President Budd Powell Mahan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, including visitor Jerry Middents of Dallas; our program speaker, Michelle Hartman of Fort Worth, her husband Wes, daughter Misty Yates, and granddaughter Kaitlyn Pablo. He also recognized past presidents J. Paul Holcomb and Catherine L’Herisson.

Treasurer Patrick Lee Marshall gave the February 2018 Financial Statement. PST continues to be in good shape.

Corresponding Secretary Catherine L’Herisson gave the February 2018 Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. (see page 6 for the report).

Librarian Barbara Blanks reported the donation of 16 books to the Dallas central library, listed on page 6.

Extension Chair Susan Maxwell Campbell gave a brief update on the summer conference to be held in Waco, July 12-14. Its theme is *A Bridge to Poetry*. Christine Boldt, Sandi Horton, and Kay Bell are working on it. The *Bulletin* and the PST website will have specifics soon.

Spotlight on Poets Chair Susan Maxwell Campbell introduced our remote Spotlight Poet Christine H. Boldt of Temple. Christine is a retired librarian who served in the Peace Corps for two years and lived in Italy for six years. Her poems have appeared in numerous anthologies, and she is a regular winner in PST contests.

President Mahan named former presidents to the nominating committee. Linda Banks is chair with other members being: J. Paul Holcomb, Jimmye Inez Sessions, Marilyn Stacy, and Jeannette L. Strother.

JDarrell Kirkley of Dallas is one of our three new Program Chairs. He introduced our speaker: Michelle Hartman, saying she is “a personality, a real character. She writes, laughs, and cries from the heart—her style delivers poetry with an uppercut and a punch.” She has a BS in Political Science, Pre-Law, and holds a Paralegal certificate. Michelle is the editor of RedRiverReview.com. Her most recent book is *The Lost Journal of My Second Trip to Purgatory*, the first poetic look at child abuse and its effects on adult life. By her own admission, the book contains dark humor—a necessary relief from the subject matter. Humor was one of her survival tools.

Two of Michelle’s other books, *Irony and Irreverence*, and *Disenchanted and Disgruntled*, exemplify the title of her presentation: “Humor in Writing Poetry.” Sources and opportunities for humor include Subject, Parody, Hyperbole, Language, and Surprise Endings.

Subject: Michelle says picking something like an “already

**DO NOT MISS THIS FASCINATING AND ENLIGHTENING PROGRAM**

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**OUR PRESIDENT, BUDD POWELL MAHAN REVEALS THE RESULTS OF A STUDY OF POETRY JUDGING**

Budd says: “We asked ten poets to submit a poem for critique and judging, and ten judges appraised the poems, critiquing and ranking them. We will compare the results to show the subjectivity of judging, but it will also show how a good poem floats up in the eyes of every judge.” Other mysteries of the judging process will be explored!
used fairy tale” gives you a start with description setting, and whimsy. For example: Snow White. Who said there were only seven dwarfs? She made up an eighth dwarf, Gropes, with the resulting poem, “dead man’s hand.”

Parody: “Take an already written poem and turn it funny.”

Hyperbole: “Take something regular and push it off the end of the earth.”

Language: “Humorous words give rise to humorous stories.”

Surprise Endings: “The entire poem is serious—then you drop a bomb at the end, or make a definitive statement.”

Michelle urged us to get out of our comfort zones and not worry about offending people—but to be even-handed in poking fun. She also cautioned us to be careful. Libel laws apply to poets, too.

Contest Chair Budd Powell Mahan then announced the winners in the March monthly contests, and noted that beginning in April, the Poetry4Poets prize will be replaced with the Naomi Stroud Simmons Memorial Prize.

The meeting was then adjourned.

ALAMO AREA POETS OF TEXAS
Antonia Murguia Reporting

President Lois Heger called the meeting to order and asked Carol Siskovic to lead the pledge and moment of silence.

Lois asked for consideration of February’s minutes. Only Jeanie Sanders had read the minutes. Lois suggested that we approve the minutes next month. The Secretary, will send two notices about the minutes as it appears some members need a reminder that the minutes need to be read.

Lois welcomed guest poet Charles Darnell, who has been a member of Sun Poet’s Society since 2012. Charles read wonderful poems from his recently published book, Water, Tongues, Earth, and Blood. His poetic words are from his home state of Louisiana, where he describes as “my blood is drawn from the earth of this place.”

February’s winning poems were announced and read. Winners in the assigned topic were: Antonia Murguia (3rd HM), Peter Holland (2nd HM), Carol Siskovic (1st HM), Iris Maahs (3rd PI), Patricia Keoughan (2nd PI), Rene Ornes (1st PI). Winners in the open topic were: Peter Holland (3rd HM), Sheila Moore (2nd HM), Iris Maahs (1st HM), Carol Siskovic (3rd PI), Antonia Murguia (2nd PI), Patricia Keoughan (1st PI).

Our next meeting will be April 7 at 2 pm.

BEAUMONT CHAPTER
Barbara Green Powell Reporting

Beaumont Chapter’s March meeting was held on the fourth Thursday since the first Thursday was March 1. This reminds me that April 1 is both Easter and April Fool’s Day. It’s kind of sad since Easter is a special holiday for Christians. Anyway I hope there’s no pinching unless he’s tall, dark and handsome.

Poetry Chapters all over Texas are lots of fun. It’s like having another family. Our members can’t wait to see the Summer Conference on July 12. I hope all of you register by June 1, and get included in the Summer Conference anthology. Thanks to Hot Poets Society for sponsoring the Summer Conference in Waco.

Birma and I can’t wait to see our Lucidity Family April 9–12. It will be exciting to meet new poets from all over our great country. The scenery along the way helps the travel time pass swiftly. Eureka Springs is a great place to visit.

Budd Powell Mahan is in charge of the Texas Student Contests now being judged by judges across Texas. Burma Castle and Barbara Green Powell just finished judging the contests they sponsor. Next year please consider sponsoring or judging a Student Contest. Contact Budd Powell Mahan if you are interested.

DENTON POETS ASSEMBLY
Richard Weatherly Reporting

Denton Poets’ Assembly held its monthly meeting on March 17 at the Emily Fowler Public Library in Denton. A critique session started at 9 a.m. President Richard Weatherly called the regular meeting to order at 10 a.m. at which time we welcomed guests and visitors, then discussed chapter business.

Following our chapter business, members read assigned poems from J. Paul Holcomb’s February lesson on, “the Rhyme Royal.”

After members read the assignments, J. Paul Holcomb presented his monthly lesson. During the final hour of our meeting, members and guests read free-choice poems. We adjourned our meeting at noon.

Denton Poets’ Assembly meets on the third Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.—noon at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, in Denton. Meetings are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome. For more information, visit http://DentonPoetsAssembly.weebly.com.

GULF COAST POETS
Daniel Carrington Reporting

In February and March, Gulf Coast Poets welcomed featured readers Amir Safi and Billie Hill respectively. Each of these local luminaries treated the group to their distinctive poetic style and range. Both artists tackled topics from the deeply personal to the socially-conscious to lighter-hearted fare such as Billie’s love of guacamole and Amir’s love of Whataburger! Our thanks and appreciation go out to both of them.

In individual GCP member news, Matt Riley hosted an event for Poets in Loop at the Friendswood Public Library in late February. It served to highlight the depth of talent housed by this great Houston poetry collective. Also in February, John Gorman hosted his annual Mardi Gras reading event at the Mod Coffee Houston in Galveston. John was also selected as a featured speaker for Public Poetry’s Passion Series. Lastly, Laura Peña announced that she will be a featured reader at the Rio Grande Valley International Poetry Festival in April.
Congratulations to all of them!

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HI-PLAINS CHAPTER
Six members and two visitors from Milton, Wisconsin attended the February 17 meeting.

President Frances Clegg-Ferris opened the meeting with a critique session on the Doricform. The following members submitted poems for critique: Von Bourland, John Schmidt, Bryan Hampton, and Katy Hupp.

Following the critique session all members and guests introduced themselves. The guests were Roger and Janice Elfers Burrow from Milton, Wisconsin. Our visitors attended Line Dancing Class in the Amarillo Senior Citizens Association Center on Friday night and saw a notice about our poetry meeting the next day. Roger wrote his first poem during the meeting, and read it during the Round Robin. Janice (originally from England) read a poem she had written about her son during the Round Robin. They were both amazed at the Texas hospitality they had received.

Our Work Shop began with Frances reading the instructions for the Dorsimbra form and an example titled “Release,” written by Lee Ann Russell. Von Bourland read her Dorsimbra poem as another example. After a workshop session, Katy read the Dorsimbra poem she wrote during the workshop and Von read another Dorsimbra poem she composed Monday before the meeting. Others read as much as they finished. They will work on this form for homework.

We took a break for refreshments furnished by Katy and Frances.

At our business meeting, the minutes were read aloud for the benefit of the visitors. They had been sent to the members earlier. The minutes were approved. Frances gave information on having been reimbursed for about 18 months of expenses and Karl’s payment to the ASCA for our 2018 meetings.

Inquiries were made regarding the health and status of various members. These included: Lana Velasquez, Paula Harms (who was given a clean bill of health), Mary Yokum, Eddie Cunningham, and Ann Coberley (celebrating her birthday in Santa Fe, NM).

After the round robin the meeting was adjourned.

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HOT POETS SOCIETY
Sandi Horton Reporting
Members of the Hot Poets Society are busy these days working on our Summer Conference. Look for their PST Summer Conference information, plus the registration form on page 5.

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MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER
Thomas K. Martin Reporting
MPS held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. on March 3 in the Heard–Craig Carriage House in McKinney. President Alice Parker presided. Twelve members attended.

MPS will host a 2018 National Poetry Month celebration on April 28 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Café Bohemia in Plano. Since the owner is giving us free use of her facility, Alice encouraged members to support the establishment by buying a beverage and/or something to eat. The microphone will be open to anyone who wishes to share a poem.

Beth Ayres discussed progress on MPS’ 47th Annual Collin County Poetry Contest. The judging is nearly complete, and work has begun on the printed anthology that will be given to award recipients. The Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, April 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Collin College’s McKinney Campus Conference Center. Doors will open at 1:15 p.m. MPS is grateful for the support and participation of Collin College and looks forward to the ceremony’s second year in the excellent facility they provide. Beth also asked MPS members to share ideas for a National Poetry Month display for the McKinney Public Library.

Susan Mardele announced that the Writer’s Garret is sponsoring a poetry contest. She will share details with Alice to pass on to members. Susan is also working on locating a venue in McKinney for a 2018 National Poetry Day celebration. The official date is Thursday, October 4, but the MPS commemoration will take place on the preceding Saturday.

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PERMIAN BASIN POETRY SOCIETY
Kat Copeland Reporting
There will be a POETRY SLAM with cash prizes for first, second, and third places—$100, $75, $50—on Friday, March 23rd from 7-10 pm. Sign up from 7-8 pm. Fifteen poets to date are planning on participating. Door prizes of the anthology Wildflowers by Permian Basin Poetry members and Of a Dream Catcher by Aurelio Sanchez. Music by local musicians Ryan Tate, Kyle Trueblood, and others. Location is Dee’s Bistro at 622 N Lee at 7th St, in Odessa, Texas. Cover charge of $5 at the door. Everyone is welcome.

Open mic is the monthly highlight for creative talents and their audiences. An International happening continues. In March we added Miguel Ardiles, a talented guitarist from Peru, newcomer local poet Nayeli Madrid, comic Ash Stotter, and Cowboy Poet Bill Bartlett. Facebook Permian Basin Poetry for updates.

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POETS NORTHWEST
Lynn Grice Reporting
The March 17 meeting of Poets Northwest featured guest speaker, Vincent D’Amico, who shared a lecture/video presentation entitled “Robert Frost Country.” Mr. D’Amico had spent time with Robert Frost, so that aspect of his presentation was especially interesting. As usual, members were encouraged to bring poems to share during our Read-Around.

Eric Blanchard, won February’s Love Poem Contest. Annette Schwartz, 94 years young, just published her autobiography, On My Way to One Hundred. We are still gearing up for our 31st Annual Spring Fling, which celebrates our Houston area poets with a contest and banquet.

If you are in the Houston area on the third Saturday of the month, join us at one of our monthly meetings, temporarily at Windwood Presbyterian Church, 10555 Spring Cypress Rd., in Houston. 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://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest.
POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY
Lynn Lewis Reporting

The March 5 meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County was called to order by President Barbara Goerdel. Ron Eddins was the Contemporary Poet Reader. He read a poem by J. Paul Holcomb that is most likely to be approved by the Queen’s English Society. The minutes from the January meeting were approved as read, and the treasury report was given. The Spotlight Poet was Jim Goin. Announcements: A donation was made to the Poetry Society of Texas as a memorial for Naomi Stroud Simmons, who passed away on February 1. In addition, Angie Goin will provide in Naomi’s memory, a small gift token to upcoming Featured Speakers. President Goerdel read the Kudos List, and assignment poems were read before the break. Vice President Angie Goin introduced our Featured Speaker and Birthday Boy (he got cake), Lewisville Poet Laureate J. Paul Holcomb. His program on how to write a villanelle concluded with one that was written by the one and only Naomi Stroud Simmons. The meeting was then adjourned by President Goerdel.

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RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY
Jo Morrow Reporting

The Rusk County Poetry Society met on February 15 and was called to order by president Mary Tindall. A prayer was offered by Richard Herzeler and the minutes were read by Adrianne Pamplin. She also passed out a list of members who had volunteered for host, spotlight, and lesson duties for the coming year. The financial report was given by Charles Taylor. Carol Thompson announced the following upcoming events; Peter Hoheisel’s invitation to “open mic” on April 21 at the Jacksonville Public Library, and the Poetry in Schools awards ceremony on April 17 at Region 7 Education Center in Longview. Also announced was the upcoming Baylor House of Poetry event in Waco.

Lovely refreshments were provided by Sharon Taylor, after which members submitted poems for critique and received poems from last month’s critique. An informative lesson involving verbs in our poems was presented by Mary Tindall and members received an assignment for next month. Members also enjoyed hearing readings of last month’s poems along with comments from the critiques. Attendees were saddened to hear that one of our group, Robert Bowman, recently suffered a stroke, but were heartened to hear that he is making good progress toward recovery. We hope that he and his wife can be back with us soon.

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SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION
Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

Eleven members and regular guest, Bruce Davis, met on February 17. After the pledge and a moment of silent prayer, the minutes and treasurer’s report were read and approved. February birthdays were acknowledged for Clyta Coder, John Friedland, Mo Saidi, Lucy McBee, and Jane Perdue.

Program Chair, Floyd (Michaud) Lamrouex led us in a group poem writing exercise on the subject “Seven Ways We Would Change the World.” We then read our creations, which led to a great deal of fun and merriment.

Interim Contest Chair Valerie Bailey announced the January winners. The poems were judged by Loretta Diane Walker. We extend our thanks to Loretta for her time and expertise in judging both contests. Winners in the assigned topic were: Valerie Bailey (1st), Clyta Coder (2nd), Margaret Mayberry (3rd), and Floyd (Michaud) Lamrouex (HM). Winners in the open topic were: Pat Gibbs (1st), Valerie Bailey (2nd), Lois Hegel (3rd), and Margaret Mayberry (HM).

We took a break for refreshments provided by Floyd (Michaud) Lamrouex and Pat Gibbs. Afterwards the 2018 Nominating Committee was announced: Floyd (Michaud) Lamrouex (Chair), Clyta Coder, and Jean Jackson. At our March meeting, the committee will announce the slate of officers to be nominated for office for the 2018-2019 term.

We were given updates on Sharon Turner, who is now at home, continuing with exercises to regain her strength and John Friedland who is not doing as well and may have to return to the hospital. Jean Jackson encouraged us to drop John a line or send him a birthday card.

The February poems were read and we held a book raffle after which the meeting was adjourned.

***

TYLER ROSE GARDEN POETS
Mary Tindall Reporting

The Tyler Rose Garden Poets met at the Hanks Senior Center in Whitehouse on March 8 with eight members attending. Richard Herszel opened the meeting with prayer. Members shared concerns for Cherry Day whose husband Jim died on Saturday. Jim has jokingly referred to Cherry’s writing as “poeting.” We will miss Jim’s wit and friendship.

The focus was on sonnets, the March assignment and a discussion of writing then developed. Jackie McVey shared her research. Poets read sonnets and other forms of verse. Rose Garden poets are eager to grow as writers and welcome suggestions for improved meaning and strength.

Carol Thompson reminded the group of upcoming poetry events including Poetry in Schools Awards on April 17 at Region VII. The next open mic is Saturday, April 21 at the Jacksonville library sponsored by Peter Hoheisel.

Refreshments were served. Rose Garden afternoons together always offer a chance to write poems and an eager audience to share verse.

***

WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY
Linda Smith Reporting

Nine members met on Saturday, February 12, in the Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts. Daryl Halencak, chairman for February, welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. Refreshments provided by Doyle Wood were enjoyed before the business meeting.

Minutes of the January meeting and the financial report were approved by members. Problems getting Society information in the local newspaper were discussed. Geneva Rodgers again asked for program volunteers for next year, and all slots were filled. The WFPS will again have a table at the
POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS – 49TH ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE
Dates: Thursday – Saturday July 12-14, 2018 ~•~•~ Theme: Poetry: A Bridge to the World

Hotel Information: (to be booked individually with the hotel)
Marriott SpringHill Suites – Waco/Woodway, Texas, 200 Colonnade Parkway, 76712
Make reservations by June 12, 2018 (Call (254) 732-7979 for reservations, ask for the PST Summer Conference, and mention group code HPS). Rate: $129 per room, up to 4 people (King or Double Queen) includes hot breakfast, free parking, high speed internet, indoor pool and spa, fitness room, and covered outdoor patio areas.

Registration Information: (fill out one form per person)
Mail the form at the bottom of this page with a check to: Chris Boldt, 707 Livingston Court, Temple, TX 76502. Make your check payable to: HOT Poets Society. Registration deadline for conference and meals is June 12, 2018.

Friday Lunch: Taco Bar Buffet includes: beef, chicken, crisp and soft tortillas, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, guacamole, sour cream, cheese, rice, beans, queso and chips, salsa, fruit salad, dessert, tea, coffee, and soda.

Friday Dinner Buffet choices: Grilled chicken, chicken Parmesan, one seafood item, Alfredo and marinara sauce, fettuccine pasta, oven roasted vegetable medley, tossed salad, Caesar salad, baked bread, assorted desserts, coffee, tea, soda.

Additional Information about the Summer Conference Anthology:
Everyone who registers by June 1 may submit a poem for the Summer Conference Anthology, and it WILL be published. You decide which poem you want to publish. Do NOT use the same poem you bring for the ‘You Be the Judge’ contest. Please send only one unpublished poem—24 lines or less with no more than 58 characters per line. Use Times New Roman 12 point font, single spaced. At the bottom of the poem, type your name, your city, and the name of your chapter if you belong to one. Send the poem in the body of an email to HOTPoetsSociety@yahoo.com. Put your name on the subject line of the email. Proofread carefully and send it exactly as you want it to be printed in the anthology. You will receive a confirmation when your poem is received. Your poem must be received by June 1, 2018 in order to be published. You will receive a free copy of the anthology when you check-in at the conference on July 12.

Wichita Falls Poetry Society continued
Home & Garden Festival February 24 and 25 to publicize our existence (!) and to recruit new members. Cynthia Archibald will provide a plant arrangement for the table, and Cynthia and Nick Schreiber will be the designated workers for the Kemp Center, which all Member Organizations of the Kemp are required to furnish. Sheri Sutton, Linda Smith, Lynn Hoggard, and Daryl and wife Jane will man the table on Saturday, and Nick, Geneva, and Sheri will represent us on Sunday.
Daryl presented a comprehensive lesson on the haiku, including history, development into the 20th century, and old and new examples. A lively discussion ensued, and all present agreed that there was enough material to warrant a day-long workshop. A traditional haiku is due to Sheri by midnight February 28 for the March contest.
A poem in any form about a historical event was the February contest assignment. It was judged by Susan Maxwell. Campbell. Winners are Lynn Hoggard (1st), Webb Key (2nd), and Cynthia Archibald (3rd). Other places are Geneva Rodgers (1HM), Linda Smith (2HM), and Roberta Sund (3HM). Doyle Wood offered a poem for critique only.

Registration form for Poetry Society of Texas 2018 Annual Summer Conference
Name:________________________________________________ Chapter______________________
(Print your name as you would like it to appear on your name tag)
Address:_______________________________________ City:____________________ Zip:_________
Phone____________________________________E-mail:___________________________________
Registration fee......................................................$25
Thursday buffet reception supper...........................Free
Friday lunch...........................................................$20 (includes drink, dessert, tax, and service charge)
Friday dinner/banquet............................................$30 (includes drink, dessert, tax, and service charge)
Total  of check.......................................................$75 (if you omit any item mark it out & adjust total)
MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~ DECEMBER 2018
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

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

NOTICE TO BULLETIN REPORTERS
Please remember! Bulletin Reporters should send their Bulletin news as soon as possible after their monthly meetings. The absolute deadline for Bulletin news is now the 14th of each month by 8 p.m. Send your news to the special Bulletin e-mail address at: vbailleybulletin@att.net.

BOOK DONATIONS REPORT
From PST Librarian Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks reports that 16 books were donated in February to the permanent collection of the Dallas Central Library.

- Inkwell Echoes 2015-16, San Antonio Poets Association, Editor: Valerie Martin Bailey
- Inkwell Echoes 2016-17, San Antonio Poets Association, Editor: Valerie Martin Bailey
- Constant State of Leaping by Karla K. Morton

The following 13 books are by Nathan Brown

- Nōt ExACTLY Jōb
- Two Tables Over
- My Sideways Heart
- Letters to the One-Armed Poet: A Memoir of Friendship, Loss, and Buttermilk Squash Ravioli
- Karma Crisis, New and Selected Poems
- Less Is More, More or Less
- To Sing Hallucinated: First Thoughts on Last Words
- My Salvaged Heart, Story of a Caustic Courtship
- I Shouldn’t Say, The Mostly Unedited Poems of Ezra E. Lipschitz
- Arse Poetica, The Mostly Unedited Poems of Ezra E. Lipschitz
- Apocalypse Soon, The Mostly Unedited Poems of Ezra E. Lipschitz
- An Honest Day’s Prayer
- An Honest Days’ Ode

If you have published a collection of poems or your chapter has published an anthology, please consider donating a copy to this collection. Send your books to Librarian Barbara Blanks at 1518 Running River Road, Garland, TX 75044-7254.

THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS MEETS...

On the second Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at Preston Royal Library
5626 Royal Lane
Dallas, Texas 75229

The poetry year runs from September through May, with the exception of November, when the annual Awards Banquet is held in a Dallas hotel (TBA).

The annual Summer Conference convenes in a different area of the state each July.

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