Minutes of the General Meeting
March 12, 2022, 2:30 p.m. via Zoom
Submitted by Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary

President Irene Robertson welcomed our 23 attendees, and thanked Neal Ostman for again hosting the meeting on his personal Zoom account. Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks gave the February membership report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. (report on page 8). Treasurer Neal Ostman gave the February financial report. PST is doing well. There were no large expenditures.

Extension Chair Carol Thompson announced the formation of a new PST chapter: The Greater Ellis County Poetry Society, formed by Ed Mestyanek of Waxahachie. She also noted that four of our chapters are now inactive: HOT (Heart of Texas), Poets of Tarrant County, Gulf Coast Poets, and Pegasus (Dallas).

Beth Ayers reported for the Mockingbird Chapter on the progress of the 2022 Summer Conference. It will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Allen, Texas, July 14-16. Room rate is $109/night, with a June 30 reservation deadline. More details will be given later.

Director JDarrell Kirkley stated Spring Fling invitations will go out in about a week. The event is scheduled for Sunday, May 22, at the Dallas Arboretum, and is complimentary to PST members and their guests. Also, upon request, complimentary passes to the Arboretum for Monday, May 23, will also be given. More details will follow soon.

Annual Contest Chair Lynn Roberts Grice is working on the 2022 annual contest brochure, and will have it finished as soon as possible.
Former President Catherine L’Herisson made two announcements: The NFSPS Conference will be hosted by the Ohio Poetry Society, in Columbus, Ohio, from June 23-26. Details are in the April Strophes, now available at nfsps.org. The Board Nominating committee this year consists of Catherine L’Herisson (chair/past president), Budd Powell Mahan (past president), Jeannette Strother (past president), Barbara Lewie Berry (past PST officer), and Steve Sanders (past PST officer).

Catherine also introduced our Spotlight Poet, Irene Robertson, for Spotlight on Members Chair, Valerie Martin Bailey. Irene, of course, is our president, and a member of the Mockingbird Chapter. She read several of her poems.

Program Chair JDarrel Kirkly introduced our speaker, Dr. J. Robert Parkey, Jr., current president of the Wichita Falls Poetry Society, and “Trail Boss” for the April “Cowboy True Poetry Gathering.” A fifth generation native of the Wichita Falls area, he received his doctorate in medicine from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and holds a master’s degree in Theological Studies from the University of Dallas. He practices geriatrics and supportive care medicine in Wichita Falls. He often writes narratives on medicine and the human condition. He also has a fondness for cowboy poetry. He calls himself a kind of “Horse and Buggy” doctor because his work in geriatrics, hospice, and palliative medicine still takes him on house calls. He said, “It’s about listening. It’s more about time spent and looking at the patient as a person. Storytelling is intrinsically therapeutic and palliative. Honoring the story honors human dignity. The most beautiful time for a leaf is just before it falls, and I believe that’s true for people too. Stories matter, and a patient’s story is important. People are not their CT scans, blood tests, or electronic medical records. Disease does not equal illness. Illness is how a person experiences disease, and the burden of illness is different for each person, even those with the same disease.” He named four kinds of suffering: physical, psychological, social, and spiritual. The form in which someone displays their ill health is part of their story. The poems Dr. Parkey read honored his patients.

A Celebration of Poetry: 90 Poems for 90 Years, published by the Wichita Falls Poetry Society, includes several of Dr. Parkey’s poems, (available on Amazon in paperback and on Kindle https://tinyurl.com/277udxw2).

MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS
15 Entries
Critic Judge: Susan S. Chambers, Mankato, MN.
First: Richard Hurzeler – “Brazen Bands”
Second: Catherine L’Herisson, Garland
Third: Steve Sanders, Fort Worth

Laugh Lines
Judge: Catherine L’Herisson, Garland
Winner: Irene Robertson, Little Elm

Book Prize Winners
Popular: Not Awarded
Wm. D. Barney: Beth Honeycutt, Denton
M. Tandy Duemke: Fred Manchester, McKinney
Naomi Stroud Simmons: Eric Blanchard, Houston
Ted Badger Mem. Prize: Doris Brogan, Dallas
Castle Poetry Collection Prize: Susan M. Campbell, Mansfield

Other Poems were by: Irene Robertson, Michael Minassian, Manuel English, and JDarrell Kirkley.

Send contest entries before the 15th of the month to Contest Chair, Richard Weatherly at 7617 Palomar Dr., N. Richland Hills, TX 76180. Phone: 817-428-8088. E-mail: WeatherlyR@sbcglobal.net

CONGRATULATIONS
To
Christine (Chris) Boldt
for being a finalist in the 2022 NFSPS
Barbara Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition.
PST is Proud of You!
THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS ANNOUNCES THE 2022 CATHERINE CASE Lubbe Manuscript Contest

Are your poems begging to be published? Do you have poems that sparkle with heart and wit? Do they beg to become a collection so they may sing together? Are you ready to give your poems to the world?

Here’s a grand opportunity! The Poetry Society of Texas sponsors annually the Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Contest, and it is open to all active dues-paid and Life members of PST, writing in English.

You may submit your manuscript of 45 to 60 pages of poetry between June 1 and August 1, 2022. The prize will be fifty copies of your book, ready to market, and a monetary award of $100. Now is the time to start considering your entry. Read the full rules on the web page of the Poetry Society of Texas, and good luck!

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A Summer Conference This Year.
After a long dreary pandemic when the Covid virus changed the way we lived our lives, we are beginning to resume some normalcy. With a great stress on masks and a new term: “Social Distancing,” we lost the convenience and fun of in-person meetings. Conferences and conventions were canceled and people became terrified of being in crowds. We stopped having in-person poetry meetings and opted for Zoom meetings where we could at least see and hear each other. Every facet of our social lives changed from eating out in restaurants, to church and school attendance. This is why this summer conference is so exciting.

It will be held July 14-16 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Allen, Texas, hosted by the Mockingbird Chapter, so thank you Mockingbirds! Make plans now to enjoy this special summertime treat in the heat. This is the same hotel where we met in 2012 and 2016.

A good time is guaranteed!

GOOD REASONS TO BELONG TO PST

1. Prestige: It’s an honor to belong to the oldest continually active state poetry society in the United States. At one time, Texas was not only the oldest, but also the largest. We lost that distinction to Utah. Encourage your poet friends to join and win back our “largest” title.

2. Contest Opportunities: We have one of the largest slates of annual contests in the nation–100 contests, many Poet’s choice of topics and others with assigned topics, and all with cash prizes ranging from $25 to the two top prizes of $500.

3. Networking and Camaraderie: PST offers many opportunities to network with other poets at the annual awards banquet, summer conferences, and monthly meetings. Most monthly meetings are now via Zoom so more members may attend. This offers writers a chance to be heard by poets from all over the state and aids in gaining a greater personal visibility for each poet and his/her poetry.

4 Two for One: When you join PST, you automatically become a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

5. PST awards its members: The Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award is given every year. It is PST’s highest award. The President’s Award is given if a President so chooses to honor a certain person or persons. It is not given on a regular basis.

Next month more good reasons to belong to PST will be noted, one of the best is that the annual dues are only $25 for active members.
**ROUNDING UP THE PST CHAPTER NEWS FROM ACROSS THE STATE OF**

**ALAMO AREA POETS**  
*Toni Murguia Reporting*

President Winstead opened the meeting, and after pledging allegiance to the flag, a moment of silent meditation was observed. The featured speaker for March was Dr. Mo H. Saidi. Mo is an Iranian-American retired physician, writer, and poet. He is the Chairman of the Board of Directors for *Voices De La Luna*, a quarterly literature & arts magazine. Mo read his poem, “Art In The City,” that won 1st place in a PST contest. This poem is the title poem from his book by the same name. He shared other wonderful poems. His books are available at the Twig Bookstore in the Pearl District of San Antonio.

The winners in our February assigned topic contest were: 1st place: Carol Siskovik; 2nd place: Sheila Moore; 3rd place: Patricia Keoughan; 1st HM: Catherine Lee; 2nd HM: Antoinette Winstead. Winners in the open topic contest were: 1st place: Patricia Keoughan; 2nd place: Sheila Moore; 3rd place: Iris Maahs; 1st HM: Robert Lamphar; 2nd HM: Catherine Lee.

We then read our March poems. The topics for next month are *Coming to Terms* or *Poetry in Motion*. The judge will be Barbara Blanks. Lou Taylor reported that the Tobin Library will allow us to use their library for our 22-23 AAPT poetry meetings. This is great news. Catherine Lee announced that she received a grant for an upcoming play. The play will be shown twice in April, May, and June to receive feedback in local libraries. The play will then be released in November. Sheila Moore’s new book will be released in April. After announcements, the meeting was adjourned.

**AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY**  
*Jeffrey Taylor Reporting*

The Austin Poetry Society (APS) continues to hold its meetings on Zoom (link sent to members). A Poetry Roundtable was the feature at the February meeting. Members contributed useful prompts and techniques. The March monthly meeting on March 19th will feature Victor Johnson (AKA Birdman 313).

**DENTON POETS’ ASSEMBLY**  
*Richard Kushmaul Reporting*

The Denton Poets’ Assembly held their February 19th meeting via Zoom with 23 attending. Vice President Betty Rogers welcomed members and guests: Betty Cox, LaVelle Carlson, and Christine Sanders. Betty introduced the Spotlight Poets of the month: Beth Honeycutt, who read several of her poems from *When Sun Scratches Stone*, and Diane Glancy, who gave a close reading of the Eric Pankey poem, “Relia.” Response poems based on the poet of the month, Eric Pankey, were read. The R/R inspiration reader was Gene Klusterer reading “Small Step” (Upon Hearing Pankey’s Address on a Walk at the Library of Congress). Free choice poems were read with the inspirational poem, “Moon said,” presented by Masood Parvaze. Susan Maxwell Campbell gave a short presentation on “How to Use an Epigraph.” She then introduced the March Read/Respond Poet of the month: Paul Muldoon.

**FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY**  
*Steve Sanders Reporting*

On the evening of February 22, the Fort Worth Poetry Society met in a hybrid meeting in person and via Zoom. Attending were Steve Sanders, President; John Bartell, Vice President; Mike Baldwin, Treasurer; Mary-margaret Belota; Helen Bernard, and Denise Salerno.

Denise read the opening poem titled “The Little Whistler,” written by Frances Frost. The poem came from an anthology published in 1954 titled *The First Book of Poetry*. Steve read the minutes from the January meeting and they were approved.
March 5th at the Heard-Craig Carriage House. Eleven members and two guests attended. Wonderful poetry readings followed club business. The February 5th Art Meets Poetry exhibit and food drive, held at the McKinney Heard-Craig Center for the Arts, was a success by every measure. Special thanks to Beth Ayers, Mockingbird’s president, and Beth Mortenson, McKinney Art Club’s president, both champions of the project. Donations and food were collected for the McKinney Community Food Pantry and the McKinney Community Garden Kitchen for the homeless and those in food emergency situations. We hope to make this an annual event.

The winners of the Mockingbird member category of our 51st Collin County Poetry Contest, judged by Barbara L. Berry are as follows: 1st place: John Alexander; 2nd place: Catherine L’Herisson; 3rd place: Barry Renk; Honorable Mention: Susan Mardelle. Our CCPC awards ceremony will be held in McKinney the fourth weekend in April.

The Mockingbirds are pleased to host the 2022 Summer Conference July 14-16 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Allen, Texas.

For our February meeting, Poets Northwest members prepared ekphrastic poems, responding to the piece of bricolage by Sarah-Jane Crowson published for Rattle’s February Ekphrastic Challenge on the magazine’s website at rattle.com/ekphrastic beginning February 1.

Sharing the resulting poems revealed a broad range of narratives and imagery, which should not be surprising, considering the challenging and provocative artwork with which we were working.

Poets Northwest welcomes visitors and guests. If you happen to be in the area, feel free to join one of our monthly meetings on the third Saturday of the month. Please contact PNW via social media for more information. Members and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works during the second half of each monthly meeting.

Our PST chapter is on the web at http://www.poetsnw.com, on Facebook at http://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest, on Twitter as @HoustonPoets, and on Instagram as poetsnorthwest.
RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY
Janet R. Tyner Reporting

On February 17, ten members of the Rusk Poetry Society met in the multipurpose building of the South Main Church of Christ in Henderson. President Mary Tindall called the meeting to order and Richard Hurzeler offered a prayer. Adrianne Pamplin read the minutes from the January meeting and Charles Taylor gave the treasurer’s report.

Members voted to conduct a poetry reading at the McMillam Memorial Library in Overton for our October Celebration of Poetry. Sue Roberts will try to reserve our spot as the Book Talk for that month. Carol Thompson reminded everyone to pay PST dues by June 1. Members of PST are automatically members of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Carol also announced a PST day of poetry on May 22 at the Dallas Arboretum.

After the business meeting, the following poets read quotidian poems, as well as other poems: Richard Hurzeler, Jackie McVey, Jo Morrow, Adrianne Pamplin, Sue Roberts, Sharon Taylor, Carol Thompson, and Mary Tindall.

Janet Tyner presented a lesson, originally given by Rosemary Wahtola Trommer at the 2021 NFSPS virtual conference on the topic of using literary binary oppositions to create tension in a poem.

Janet shared drafts of her poems modeled after those in the presentation, and then everyone participated in a guided writing. The writing prompt for March is to mimic the style of one of the three models in the lesson. The next meeting will be held at the same location on Thursday, March 17.

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION
Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

SAPA met via Zoom on February 19th. Our special guest was Steffie Nunnis, the CEO of the Red Sulpher Publishing Company, and granddaughter of our own Iris Maahs. She talked to us about publishing our poetry books and gave us tips on how to have a successful experience with publishing and warned of the pitfalls to avoid. It was an interesting and valuable presentation. Our president, Sheila Moore just had a successful publishing experience and the result is her new poetry book titled The Heart of the Matter. Congratulations Sheila.

WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY
Nick Schreiber Reporting

On a beautiful afternoon in downtown Wichita Falls, eight members and two guests met in the Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts to discuss poetry. A charcuterie feast was provided, and the meeting opened with the typical business procedures. Committee reports brought updates on the various upcoming events the groups will soon attend, including the Arts Alive! Home and Garden Show, Cowboy True, and the Kemp Sculpture Garden Reception.

Particularly exciting was the number of entries and the overall quality of the poems for the youth poetry contest of Cowboy True. The adult contest also received a positive showing and included entries from across the world, including one from England.

Nick Schreiber presented a program on critiques that has become the annual February program. In preparation for the program, each member was to submit a poem in early February, then send critiques of the other submissions two days prior to the meeting.

After a quick recap of guidelines and etiquette, the society members took turns reading each poem, while the other members provided feedback. The program resulted in a lot of positive development and discussion. For the contest, members are to revise their poem, if desired, and resubmit it by the end of February.

Barbara Berry served as the judge for our February contest on Postcard Poetry with the following results:

1st place: Nick Schreiber— “Feet in Water”
2nd place: Robert Parkey— “Alpine Texas”
3rd place: Lynn Hoggard— “Postcard Chihuahua, Mexico.”
1st HM: Ysabell de la Rosa— “Verona”
2nd HM: Rosellen Sheetz— “Narrow Gauge Railroad”
3rd HM: Daryl Halencak— “Trip to Reno When I Was Younger”

To all our Irish poets out there...
Happy St. Patrick’s Day!
MEMBERSHIP REPORT FEBRUARY 2022
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

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WELCOME NEW PST MEMBERS

- Henry White II, Dallas
- Lisa Sparaco, Pearland
- John Wilhite, Grand Prairie
- Amy White, Waxahachie
- Lynn Horton, Tyler

YOU WILL LOVE PST

Book Donations Report
From PST Librarian Barbara Blanks

There were no book donations this month. Members are encouraged to donate books to the library.

If you have published a collection of poems or your chapter publishes an anthology, please consider donating a copy to this collection. Please see if you can find something to donate next month, and send the books to Librarian Barbara Blanks at 1518 Running River Rd., Garland, TX 75044-7254.

Our Sincere Sympathy
To Steve Sanders

and to his extended family at the recent death of his youngest brother, Kenneth. Kenneth had a wide circle of family and friends who are mourning his loss. A memorial service is being planned for a future time near Beaumont, Texas.

For now Steve needs quiet time to deal with his grief and asks that everyone respect his privacy and not call him at this time.

Keep Steve and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time of loss.