706
NMSPSnewsletter@nmpoetry.com

Georgia Santa-Maria
Vice President
505-639-4909
vicepresident@nmpoetry.com

Robert Reynolds, Chair
High Prairie Poets (Roswell)
575-623-8658
HPchair@nmpoetry.com

John Candelara
PL for Children's Poetry
505-898-4464
NMSPSchildpoetryproject@nmpoetry.com

Debbi Gutierrez
Treasurer
505-864-3256
treasurer@nmpoetry.com

Bernadette Perez, Chair
Rio Grande Valencia Poets
505-991-1376
RGVchair@nmpoetry.com

Non-Board Positions

Debbi Gutierrez
Web Presence
webmaster@nmpoetry.com

Basia Miller
Secretary
505-438-3796
secretary@nmpoetry.com

Elise Stuart, Chair
River Poets (Silver City area)
575) 956-5038
RPchair@nmpoetry.com

Sari Krosinsky
NMSPS Calendar
NMSPScalendar@nmpoetry.com

Shirley Blackwell
Chancellor
505-565-1806
chancellor@nmpoetry.com

Jim Raby, Chair
Santa Fe Poetry Trails
505-955-9067
SFchair@nmpoetry.com

Earl Kiouss, Chair
Albuquerque Chapter
214-642-8864
ABQchair@nmpoetry.com

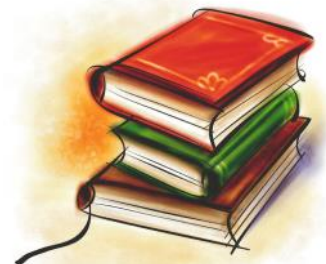
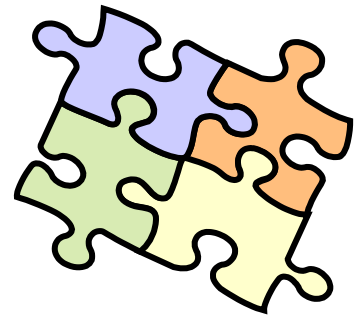
Andrea Watson, Chair
Walking Rain Poets (Taos)
303-249-4731
Taoschair@nmpoetry.com

Vacant Chair
(Contact Fil Peach)
Bosque Poets (Corrales)
BPchair@nmpoetry.com

MEMBER BOOK MARKET WEB PAGE

<http://nmpoetry.org/nmsps-market.shtml>

Want your book included in the Members' Book Market? Look for the submission guidelines on the NMSPS website. A \$10 set-up fee lets you list up to three books



New Mexico State Poetry Society

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Find us online at

nmpoetry.com