Minutes of the Poetry Society of Texas Meeting
Saturday, February 11 2017 – 2:30 p.m.
Submitted by Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary

President Budd Powell Mahan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, including guests Preston and Lian Clark of Irving, Suzanne Juliet of Dallas, and Sandi Horton of Waco, who is the HOT Chapter president and the speaker today. He also recognized past presidents: J. Paul Holcomb, Linda Banks, and Catherine L’Herisson, along with Mockingbird president Alice Parker, Dallas; and Councilor Patrick Lee Marshall, Keller.

Program Chair Catherine L’Herisson re-introduced Sandi Horton, who is passionate about performing and visual arts. She and Cassy Burleson founded the Heart of Texas (HOT) Poetry Society, a PST chapter for the Waco area. They were inspired after attending our last two summer conferences. Sandi is active in the Waco Cultural Arts Fest and House of Poetry. She was also invited/selected to be the Langdon Review Artist in Residence in 2018—in Scotland. She and her husband Jeff are musicians and also foster numerous dogs with special needs.

Sandi’s program focused on the love story of Elizabeth and Robert Browning, and about the Armstrong-Browning Library & Museum at Baylor University. Baylor, along with Wellesley College in MA, launched a Browning Letters project. They have digitized over 2,800 of their letters. ABL holds the largest collection of Browning materials and artifacts in the world, including furniture, jewelry, household items (like a tea set), and art.

Elizabeth and Robert both began writing as children in England during the Victorian Era. She, the eldest of 12 children, was four when she began writing. At age 16, she developed spinal problems and mobility issues.

Robert completed his first book of poems at age 12. At 14 he was fluent in 5 languages: French, Greek, Latin, Italian, and English. Elizabeth’s volume of poems published in 1844 attracted his attention. They courted for two years, writing 573 love letters to each other before they privately married in 1846. She was 40; he was 34. She died 15 years later. They had one son, Pen.

Sandi read several poems by both, and included some of her own.

After the break, Treasurer Aman Khan gave the January Financial Statement and Director Susan Maxwell Campbell gave the January Membership Report. Membership Chair Lynn Lewis (see report on p. 6). President Mahan updated the report, saying that Margaret Firth-Eagland Scott, 93, of Amarillo, and Verna Ray Humphrey, 96, of Palestine, also died recently.

Librarian Barbara Blanks announced one donation to the PST collection held at the Dallas Central Library (see Book Donations on p. 6).

Linda Banks gave an update on the 2017 NFSPS conference being hosted by PST from June 29 to July 2. The deadline for the convention contest is March 15. Detailed information is on the PST and NFSPS websites. There are at least ten winners.

FEbruArY MoNThLy COntEST WIﬀERnRS

Critic Judge: Edmund Burke, Frisco
First: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK ~ “Down Autumn’s Way”
Second: Sylvia S. Medel, McKinney
Third: Marilyn Stacy, Dallas

Book Prizes
Reader: Barbara Blanks, Garland
Popular Prize: Florene Flatt, Lubbock
A Galaxy of Verse Prize: Catherine L’Herisson, Garland
Poetry for Poets Award: Tony Dickensheets, Coppell
William D. Barney Mem. Award: JDarrel Kirkley, Dallas
M. Tandy Duemke Mem. Award: Aman Khan, Dallas
Robby K. Mitchell Mem. Award: Not awarded. Book prizes were moved up one because of a disqualification.

Other Poems Read By: Ron Eddins, Naomi Simmons, Lois Chapman, and Barbara Terrell Goerdel.

Laugh Lines
Judge: Valerie Martin Bailey
Winner: Budd Powell Mahan

Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to the Contest Chair, Irene Robertson at 1625 Gayla Creek Drive, Little Elm, TX 75068. The e-mail address is: yranie@att.net
Workshop presented by Sheila Moore titled “Using Figurative Language.” In February, the organization celebrated its 11th anniversary with a champagne toast and a reflection on its founding members. Looking forward to the rest of the year, the maximum of five poems to the publication, to be edited by members also voted to create an anthology for the Tricentennial. AAPT members will participate in a Poetry Month event at the Luanda Library in San Antonio, arranged by Don Mathis for poets.texas) and the Word Press Blog (alamoarea.poets.word press.com), both created by Antonia Murguia. President Antoinette Winstead hopes that these efforts can increase AAPT’s membership over the next few months, thus continuing the legacy of its founding members.

**BEAUMONT CHAPTER**

Birma Castle Reporting for Barbara Green Powell

The Beaumont Chapter met on Thursday, January 18 with only Birma and Barbara brave enough to venture out in really terrible weather. Barbara had a breast biopsy that afternoon, and on the 23rd had a lumpectomy. She was elated to learn the lymph nodes were cancer free and she may only need radiation. She is doing great and is relieved, as she has known about this lump since October.

Poems were e-mailed to Birma by the other members to be sent to Anna Wells (a long time Lucidity Retreat friend) who critiques and returns them to Birma. Copies are made for each poet to study at the next meeting. Our next lesson goes back to a thought starter poem by our mentor and chapter co-founder, Violette Newton. The poem is from Violette’s book *All Time Is Now.* It has been four years since Violette died at the age of 100, but her legacy and teaching live on.

Member updates: Laurie Kolp can’t attend our meetings (teaches first grade) but she still writes and enters her poems in a number of contests. Jo Funt celebrated her 90th birthday with a family gathering at a Cajun Restaurant. She later suffered a heart attack, but with stents, she is now doing well. Sherry Morgan has been at Jo’s (her mom) house far too much to write a lot. Jo claims Sherry fusses too much. Lanell Stuart had heart and back problems, but will soon be back to meetings. She is writing poetry. Louell Whitiker is slowing down a bit, after being too busy to write while helping her son, who is a kidney transplant recipient. Birma is preparing for the Lucidity Poetry Retreat. She and Barbara plan to make the trip together, as they always do.

**DEN TO N POETS’ ASSEMBLY**

Richard Weatherly Reporting

Denton Poets’ Assembly welcomed members and guests to our monthly meeting and critique session on Saturday, February 18. Our critique session began at 9 a.m., followed by the regul-
lar meeting at 10 a.m.

After a discussion, members read Cinquain poetry assignments from J. Paul Holcomb’s January lesson. Following the readings, J. Paul delivered the February lesson. During the meeting, members and guests read free-choice poems.

DPA is pleased to recognize new publications by our members that can be purchased through links on our website: This and That, by Jacqueline Stem; Sitting On The Hag Seat: A Celtic Knot of Poems, by Christine Irving; RN’s Study Guide: Nursing Essentials, by Vicky Li.

Denton Poets’ Assembly meets on the third Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.– noon at the Emily Fowler Central Library. Meetings are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome.

FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY
Elizabeth Anne Jones Reporting
The Fort Worth Poetry Society met on February 14 with an opening poem by Tricia Ferguson. In honor of Presidents’ Day, she read “Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight” by Vachel Lindsay. We discussed both Mr. Lindsay and President Lincoln. We talked about his top hat and the shawl he wore; a very solitary figure.

In Old Business, Steve Sanders spoke about his proposal to do recordings for poets at the summer conference. PST said it was too full, but he will hire a room at the hotel and do it from there. Those who participate will receive 2 CDs. As he plans to add music behind the poems, it will take a couple months to finish them. Mike Baldwin announced that we have 12 entries for the Barney Chapbook contest. The deadline is the 15th so he may get at least one more.

In New Business, we discussed teleconferencing our meetings so members who can’t attend can participate. It was a new idea and well received. Steve offered information about Con DFW 17, a literary weekend that he participated in this year. He proposed that we participate next year. We can have three hours. They want to expand the poetry and many ideas were tossed around. We voted unanimously to participate. We had a lot of kudos this month, and, as always, we had a lively workshop for our poems.

GULF COAST POETS
Daniel Carrington, Reporting
In February, the Gulf Coast Poets welcomed poetry event organizer Stephen Gros as our featured reader. In addition to organizing, curating, and hosting duties for a variety of events in the greater Houston area, he’s also a fine poet, and he put those talents to work entertaining our appreciative crowd. Also at this meeting, we took a cue from Valentine’s Day to have a poem contest centered on the theme of love. And to be fair, even anti-love poems were invited, for those so inclined.

In GCP member news, late January saw Kelly Ellis, Chris Wise, and Glynn Irby joined by other local poets for a live radio interview on Stiletto Broadcasting’s Music Highway program. The feature was in support of their Houston Hot Poets group. Congrats to all of them! A record of that interview can be found under the Archives section on Stiletto Broadcasting’s website.

Also in member news, our own Laura Pena has had an extremely eventful month. She was the February featured poet at Houston’s venerated First Friday Poetry Reading Series (going strong since 1975). She also read for Nuestra Palabra on radio station KPTF 90.1, participated as a showcase poet for a local Writers Resist event, and was featured on the stage at Lengua Libre #29 in Victoria, Texas. Way to go, Laura!

MOKINGBIRD CHAPTER
Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting
The Mockingbird Chapter met on February 4. We had planned to revise the bylaws; however, we did not have a quorum, so that will be done later.

President Alice Parker is searching for a place to read poetry to celebrate Poetry Month. This would be the library or a coffee house. All charge a fee. Twenty-five dollars seems to be a reasonable amount. Alice will send an email to members for other suggestions. The most suitable time for the reading would be Saturday, April 29 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Chair Beth Ayers did groundwork on appointing judges for the 2017 Collin County Contest. The poems are expected next week, and the judges should have done their work by the 20th. The awards ceremony will be April 23 at Collin College.

POETS NORTHWEST
Lisa Salinas Reporting
Poets Northwest started off the year with our traditional PST winning poets reading at our January meeting. The February meeting will feature our usual read-around, along with an opportunity to write ekphrastic poetry while viewing the works on display at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts. Also, Houston area resident poets are welcome to enter our upcoming Poets Northwest 30th Annual Spring Fling contest, postmark deadline is March 28. The awards ceremony and banquet will be held on May 20. Contact us for details.

If you are in the Houston area on the third Saturday of the month, please join us at one of our monthly meetings at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts. Poets and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works during the second half of the meeting. Our PST chapter is on the web at http://www.poetsnw.com and on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY
Angie Goin Reporting
The minutes for the February 6 meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County are as follows: President Ron Eddins called the meeting to order, introducing Mona Lynn McDaniel as the Spotlight Poet. President Eddins gave a spontaneous reading of “Life on a Killer Submarine” by former President Jimmy
Carter from his book *Always Reckoning*, a collection of poems illustrated by his granddaughter.

Contemporary Poet reader Susan Campbell gave two readings of “High Winds Flare Up” and “The Old House Shudders,” a poem by Ellen Bryant Voigt from her book *Shadow of Heaven*. Campbell’s interpretive reading generated the Spontaneous Poetic Concept Discussion relating to “cognitive leaps.” The January minutes were approved, and Barbara Berry gave the treasury report. Vice-President Barbara Goerdel introduced our program speaker, former President of Poets of Tarrant County, the talented, award-winning poet Michael Baldwin. During his Power Point presentation, which included images relating to poems of a life in Texas, poet Baldwin read from two of his books: *Lone Star Heart* and *Scapes*. Following the break, President Eddins read the Kudos list, assignment poems were read, and announcements were made regarding upcoming contests and events. President Eddins insisted on Mr. Baldwin’s return. Members extended the invitation with mutual admiration and thanks. President Eddins adjourned the meeting. Mr. Baldwin kindly gave a book signing afterward.

**RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY**  
Jo Morrow Reporting

The Rusk County Poetry Society met on January 18 for the first regular meeting since November as our December meeting was a Christmas party in the home of a member where we enjoyed good food, fellowship, and sharing of Christmas themed poetry and stories. In lieu of a gift exchange, poets brought non-perishable groceries to donate to a nearby food pantry.

The meeting was called to order by President Sue Roberts who opened with a prayer. Our numbers were few, as several regulars were absent due to illness. Minutes and the treasurer’s report were read. Old business was discussed, including ideas for our upcoming yearbook/anthology layout. Critiqued poems from November were returned and assigned poems for January were submitted for critique. Mary Tindall has graciously accepted the responsibility for communicating with volunteer critics and getting members’ poems delivered and returned.

Following a refreshment break, officers for the current year were installed in a ceremony administered by Vina Hathaway. Officers for 2017 are: President—Sue Roberts; Vice-President—Mary Tindall; Treasurer—Charles Taylor; Recording Secretary—Carol Thompson; Corresponding Secretary/Historian—Jo Morrow; Newsletter Editor—Joyce McGee.

The spotlight poet was Ann Cline who impressed and entertained the group with a dramatic reading of one of her original poems. It was noted that the poem used gripping imagery and invited deep thought on the part of the reader/hearer. Anna Cline then presented the lesson entitled, “How to Analyze a Poem.” She used excerpts from a poem recently written by noted and beloved Texas poet, Evelyn Appelbee, to illustrate some steps of analysis. Members were given worksheets and an assignment for next month’s meeting.

The members of the Rusk County Poetry Society join with poets throughout Texas and other points in the nation in mourning the recent passing of Evelyn Corry Abbelbee who shared her talent, time, and knowledge with all who came within her sphere of influence. Her work continues to bless us.

**SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION**  
Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

President Pat Gibbs opened our January meeting with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. Fourteen members and one guest, Tony Martinez, were present. After the minutes were approved, the treasurer’s report was deferred because of Michaud Lamrouex’s absence. Our program featured our members who placed in the annual PST Contests reading their winning poems. The readers were: Valerie Bailey, Sheila Moore, Loretta Vaughan, with Jean Jackson designated to read for Margaret Mayberry, our non-resident member in Florida.

December contest winners were announced by former contest chair, Wallace Vaughan who awarded the certificates and trophies in Sharon Turner’s absence. The contests were judged by Barbara Blanks of Garland. We appreciate her time and expertise in judging our contests. Assigned topic winners were: Valerie Bailey (1st), Lois Heger (2nd), John Friedland (3rd), and Joan Seifert (HM). Winners in the open topic were: Margaret Mayberry (1st), Valerie Bailey (2nd), Charlene Plover (3rd), and Lois Heger (HM). We then read our January poems.

We took a refreshment break with yummy refreshments provided by Loretta and Wallace Vaughan, who also brought a beautiful fresh flower arrangement to raffle off with our books. Vice-President Jean Jackson conducted our monthly book raffle—a favorite activity with our members.

We were saddened by the news that our anthology editor, notifications chairman, and former president, Valerie Martin Bailey lost her son, Benjamin Bailey to pneumonia on December 18, just eight days after his 55th birthday on December 10. Our former member, Richard Graham also lost his beloved wife, Gerri, after 15 years of suffering from Alzheimer’s Disease.

**TEXOMA POETRY SOCIETY**  
Frances Neidhardt Reporting

The Texoma Poetry Society met at Kelly Square in downtown Sherman on Saturday, February 11. The fascinating program, “Love of Life Poems,” was given by Susan McGinn of Austin College, a presidential scholar and Harvard cum laude graduate, now a cultural and religious leader.

In our year dedicated to Texas Poets Laureate, she chose Karla Morton, 2010, of Denton, and Jan Upton Seale, 2012, of McAllen, both PST members. Susan began with a cutting of Morton’s movingly lovely Scottish epic story set to music, then read poems emphasizing Morton’s love of life through her fight with cancer, the shaving of her head as an act of bravado, and her surviving with renewed energy. Jan Upton Seal’s later work
was cited for its open-eyed breadth of life’s ups and downs and our personal awarenesses illustrated by poems of wisdom filled with wit. Of Seale’s early work, Susan chose poems displaying love of nature seen in flowers, birds, many specific things, most particularly one night’s study of the sky with her son guiding her, the mother, through the stars.

The program ended with a discussion led by Frances Neidhardt regarding the future of Texoma Poetry Society.

TYLER’S ROSE GARDEN POETRY SOCIETY
Mary Tindall Reporting
The Rose Garden Poetry Society met February 9 at the Hanks Senior Center in Whitehouse. Ten members attended. Poets shared memories of Jan Mathew who died recently. Jan left a collection of books expressing her passion for nature and her gift for writing.

Reading around the group, poets shared poems, accepting suggestions to make their verses more poetic. Contest deadlines and meetings were announced. “Borrowing” was the suggested theme for the next assignment. Refreshments were served. Poets left inspired to be readers and writers.

WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY
Linda Smith Reporting
Seven members (including one new member) met on January 21 in the Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts. Roll call was answered with a reply to “Who has encouraged you to write poetry?”

This discussion led to the lesson presented by January Chair Sheri Sutton, titled “Standing on the Shoulders of Those Who Came Before Us.” First place poems from Ruth Reuther, Lou Gatlin, and Leta Hedrick were examined and studied, with reference to type and style. All three women had been long-time members of the WFPS. Those present enjoyed drinks and snacks before heading into the business meeting.

Minutes from November and December, 2016, were read and approved. Treasurer Webb Key said that a table was reserved at the Home & Garden Festival in February, and Kemp Center dues were paid. Tickets to the event will be available for purchase at the February meeting, with $4.50 of the price going to the WFPS. Sheri suggested a summer workshop lunch/poetry festival at the Kemp that would be open to the public. More discussion of this topic will be held at the next meeting.

Winners in the January contest for the best poem in any form and any subject were announced and the poems were read. The results are Lynn Hoggard (1st), Linda Smith (2nd), and Sheri Sutton (3rd). Also Daryl Halencak (1HM), Nick Schreiber (2HM), and Webb Key (3HM). The Critic Judge was Marilyn Stacy of Dallas.

February’s contest will be any form, any subject with a maximum of 36 lines.

The Art and Soul of Poetry
The 2017 NFSPS Convention
June 29 ~ July 2, 2017 — Fort Worth, Texas

There will be music, poems, art, words, and more at the 2017 NFSPS Convention, as we celebrate The Art and Soul of Poetry. Headquarters will be the historic Hilton hotel in downtown Fort Worth. Reserve a room by calling 1-817-870-2100. Be sure to mention you are with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Single and Double rooms: $119; Triple: $129; and Quad: $139. This rate is available for reservations made through June 6. Valet parking at the hotel is $18 a day (a reduced rate for convention attendees). Public parking is also available (free on Friday night/all day Saturday and Sunday).

We have a great line-up of speakers: Urania Fung, instructor at Tarrant County College; Anne McCrady, poet and storyteller; Pat Stodghill, Poet Laureate of Texas, past president of PST and NFPS; Dr. Nathan Brown, Poet Laureate of Oklahoma, who now lives in Texas; Karla Morton, Poet Laureate of Texas; Beth and Mark Ayers, Magic Lantern enthusiasts; Scott Wiggerman, Dos Gatos Press; Diane Glancy, winner of the 2016 Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize; and our keynote presenter Carmen Tafolla, Poet Laureate of Texas.

Excursions and other activities will be in the next Bulletin, and the April issue of Strophes will have our complete schedule and the convention registration form.

You Can Help the PST Host the 2017 National NFSPS Convention in Fort Worth

PST is asking its members for financial support of our plan to host the 2017 NFSPS convention in Fort Worth. Registration fees for the convention will cover most expenses. Your donations will help cover additional costs necessary to have a Texas-proud event.

Make check payable to the Poetry Society of Texas and send your donation to:

Catherine L’Herisson, Convention Treasurer
518 Grinnell Drive, Garland, TX 75043

Send it with all your contact information: name address, phone, and e-mail.

Donor names will be listed by category in the program
• Bronze Star ~ $1–$50 • Silver Star ~ $51–$100 • Gold Star~$100 up

Enter the 2017 Convention Poetry Contest
Open to convention attendees only

Cash Prizes: 1st $100, 2nd $75, 3rd $50, 3 HMs for $25 ea.
Any Subject • Any Form • 36 Line Limit
Send 2 copies: 1 with name, address, phone, e-mail add., & State society membership or non-mem. Send 1 with no ID.
Postmark by March 15, 2017 – Snail Mail only
Enter as many times as you like: $10 for each group of 3 or fewer poems. Make checks to Poetry Society of Texas.

Send to Convention Contest Chairman:
J. Paul Holcomb
235 Shady Hill Lane • Double Oak, TX 75077-8270
MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~ JANUARY, 2017
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.............179  Sustaining Members.............4
Associate Members..........12  Recently Deceased.............1
Life Members...............47  Renewing Members..........7
Student Members...........28  New Members ...............5
Supporting Members........2  Current Member Total.....271

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Lesley Clinton ~ Sugar Land
Aisha Kureishy ~ McKinney
Jackie McVey ~ Tyler
Robert Okaji ~ Austin
Marlene Tucker ~ Axtell

PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE

Bulletin Editor, Valerie Martin Bailey, notes a change in the news deadline. Chapter news should be sent to Valerie at vbaileyBulletin@satx.rr.com. Chapter news must be received by midnight on the 14th of each month except November, June, and July. Other announcements must be approved by the Executive Board before being printed.

HELP OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR keep our membership roll up to date. Notify Lynn Lewis right away if there is any change in your contact info: address, phone number, or e-mail. Lynn’s e-mail address is: elsquared59@yahoo.com, and her telephone number is: 817-921-9322.

Members: Have you paid your dues? Dues should have been paid by July, so if you have not paid, your name has been removed from the roll. Pay your dues and be reinstated before A Book of the Year is published so you can still be eligible for Life Membership.

* THE EXECUTIVE BOARD *

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Addendum:

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www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

Address Label

BOOK DONATIONS REPORT
From PST Librarian Barbara Blanks
Librarian Barbara Blanks reported that the following book was donated to the permanent collection of the Dallas Central Library:
My Parrot Loves Me and Other Humorous Poems
by LaVern Spencer McCarthy

If you have published a collection of poems or if your chapter has published an anthology, please consider donating a copy to this collection. Please send books to Librarian Barbara Blanks at the address listed in the box to the right.

Remsen the deadline for entering NFSPS annual contests is March 15. Send entries to NFSPS Contest Chair: Emory D. Jones • 608 N. Pearl St. • Iuka, MS 38852