Swing into September with PST and Poetry

We’ve all been inspired at the Summer Conference, so on September 12 Texas poets will gather in Dallas and get back to the business of writing and sharing poetry. We will strive to write in all the ways below...

with the focus and finesse of a pro-golfer swinging for a tournament title.

with the fearless freedom of a child swinging on a playground.

with the form and force of a batter swinging at a baseball.

with the fun and flair of dancers swinging on a ballroom floor.

2015 Summer Conference, “Partying with Poetry Mardi-Gras Style” was a Spectacular Success!

Indeed, the “good times rolled” as PST members and guests gathered for the summer conference in Beaumont, July 16-18 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Thursday afternoon kicked off with an informative presentation on “Found Poetry” by Laurie Kolp. “What it is and where you find it.” We all found some great ideas, and everyone had a chance to create their own poems from the handout.

Charlotte Renk’s workshop: “Voices Spoken and Unspoken” was based on her newest book The Tenderest Petal Hears. She explored what we hear and don’t hear and how it affects us and our poetry.

Budd Mahan’s enthusiasm for the history of The Poetry Society of Texas came through as he spoke about “Moments and People in PST History,” based on his book, A History of the Poetry Society of Texas. It was fascinating—order the book!

John Gorman and friends brought us “Magic Moments of Mardi Gras,” complete with costumes and poems, setting the mood for “Let the Good Times Roll.”

The Bayou Sounds Trio from Port Arthur got things rolling with Cajun music—fiddle, guitar, and accordion. They sang Cajun lyrics and gave out fliers with Cajun and English words so we could understand and appreciate the love songs. The fun got lively when Birma Castle, Conference Chair, joined in with her Mardi Gras feather boa in Mardi Gras colors. We all knew Birma wrote poetry, but were surprised when she did a solo waltz. She convinced Inez Grimes to join her on the dance floor. Birma led, of course. It was a fun-filled beginning.

Dinner speaker, Garrison Martt, spoke about “Connections: How Past Poets Have Known Each Other.” He traced their intrigues, love affairs, and antipathies. He quoted the first verse of “Kubla Khan” by Coleridge, and in an unplanned “moment of wild magic” he asked Barbara Blanks to finish it, which she did, in a dramatic recitation from memory. Garrison showed up in several different costumes during the weekend.

Open mic opportunities were led by Birma and everyone was ready and eager to read as many poems as possible.

Friday opened with the M&M’s—Mike Baldwin’s and Marilyn Komechak’s workshop on “How to Use Your Creative Mind: “Neuroscience and Mysticism to Enhance Your Creativity.” A sharp team—good vibes, amazing information!

We welcomed the Her Texas Book Panel with moderator and co-editor of the book, Donna Walker-Nixon. She and poets: Charlotte Renk, Sherry Craven, Loretta Diane Walker, and co-editors, Cassy Burleson and Rachel Crawford gave readings. The book sold out, and a percentage of book sales will go to

Continued on page 2
breast and ovarian cancer research.

Friday’s luncheon brought in 22 outside guests to hear Beaumont’s own Angel Deshotel read from her newly published book. Angel is a 13-year-old cancer survivor. Birma and Angel were featured on a local noon TV show on Thursday. Another luncheon speaker with a new book, Shirley Richards, missionary to Africa, shared the spotlight with her young cousin Angel. She wore traditional African attire. These two ladies read their poems and proved that poetry is for all ages, youth to seniors.

Tensions were high while Readers Laurie Kolp and Laura Pena presented the “You Be The Judge” contest poems. Everyone listened intently, then cast their votes by secret ballot.

Naomi Simmons was scheduled to present Power Tools of Humor; How Do I Use Thee? Sadly, Naomi fell and broke two ribs just before the conference and was unable to attend. She was there in spirit, however, because she asked Birma to take her place, and Birma gladly faked it! J. Paul Holcomb saved the day with his readings of Naomi’s very funny and catchy favorites. Everyone missed Naomi, one of PST’s favorite poets, but were delighted to hear her poetry. We all send her “Get Well” wishes.

Lisa Salinas, winner of the Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award, not only wowed us with poems from her book, Smallest Leaf, she also wowed us with her accompanying picture presentation on the wide screen. It was terrific.

Sam Gwynn’s program, “Reflections,” brought us poems inspired and accompanied by Bible stories. Sam’s knowledge of biblical details and the beauty of his poems was impressive and enjoyable.

A flurry of activity accompanied the presentation from Austin’s International Poetry Festival’s Overview group, featuring James Jacobs, Thom the World Poet, and others. A stage production in itself. Thanks guys! Look them up on the Web!

A happy surprise for all was the auspicious arrival of the King and Queen of Mardi Gras, wearing jeweled crowns and attended by their royal court, all in gorgeous costumes. They came for a photo op with our poets before the banquet. They brought beads, light-up flashing rings and other bangles. Poets were given souvenir photos taken with Mardi Gras royalty—an extra touch of Mardi-Gras hospitality.

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jerry Bradley from Lamar University in Beaumont, held us all spellbound with his humorous poetry presentation at our Friday Night Banquet.

After the banquet, the Life Membership Raffle was conducted by a favorite duo, Sharon Martin Turner and Michaud Lamrouex. Nearly $400 in tickets were sold.

Finally, the much anticipated “You Be The Judge” winners were announced: First Place — Valerie Bailey, San Antonio; Second Place — Charlotte Renk, Athens, and Third Place — Barbara Blanks, Garland. Congratulations to these winners.

Saturday morning began with the Chapter Presidents’ and Councilors’ meeting conducted by PST President, Catherine L’Hérisson. Laura Pena presented an idea about placing poetry books of hometown poets in city libraries. This is being done in the Galveston area by Mary Margaret Carlisle. This would be a great project for all of us. Mary Margaret has guidelines. Thanks for this wonderful idea and example in service.

Many thanks to the following: Michaud Lamrouex, who was true to his excellent reputation as Bookroom Manager. It’s always an honor to have him in charge of this big responsibility. No conference chair has to worry about handling the money or keeping track of sales. Michaud is to be commended for his diligence.

Laurie Kolp, Conference Treasurer was a lifesaver in keeping track of all the finances, and for other gracious help. Thanks for everything, Laurie.

A big thanks to PST Treasurer/Photographer, Aman Kahn for all the pictures he took at the conference.

Beth Ayers, PST’s Extension Chair, also took photos during the event and has created a collage on a Website. Contact Beth at bta@hotmail.com for information on where to view it. Thank you, Beth for your support and for the collage.

Thanks to all the attendees, the wonderful presenters, the PST support staff and the much appreciated entertainers who gave their time and talents for our enjoyment.

After the abbreviated monthly meeting we all went home with beads, beads, beads, and memories of wonderful camaraderie, knowledge gained from workshops, and the old-fashioned joy of experiencing these things with friends and new acquaintances. We look forward to seeing everyone again at future summer conferences. It was indeed my pleasure to plan and expedite this delightful (for me) 2015 Summer Conference.

Birma Castle, 2015 Summer Conference Chair.

BEAUMONT CHAPTER
The Beaumont Chapter is proud of Laurie Kolp, who was a contributor to The Great Gatsby Anthology produced by Silver Birch Press. “Tea with a Tiger” is the poem she contributed to the collection. In addition to meeting with the Beaumont Chapter each month, Laurie is the president of Texas Gulf Coast Writers, located in Beaumont. Laurie’s poems have appeared in numerous print and online journals, including the 2015 Poets Market, Scissors and Spackle, North Dakota Quarterly, Blue Fifth Review, and Pirene’s Fountain. Laurie’s full-length poetry collection, Upon the Blue Couch (Winter Goose Publishing, 2014) is available at Barnes & Noble. Her chapbook, Hello it’s Your Mother is set for publication October 2015.
**FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY**

*Anne Jones Reporting*

Ray Henson read the opening poem, “Casey at the Bat.” Minutes and treasurer’s report were read. Because our Webmaster was not present and is still having trouble with our Website, Mike Baldwin, president, is presently developing a Facebook page instead. We have one already, but he would like to make one that will take the place of our Website, or work alongside it. He also passed out a list of contests that we might like to enter. It was well received, and he agreed to have one each month. PST has put our chapbook contest on their website, and also announced it at the PST summer conference. Tricia Ferguson announced several contests for poetry. She also mentioned Johnson County’s program on October 30, which will include a poetry contest. She will have more information at our next meeting. Fil Peach became a new member. He has been extremely active in poetry in New Mexico as well as in the National Poetry Society. We feel fortunate to have him as a member. Kudos included Steve Sander’s presentation at Second Tuesday. Two members could not attend, Don Shook and Naomi Simmons, due to injuries from accidents. Marilyn Komechak was not able to attend because of the death of her husband George. Poems were critiqued in our usual helpful and lively manner. A very enjoyable evening.

**GULF COAST POETS**

*Daniel Carrington, Reporting*

In June, GCP welcomed Larry “Weasel” Patterson as our featured reader. Editor/Owner of Weasel Press, he just released a new poetry collection: *The Hell Inside Us* through *Earl of Plaid Literary Journal*. His previous full-length collection, *Ashes to Burn* is by Transcendent Zero Press.

New GCP member and May’s featured reader, Robin Davidson, has been selected as the second Houston Poet Laureate. Her two year post will advance the art form through her creativity and leadership.

GCP members Jane Chance, Kay L. Cox, and Terry Jude Miller were selected for the 2016 *Texas Poetry Calendar* by Dos Gatos Press. Cox’s work will also be featured, along with John Gorman and Elina Petrova’s, in the upcoming anthology *Houston Nature* (Mutabilis Press). Terry Jude Miller’s poetry will appear in the 2015 Austin Int’l Poetry Fest’s anthology, *di-verse-city*. Miller’s and Eloisa Perez-Lozano’s poems appeared in *Boundless*, the 2015 Rio Grande Valley Int’l Poetry Festival anthology.

In other individual member news, Elina Petrova was nominated for the Pushcart Prize in poetry for her work in *Harbinger Asylum* (Transcendent Zero Press). She was also a finalist for Houston Poet Laureate, and her new full-length collection *Aching Miracle* is due out at the end of June.

Jane Chance’s work has been accepted for *The Ilanot Review* (winter 2015 issue) as well as *Degenerates: Voices for Peace* (Weasel Press). Eight of her poems were included in *New Crops from Old Fields: Eight Medievalist Poets* (Stairwell Books, 2015).

*Medium.com* published three of Eloisa Perez-Lozano’s poems in support of writers against racial injustice. Her poem “Unexpected Shower” will be in the August 2015 issue of *Amarillo Bay Literary Journal*.

On June 5, John Gorman conducted a summer session program on ekphrastic poetry for the Osher Lifelong Learning Series. The course took place at Galveston’s University of Texas Medical Branch campus.

**MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER**

*Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting*

In the absence of President Aman Khan, VP Alice Parker conducted the June meeting, with ten present.

Sylvia Medel discussed her inventory report mailed to Dr. Khan. Eight books remained, and Beth Ayers had several more. Members voted to print 100 additional copies.

Molly Meyer passed out flyers for a poetry reading to be held at her home for filming by Walter Scold, the Dedgar the Poetmobile guy. He travels to poets’ graves where locals read the poetry of the deceased. Molly will read for a documentary, and other poets present may be included.

Dr. Khan also sent a message via Beth that the Mockingbirds had agreed to a cooperative poetry effort with McKinney officials to celebrate Poetry Day, October 15 with a poetry reading by Richard Blanco, who recently read at President Obama’s second inaugural ceremony. Other activities will be included. Aman called the meeting to order on August 1 and introduced Amy Rosenthal, Director of the McKinney Arts Center, and Ann Royer of the Arts and Music Guild. They explained the “Rhythms of Pen and Brush” program scheduled for October 15 in conjunction with the Mockingbird Poetry Society and poet Richard Blanco. Amy passed out copies of the schedule and budget for this activity.

President Aman Khan said that help was needed in various areas, such as unloading art works from the truck two days before, and members rose to the challenge. Tickets will be widely available with a $2 discount on $15 for students and seniors.

The Mockingbirds are excited to have several new members but we are sad to lose a long time member. Jeanette Jordan Hibbs passed away just days after celebrating her 90th birthday. She was always looking toward the future, an example we will keep in our hearts.

**SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION**

*Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting*

The San Antonio Poets Association (SAPA) was in recess during the summer but members stayed in contact and we are all looking forward to resuming our meetings in September.

Three of us were able to go to the summer conference in Beaumont and greatly enjoyed it. Valerie Bailey, Sharon Turner,
and Michaud Lamrouex attended. Michaud managed the bookroom and did a great job. Sharon handled the Life Member Raffle with her usual flair, and Valerie was delighted to win the “You Be the Judge” contest.

Lucy McBee, a long time member of SAPA had heart surgery on August 10 to remove a tumor from her heart. She came through the surgery well, and we are wishing her a speedy recovery and hoping she can be back with us soon.

Dr. Mo Saidi’s new novel The Marchers: A Novel is now published and available on Amazon.com. It was edited and published by Valerie Bailey’s Word Design Press. It is historical fiction about the revolution in Iran in the 70s. Although it is a novel, it contains many of Dr. Saidi’s short poems.

**SAN JACINTO CHAPTER**

**Donald Graham Reporting**

We held our regular monthly meeting on July 11. The program was presented by new member Ivy Kaminsky who read some of her own poems and some selected by other members. Her unique reading style makes old and new poems come alive. Ivy is a published author of one novel and three books of poetry. She works as a tutor at UHCL and Houston Community College. After the program, we had an extended read around. Our August meeting will be held at the home of one of our members. Visitors are always welcome.

**WICHITA FALLS CHAPTER**

**Linda Smith Reporting**

Six members of the WFPS met on April 18 in the Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts. Doc Wood, April Chair, began Roll Call and Brag Time with questions and answers from our pasts, such as the make and model of our first vehicles, our first loves, and our first phone numbers. The purpose was to show how memories can spark ideas for poetry. In keeping with our love of journaling, Doc Wood and Linda Smith each read a poem.

Doc presented a lesson on the Cento, also known as “patchwork poetry.” This form involves making a poem from lines of poetry from different authors. Something new is always interesting, and the Cento is a new form for the WFPS.

Winners in the March wordplay contest are: 1st, Linda Smith; 2nd, Doyle “Doc” Wood; 3rd, Webb Key; and 1HM, Rosellen Sheetz. Critic judge was Linda Banks of Mesquite.

Bad weather postponed the May meeting until June 6. We gathered again with Monica McCawley as Chair and lesson presenter for the meeting. During Roll Call and Brag Time, members shared a writing resolution for the next year and something “big” that had happened in our lives in 2014.

After the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, it was reported that former member, Cynthia Lewis, would be rejoining the WFPS. Also, changes to the bylaws for the allowance for an Honorary Life Member were approved by members present. Plans were made for a summer workshop on July 11 at the home of Sheri Sutton.

Monica McCawley presented the lesson/program on Poetic Journaling, and generously presented each member with a journal. She explained how to journal poetically (for those who already journal) and encouraged those who were not in the habit of journaling frequently to use the new book to begin. She also led a discussion on the value of journaling.

Members read their poems submitted for the May contest for the best Cento, and winners were Linda Smith (1st); Monica McCawley (2nd); Doc Wood (3rd); Webb Key (1HM); and Geneva Rodgers (2HM). Critic Judge was Budd Mahan.

Members met at the home of Sheri Sutton on July 11, for the annual summer workshop. Six sessions were planned and presented by individual members or as an open discussion.

Sheri Sutton presented Session 1—“Love is like a red, red rose, or is it?” Members discussed and worked on the concrete vs. the abstract in writing poetry. In Session 2, Geneva Rodgers dealt with “When is it a poem, and when is it prose?” We discussed rhyming vs. non-rhyming and metered vs. untethered writing. After a break, there was an open discussion in Session 3 concerning a newspaper article that would publicize the WFPS and perhaps acquire new members.

After lunch, there was an open discussion for Session 4, which addressed: “How does it fit?”—deciding on a poem type to fit a poem topic. Session 5, “State of Affairs,” was led by Doc Wood, concerning the ins and outs of the PST annual contests. He encouraged everyone to enter poems by the August 15 deadline. The workshop ended after Session 6—“Help!” In this session, members reviewed problem areas in poems. This was an open discussion with members offering help and opinions regarding poems that individual members had brought with questions.

The workshop was well attended and everyone had a good time—with many thanks to hostess Sheri Sutton.

**News from Associate Member: Gail Denham**

Gail, an associate member from Sunriver, Oregon reports the following publications and contest results: The following publications used my poems: one in Penessence (online), PA Poetry Society; two poems in Well Versed anthology (Columbia Writers Guild); three poetry wins published in Mississippi Poetry Journal 2015; one poem in Sin Fronteras (Writers Without Borders); two poems displayed in Illinois libraries; poems and short story published by the Springfield Writers Guild; one poem will be included in the 2016 Texas Poetry Calendar; two poems in Pegasus (Kentucky State Poetry Society); one poem in Massachusetts anthology; two poems in the Wyoming State Poetry Society newsletter; two flash fiction pieces accepted by Quick Reads. The following prizes were won: 1st prize in Pennsylvania Poetry Society contest; 2nd place in Galaxy of Verse contest; 2nd prize in Massachusetts Ambassador of Poetry; Also a photo of mine was on cover of Prize Poems (PA Poetry Society).
The Fort Worth Poetry Society in Cooperation with The Poetry Society of Texas offers
The William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest, 2016

The contest will honor deceased Fort Worth poet William D. Barney, one of the most distinguished poets Fort Worth has produced, a former member of FWPS, and past president of the Poetry Society of Texas. He won the national Robert Frost Award in 1961 and was the Texas Poet Laureate in 1982–1983. The contest winner will receive $100, plus 25 free copies of the published chapbook.

Rules For Entry

1. The contest is open to Texas residents and/or active PST members only. Entry fee for members of the PST is $10. Entry fee for non-members of the PST is $20. Make check or money order payable to the Fort Worth Poetry Society. No cash please.

2. Contestants should submit a single copy of their manuscript in English only, which should be a minimum of 20 but no more than 32 pages of poetry, and no more than one poem per page. The manuscript may include both published and unpublished poems, but may not include poems from other books by the author. A list of acknowledgments of published poems should not be included. The winner will supply an acknowledgments page, if needed, during publication arrangements. The author should not be identified on the manuscript. Include a separate identification sheet with author’s name, address, phone, email, and manuscript title.

3. Manuscripts with poems that contain explicit sexual language or expletives will not be considered.

4. Fort Worth Poetry Society will assume the production costs of developing the manuscript into a market-ready, soft cover collection. This includes editing, cover design, pricing, and ISBN registration. Upon publication, the author will receive 25 free copies of the chapbook, with additional copies available at an author discount of 50%. FWPS reserves the right to print and sell additional copies at retail cost, with a 10% royalty to the author. Except for the rights granted to the FWPS, the winner will retain the copyright to the chapbook.

5. The winner of the contest will not be eligible to enter again for six years.

6. A qualified, impartial judge selected by FWPS, but not a member of FWPS or PST, will select the winning manuscript. The judge’s name will not be announced until the winner is announced.

7. The winner will be invited to read from the chapbook at the PST Summer Conference; at a monthly meeting of PST in Dallas; and at a 2nd Tuesday Poetry program at Benbrook Public Library, Benbrook, Texas.

8. Entry in the contest acknowledges agreement with these stipulations.

9. Entries must be postmarked between January 1 and February 15.

10. Announcement of the winner will be made at the April PST meeting and by email to entrants. Entries should be mailed to: President, Fort Worth Poetry Society, 10148 Fieldcrest Drive, Benbrook, TX 76126.

Welcome New Members

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<tr>
<td>Lisa Black</td>
<td>Charles Corry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4165 Old Dowlen Rd., #22</td>
<td>266 County Rd. 1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beaumont, TX 77706</td>
<td>Yantis, TX 75497</td>
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<td>Burleson Public Library</td>
<td>Cherry Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>248 S.W. Johnson Ave.</td>
<td>15692 County Rd. 2129</td>
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<td>Burleson, TX 76028</td>
<td>Whitehouse, TX 75791</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marjorie Chesebro</td>
<td>Elizabeth Dell</td>
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<tr>
<td>2411 South 1-35E, #1035</td>
<td>8406 Oakdale Dr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denton, TX 76210</td>
<td>Waco, TX 76712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn Culpepper</td>
<td>Richard Hurzeler</td>
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<tr>
<td>13245 Kerrville Folkway</td>
<td>2505 Eagle Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austin, TX 78729</td>
<td>Tyler, TX 75701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorretta Dover</td>
<td>Eloisa Perez-Lozano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1516 South 27th St., #203</td>
<td>3102 West Bay Area Blvd, #1201</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nederland, TX 77627</td>
<td>Friendswood, TX 77546</td>
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July

|                                                                 |
| Yvonne Bodin           | John Boney                |
| 425 County Rd. 1090    | 12574 Highway 64 East     |
| Riviera, TX 78379      | Tyler, TX 75707           |
|                      | Raymond D. Chong          |
|                      | 7 Amberstone Dr.          |
|                      | Sugar Land, TX 77479      |
|                      | Angel Deshotel            |
|                      | 8476 Kidd Rd.             |
|                      | Beaumont, TX 77713        |
|                      | Amy Mitchell              |
|                      | P.O. Box 1201             |
|                      | Leander, TX 78646         |
|                      | James L. True             |
|                      | 1535 Belvedere Dr.        |
|                      | Beaumont, TX 77706        |
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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<td>..................332</td>
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Welcome to Our 23 New Members - See List on page 5

Keep our membership roll up to date.
Contact Membership Chair Lynn Lewis (not Linda Banks) if there is a change in your contact information:
Address, Phone, or E-mail address.
Contact Lynn at elsquared59@yahoo.com

Contact e-mail for Bulletin Editor, Valerie Bailey
vbaileyBulletin@satx.rr.com

Our Deepest Sympathy To...

The family and friends of Jeanette Jordan Hibbs who died on June 27. She was a member of the Mockingbird Chapter and had previously been a member of PST for several years.

To Marilyn Komechak and family on the death of her husband, George Komechak on August 8 in Fort Worth, Texas. His services were held August 14 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth.

Book Donations Report from Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks announces nine book donations over the summer: the first two in June and the others were donated at the summer conference in July.

Unstinted by Ted O. Badger

Animal Phonics for Children—One-Minute Poems by Vicki Lee

Her Texas: Story, Image, Poem and Song, edited by Donna Walker-Nixon, Cassy Burleson, Rachel Crawford, and Ashley Palmer

Baker’s Dozen by Naomi Stroud Simmons

A Slam Poetry Manual: How to Produce a Poetry Slam and Succeed as a Slam Poet by Michael Baldwin


Upon the Blue Couch by Laurie Kolp.


Please send book donations to Barbara Blanks at the address listed in the Executive Board box, next column. They will be kept in the PST’s permanent collection at the Dallas Central Public Library.

President:
Catherine L’Herisson
518 Grinnell Drive
Garland, TX 75043
972-270-4994
catherinepoet@juno.com

Vice-President:
Budd Powell Mahan
7059 Spring Valley Rd.
Dallas, TX 75254
281-559-2610
buddmaham@att.net

Treasurer:
Aman Khan
6717 Talmadge Lane
Dallas, TX 75230
aman1963@gmail.com

Recording Secretary/ Librarian
Barbara Blanks
1518 Running River Road
Garland, TX 75044-7254
barbarablanks@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary:
Jessica Gonsoulin
150 Enterprise Drive, #2332
McKinney, TX 75069
jlgonsoulin@yahoo.com

Director:
Beth Ayers
8117 Alderwood Place
Plano, TX 75025
bta1955@hotmail.com

Director:
Susan Maxwell Campbell
115 North Wisteria
Mansfield, TX 76063
814-473-6314
maxcamp2@att.net

Director:
Barbara Terrell Goerdel
7704 Velvet Antler Trail
Arlington, TX 76002-4326
817-419-3383
bgoerdel@att.net

Membership Chairman: Lynn Lewis
1704 Enderly Place • Fort Worth, TX 76104
817-921-9322 • elsquared59@yahoo.com