



## MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY 2022 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**Eligibility** - Poems must be original and unpublished, and should not have won or placed in any poetry contest, other than honorable mention.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. Note that Categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 are open only to MPS members.

**Submission Process and Entry Fees** - For the first time this spring, MPS is offering an online submission option, in addition to the usual submission of entries by mail. We hope the electronic option will prove to be faster, more reliable, and more convenient. And, it's even less expensive. Instructions for each submission method are below.

### ***Electronic Submission of Entries***

Entries may be submitted electronically via email. Submissions should be submitted in a single document, either a MS Word document (.doc or .docx) or an Open Office document (.odt). Please do not submit pdf's, as we need to have the ability to edit the formatting, if necessary. Begin the document with a cover page containing your contact information, and a list of your entries. This will be followed by your poems. Please see the attached example for full instructions.

**Submit the file to the following email address:**

**ms.poetry.central@gmail.com**

**and use the following format for the subject line:**

**“2022 contest Submissions by [your name]”**

This is a new process. If you have any questions or run into difficulties, don't hesitate to send an email to the above email address, and we will help you with the submission process.

### ***Submission of Entries by Mail***

Submission by mail will follow the same procedure as previous contests. Entries must be submitted on regular 8.5" by 11" paper, produced with a computer printer or typewriter, and submitted in an 8 ½ x 11 or 10 x 13 mailing envelope. Participants should submit two (2) copies of each poem per category entered with the following distinctions: (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 2021-2022 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. Mail entries and entrance fees to Jason Ervin (mailing address is below).

**Whether submitted electronically or through the mail, all entries must meet the form requirements and the line limit specified for the category. Spaces between lines do not count as numbered lines, unless the particular category instructions specify otherwise.**

## Entry Fees

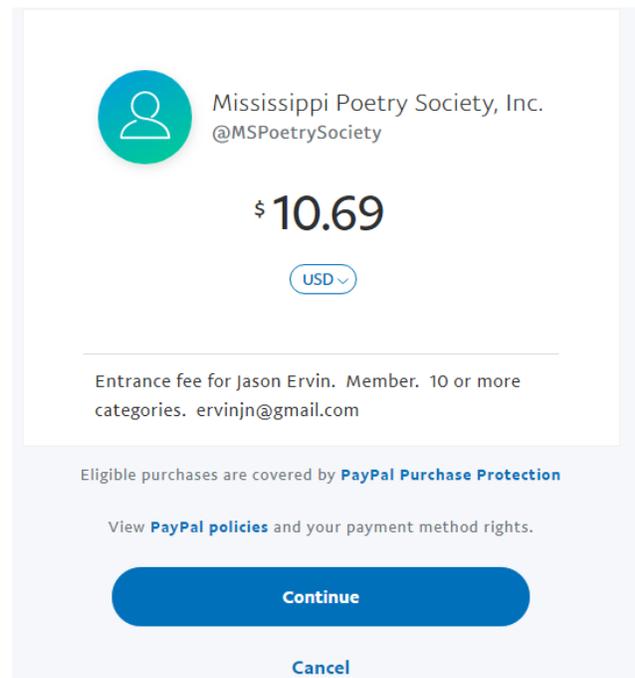
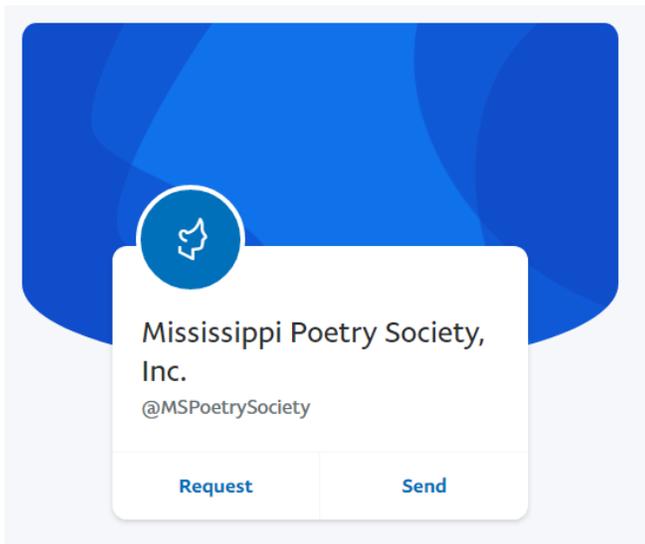
The entry fee is \$1 per category for MPS members, with a maximum of \$10 to enter all categories. The entry fee for non-members is \$3 per category, with a maximum of \$30 to enter all categories. **Categories 1,2,3 and 4 are open only to MPS members.**

MPS is offering an online payment option for entrance fees. You will need a PayPal account with a linked credit card or bank account. To pay entrance fees online, visit the following URL.

[https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/MSPoetrySociety?country.x=US&locale.x=en\\_US](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/MSPoetrySociety?country.x=US&locale.x=en_US)

You will see something like the figure on the left below. Click send. You will then be asked to sign in to PayPal. After signing in, you will see something like the figure below on the right. Enter the amount you are submitting. You will notice that you can include a note with the payment. In this note, please include your name, whether you are a member or non-member, and the number of categories you are entering. Also please include your email address. Then click 'Continue'. That's it!

You will notice in my example, I am submitting 10 or more categories, but I've paid \$10.69 rather than \$10. Paypal charges a small fee for every transaction. We are adding the fee onto the usual cost of submission. You will find it less than the cost of mailing entries. To help you submit the correct amount, I've included a table below. In addition, if you are a member who has not yet paid their dues for 2022 and would like to renew, or a non-member who would like to purchase a membership, you can purchase/renew your membership and pay entrance fees in a single transaction. In that case, you will use column three of the table to determine your fee.



Entrance Fees if paying online via PayPal			
categories entered	member	non-member	entrance fee plus membership
1	1.51	3.55	27.01
2	2.53	6.61	28.03
3	3.55	9.67	29.05
4	4.57	12.73	30.07
5	5.59	15.79	31.09
6	6.61	18.85	32.11
7	7.63	21.91	33.13
8	8.65	24.97	34.15
9	9.67	28.03	35.17
10 or more	10.69	31.09	36.19

### Payment of fees via postage

Entrance fees and/or membership dues may also be submitted through the mail, as in past contests. Mail checks to Jason Ervin (see mailing address below).

**Awards** - Certificates and monetary prizes will be presented to winners at the MPS Spring Festival. The Festival will be held at Lake Tiak O’Khata, Louisville, Mississippi on April 29 - May 1, 2022. Prize checks should be cashed within 45 days of their awarding. The winning entries and their author’s names will be posted on the MPS website, [www.misspoetry.net](http://www.misspoetry.net). A list of winners may also be requested by emailing the contest Co-chair listed below, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the co-chair at the address given below. All poems that place first, second or third will be published in the 2022 Mississippi Poetry Journal.

**Deadline** - Entries must be **received** by Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Please note that the above date is a “must be received by” date, not a postmark date. No entries arriving after Feb. 15 can be accepted. If you decide to submit via the postal service, please be aware of potential delays, and allow plenty of time for transit.

If submitting entries and/or fees via mail, use the following address.

Jason Ervin  
MPS Contest Co-Chairperson  
246 Twin Lakes Drive  
Canton, MS 39046

Should you have any questions or issues, don’t hesitate to contact us via email at [ms.poetry.central@gmail.com](mailto:ms.poetry.central@gmail.com)

We are thrilled you are entering Mississippi Poetry Society’s 2022 Spring Contest. We hope you enjoy yourself! We all look forward to some great contest poetry!

# Contest Categories

## **BEST OF THE FEST**

The first place winner of each category will be entered into the Best of Fest competition. These poems will be sent to a panel of three to four independent judges whose choices will be combined to select an overall winner. The decision will be final. A Best of Fest prize of \$250 has been contributed by Ms. Marilyn Denington in memory of her husband Michael R. (Mick) Denington.

### **Category 1: Mississippi Poetry Society 2022 Award**

Sponsored by Mississippi Poetry Society, Inc. (Open to MPS Members only)

Judges: Amanda Garvin and Devin Norman. Form: open. Subject: "Mississippi Characters". Line Limit: 100. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25. Honorable mentions as merited.

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

Sponsored by MPS North Branch. (Open to MPS Members only) Judge: Janice Canerdy. Form: Rondeau. Subject: open. Line Limit: 15. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. Honorable mentions as merited.

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

Sponsored by MPS Central Branch. (Open to MPS Members only) Judge: Wynne Huddleston. Form: open. Subject: Bridges and Courage. Line Limit: 40.

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. Honorable mentions as merited.

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

Sponsored by MPS South Branch. (Open to MPS Members only) Judge: Patty Butkovich.

Form: Acrostic. Subject: Open. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20.

Honorable mentions, 3.

### **Category 5: Scorn not the Sonnet! Award ---** Sponsored and judged by Dr. Stephen

Curry. Form: Sonnet of any type/scheme (please specify the type/scheme). Subject: Open.

Line Limit: 14, unless the type used calls for a different line count.

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. Honorable mentions as merited.

### **Category 6: The Spirit of Meridian Award ---** Sponsored and judged by Dr. Joe Jacobs.

Form: Open. Subject: Humorous or light verse. Line Limit: 40.

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category 7: Florida Parishes Award** -- Sponsored by an anonymous donor, and judged by Dr. Sue Brannon Walker. Form: any rhymed and metered form. Subject: Louisiana and Mississippi Coast: beauty, history or inhabitants (human or non). Line limit: 60. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category 8: William Award** -- Sponsored by Michael Shelton, and judged by Dierdre Payne. Form: rhymed couplet. Subject: open. Line limit: 16. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$15, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$10, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$5. Honorable mentions: 3. Named for two famous writers of couplets, William Blake and William Shakespeare.

**Category 9: Fantastic Ekphrastic** -- Sponsored and judged by Dr. Emory Jones. Form: Open. Subject: must be inspired by a literary, musical, architectural or other artistic work. Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category 10: Grands Award** -- Sponsored and judged by Dr. Emory Jones. Form: Open. Subject: Grandparents and/or grandchildren. Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category 11: R.L. Dennis Memorial Award** -- Sponsored and judged by Patty Butkovich. Form: Open. Subject: Tulips and Honeysuckle. Line limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category 12: Villanelle Award** -- Sponsored and judged by Jeanne and Phil Kelly. Form: Villanelle. Subject: open. Line limit: 19. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10.

**Category 13: Biblically Inspired Award** -- Sponsored and judged by Reverend Randy and Mrs. Linda Owen. Form: open. Subject: Water in the Bible. Line limit: 50 (no line longer than 64 characters, including spaces). Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10.

**Category 14: Potts Camp Award** -- Sponsored by Potts Camp Bank, and judged by Ann Carolyn Cates. Form: open. Subject: A Walk in Your Neighborhood. Line Limit: 30. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category 15: Narrative Poem Award** -- Sponsored and judged by Janice Canerdy. Form: rhymed & metered. Subject: open. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category 16: Richmond Award** -- Sponsored and judged by Ruth F. Richmond. Form: open. Subject: Communication. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable mentions, 3.

**Category 17: Dreamscapes Award** -- Sponsored and judged by Daniel Pickett. Form: open. Subject: A poem about a dream you've had: good or a nightmare. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. Honorable mentions, 3.

**Category 18: Doctor's Dream Award** -- Sponsored by Doctor's Dream Publishing and judged by Philip Levin. Form: Free Verse. Subject: medical issues. Line Limit: 32. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$40, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$35, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25. Honorable mentions, 3.

**Category 19: Primrose Award** -- Sponsored by Dorothy Wiman in memory of Barron and Dessie Caulfield. Judged by James Thomas Miller. Form: Free Verse. Subject: Demagogues. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$35. Honorable mentions, 3.

**Category 20: Barron and Caroline "Dessie" Caulfield Memorial Award** -- Sponsored by Barron Jr. and Elizabeth Caulfield. Judged by Jason Ervin. Form: open. Subject: the old barn on the family farm. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category 21: Ruffle My Feathers Award** -- Sponsored and judged by Jason Ervin. Form: open. Subject: the MS state bird. Some bird lovers feel it's time for a change (several states have the Mockingbird). Pick a bird that you think would make a great state bird (or a terrible state bird), and show me in a poem why it's great (or terrible, or great and terrible). Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$35, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$15. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category 22: Chester Terry Jr. Memorial Award** -- Sponsored and judged by Mary Lee Terry. Form: Sonnet (please specify the rhyme pattern) Subject: Vietnam memories. Line Limit: 14. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$35, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$15. Honorable mentions, 3.

**Category 23: Helen Kressmann Taylor Memorial Award** -- Sponsored by Taylor Wright Corporation. Judged by Douglas and Catherine Taylor. Form: any rhyming form (please specify the form). Subject: Joy. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category 24: Feathers, Fur, Fins, Shells & Scales Award** -- Sponsored by Reverend Randy and Mrs. Linda Owen. Judged by Sue Creel. Form: open. Subject: Pets! Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category 25: Romeo and Juliet Award** -- Sponsored and judged by Amanda Burcham Garvin. Form: open. Subject: Romantic love. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$15. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category 26: Progressive Mississippian Award** -- Sponsored and judged by Devin Norman. Form: open. Subject: Out of the box thinking about how to move Mississippi forward socially. Line Limit: 40. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$15. Honorable mentions, 3.

**Category 27: Brevity Award** -- Sponsored and judged by Jason Ervin. Form: no specific form is required, but use no more than 100 characters, including spaces. Subject: open. Line limit: 100. Experimentation is encouraged! Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$35, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$15. Honorable mentions as merited.

**Category ∞: Legacy Award**

This is not really a category. The Spring Contest co-chairs will dig into the MPS Journal archives and select three poems from years past to feature. The focus will be on the “distant past” (i.e. members from the 1980’s and before)



*Mississippi Poetry Society*  
*Established 1932*

## ***Detailed Instructions for Electronic Submissions***

***Entries submitted electronically should be submitted in a single Word or Open Office document [.doc .docx or .odt]. No pdf's please.***

- 1. The first page of the document should be a cover page. At the top of the cover page, please place your name, mailing address, email address, phone number and whether you are an MPS member or non-member. (if a member, identify the branch or 'at-large')***

Ezra Pound	ezzie@poetmail.com
101 Arctic Drive	555-555-5555
North Pole, Florida 11111	Member - at large

- 2. Next on the cover page, please provide a list of your entries according to the following format: Category Number, Category Name, Title of Poem***

Category 1, MPS 2022: Famous Mississippian at the Metro  
[good thing Ezra has paid his dues. This category is open to MPS members only]

Category 5, Scorn not the Sonnet!: Sonnet for H.D.  
Category 15, Narrative Poem: Once upon a time in Italy

- 3. Finally state the amount you are paying in entry fees and whether you are paying via check or PayPal.***

My entry fee is \$3.55  
I will be paying via Paypal, as I am a modernist.

(note: Ezra is paying the fee for a member submitting to three categories. Fees will vary. See fee table on pg. 3)

- 4. That's it for the cover page. The following pages will contain your poems. Each poem should have its own page. If a poem takes several pages, be sure to start the following poem on a fresh page. In the upper left margin of every page, include the number and title of the category, and the title of the poem. Do not include your name on the poem pages. These instructions are for electronic submission. If you submit through the mail, follow the instructions for submission of entries by mail.***