

The Bulletin

Poetry Society of Texas

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Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies

www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

Editor:

Valerie Martin Bailey

MAY 2022



Copy Editor:

Michaud L. Lamrouex



THE SPEAKER FOR SEPTEMBER IS JERRI HARDESTY

Jerri Hardesty lives in the woods of Alabama with husband, Kirk, also a writer. They run the non-profit organization, NewDawnUnlimited, Inc., dedicated to poetry publishing, production, performance, promotion, preservation, and education. This includes organizing and hosting the BamaSlam, Montevallo Poetry Slam in Montevallo, Alabama, as well as other events around the state. Jerri has won more than 1600 awards and titles in both written and spoken word/performance poetry, and she has had more than 500 poems published. She attended the University of Montevallo (BA, MA), where she was also briefly an adjunct professor. She previously served as President of the Alabama State Poetry Society, and is currently serving as Co-President from Fall 2020 to Fall 2022. She was the 2009 ASPSPoet of the Year.

*Minutes of the General Meeting
May 14, 2022, 2:30 p.m. via Zoom*

Submitted by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Irene Robertson welcomed our nineteen attendees, and thanked Neal Ostman for again hosting the meeting on his personal Zoom account.

Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks gave the April membership report for **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis** (see the report on page 8).

As **Librarian**, Blanks had one book, *Being Superman* by John Brooks, to announce for donation to the PST collection at the Dallas Central Library.

Treasurer Neal Ostman gave the April financial report. There were no large expenditures, and most income was from annual contest sponsorships.

Past President Catherine L'Herisson reminded us about the NFSPS convention that will take place in Ohio from June 23-25. Check their website for more information: www.nfsp.org.

PST Summer Conference Chair Beth Ayers

gave updates on details for the event being held in Allen, Texas from July 14-16, at the Hilton Garden Inn. PST rate is \$109/night, with a full breakfast included. It is important for attendees to purchase the meals because the hotel gives us the meeting rooms at no cost when enough meals are sold. Meals are a great time to visit with other attendees. Several programs, workshops, and speakers are lined up. Details and registration forms are now up on the PST website.

President Irene Robertson is planning a "Laugh Lines" anthology as her outgoing legacy. She asks that members send short humorous poems to her by June 15 if they wish to be included in the anthology.

JDarrell Kirkley, Chair for the Arboretum event, gave a run-down of the May 22 schedule. Attendees should go to Gate 1 and tell the guard you are there for the Spring Fling at Rosine Hall. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Poetry readings, complimentary hot

Mexican buffet lunch, door prizes, and winners of the Flower Poem Contest will be part of the day. Sixty-seven people are registered.

Valerie Martin Bailey is retiring after 10 years of service as *The Bulletin* editor. Her last *Bulletin* will be this May edition. If you would like to take this job, contact any Board member. Valerie is preparing a job description detailing the duties of the *Bulletin* editor. We also need a new Life Member Raffle Chair since Birma Castle retired. Additionally, we need a new Annual Contest Chair since Lynn Roberts Grice is retiring as well. We appreciate the service of all these who are retiring.

Spotlight on Members Chair Valerie Bailey introduced our **May Spotlight Poet, Barbara Blanks** of Garland, who needed no introduction. Barb first encouraged everyone to enter contests, and to have faith in their poems and not give up. She stated the old adage: "You can't win if you don't enter. The reason we see the same winners all the time is because those people enter the contests all the time." She then read four of her prize-winning poems.

President Irene Robertson later announced and congratulated Barbara on attaining Life Member status.

Program Chair JDarrell Kirkley introduced our program speaker, **Lori Trotter**, better known in the poetic community as Ladydwarf. She is a multi-published poet and spoken word artist who appears at venues throughout the Dallas and Fort Worth area. She is also a registered nurse and teaches at a charter school. She wrote her first poem when she was six years old, saying, "I had some dark times in childhood and was afraid to tell anyone. I learned if I took words and forced them into some kind of rhyme, I had control of it. You can pour out your emotion on paper, and it doesn't matter if anyone else likes it. A poem is a story your heart writes." Lori has written several books, including *Wit and Wisdom of the Balcony Club*, *Horizon Rhymin'*, *Random Rhymin'*, and *Navigating Murky Water*. All are available on Amazon <https://tinyurl.com/yfnekmf4>. Three of her books are at Audible.com. Lori's TikToc handle is *lorindfw*, and she maintains a Facebook page.

Nominating Committee Chair Catherine L'Herisson, along with the Nominating Committee consisting of Jeanette Strother, Budd Powell Mahan, Barbara Berry, and Steve Sanders, unanimously agreed on this proposed slate of officers for the 2022-23 term. She noted that board members perform other duties in addition to board duties that keep PST functioning. Irene Robertson remains president until August 31.

This is the slate of officers who will form the new

Board and be seated on September 1st.

President: Rich Weatherly

Vice President: Catherine L'Herisson

Recording Secretary: Barbara Blanks

Corresponding Secretary: Sarah Wood

Treasurer: Neal Ostman

Director: Valerie Martin Bailey

Director: JDarrell Kirkley

Director: Carol Thompson

Catherine L'Herisson called twice for nominations from the floor, but none were offered. Barbara Berry made a motion, Sylvia Medel seconded the motion, and the new board was voted in by acclamation.

Monthly Contest Winners

13 Entries

Critic Judge: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO.

First: Cade Huie, Grand Prairie "May Morning 3:00 a.m."

Second: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

Third: Johnnie B. Carter, Humble

Laugh Lines Judge: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

Laugh Lines Winner: JDarrell Kirkley, Alba

Book Prize Winners

Popular: Beth Honeycutt, Denton

Wm. D. Barney: Barbara Blanks, Garland

Naomi Simmons: Manuel English, Poulosbo, WA

Ted Badger: JDarrell Kirkley, Alba

Birma's Collection: Nancy Bowman Ballard, Springtown.

Other poems were by Susan Maxwell Campbell, Neal Ostman, Richard P. Hurzeler, and Irene Robertson.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER THE CATHERINE CASE LUBBE MANUSCRIPT CONTEST

You may submit your manuscript of 45 to 60 pages of poetry between June 1 and August 1, 2022. The prize is 50 copies of your book, ready to market, and a monetary award of \$100. Now is the time to start considering your entry.

Read all the rules on the web page of the Poetry Society of Texas and get your entry in before the August 1st deadline. You could be the big winner of a book of your own.

POETRY *Unmasked*

The Many Faces of Poetry

Please join us on Thursday, July 14th–Saturday, July 16th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Allen, Texas for the 2022 PST Annual Summer Conference—Hooray! We finally get to gather together for entertainment, inspiration, and education. We are unmasking poetry, but poets may remain masked. Please choose what is best and most comfortable for you.

This will be a time to see and hear our PST friends, to have workshops that make us *want* to write, and other sessions that will make us think and learn. We will hear from Dr. Robert Parkey (Wichita Falls Poetry Society), Jan Seale (Texas Poet Laureate 2012), Katherine Hoerth (Editor of Lamar University Literary Press), R. Scott Yarbrough whom you may remember from 2012, 2013, and many other times.

The winner of the Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Contest, Christine Irving, will share poems and details about her journey of putting together a prize-winning manuscript. The 2022 winner of the William D. Barney Chapbook Contest, Eric Blanchard, will share from his new chapbook. In addition, we will get to hear from Catherine L’Herisson, our 2020 Barney winner, and Loretta Diane Walker our 2021 Barney winner.

By the way, we will be doing the “You Be The Judge Contest,” but we shorten the length to 15 lines in an effort to streamline the reading and voting.

You may remember the Hilton Garden Inn in Allen, from 2012 and 2016. The hotel has given us a good price for attendees. The rooms are \$109/night (plus tax), and this includes a great breakfast. The link for booking a room is: <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=DALALGI&group-Code=PSTC22&arrivaldate=2022-07-14&departure-date=2022-07-16&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>.

If you are only staying one night, be sure to click “edit stay” at the top of the page.

The **Mockingbird Poetry Society** is pleased to host this year’s conference. Registration will open at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday the 14th. Sessions will begin at 3:00 p.m. Expect great sessions on all three days. We look forward to seeing you there. The registration form is posted on the PST website now and will be emailed to PST members. Please come! If you expect to sell your book(s) at the conference, please read the important information on the next page, and comply with all the instructions,

Special information for those planning to sell their book(s) at the Conference Bookstore that will be managed by our established and efficient Bookstore Manager: Michaud L. Lamrouex. These are his instructions:

Conference attendees who wish to sell their book(s) at the PST Summer Conference must bring them to the conference because shipments from non-attendees will not be accepted for sale. The Plano Room will be the site of all book sales, including those to benefit the PST Life Member Fund, as well as the place to view the items donated for drawings to benefit the fund.

Authors and Speakers please note: Each book must have a label on the inside cover (easily removeable 3” X 3” Post-it Note) with the following information listed: Author, Title, Price.

NOTE: Ten (10) days prior to the Conference, all attendees who intend to sell books must send a list via e-mail to Bookstore manager Michaud L. Lamrouex at lamrouex@sbcglobal.net. The list must include all books that authors and speakers intend to sell. This list shall contain: 1) the author’s name, 2) the title of the book, 3) the number of books of each title for sale, and 4) the price of each title. Michaud computerizes all this information and sets up his spreadsheets for each author in advance.

These are not suggestions, they are instructions: **failure to comply with these instructions is not an option.**

**Carol Thompson one of PST’s Directors and our Extension Chair announces that we have a new chapter in the Poetry Society of Texas. We are pleased to welcome our most recent PST Chapter...
THE GREATER ELLIS COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY headquartered in Waxahachie, a southern suburb of Dallas and a great place to live.
Ed Mestyaneck was instrumental in organizing this energetic group. We expect to be hearing good things from the newest chapter in PST’s great family of Chapters.**



ROUNDING UP THE PST CHAPTER NEWS FROM ACROSS THE STATE OF



ALAMO AREA POETS

Toni Murguia Reporting

President Antoinette Winstead called the meeting to order. Antonia Murguia led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silent meditation. The minutes for the April meeting were approved.

Jean Jackson, our featured poet, teaches a class of poetry at the Academy of Learning Continuing Education. She spoke of an online class she took that focused on where we live. The class started with each person making a floor plan of the house they grew up in. In each room everyone wrote three memories that happened in that room. Then the class exchanged papers and someone had to pick a memory that you had written about. Jean said when she was told which memory to write about she found that it was different because she did not get to choose. Jean then read poems from many poets who also spoke of rooms. Everyone enjoyed learning about what a memory of where we lived can spark our writing. We thanked Jean for her wonderful presentation

The winners for our Assigned Topic April poems are as follows: 2nd HM—Carol Siskovic, 1st HM—Lea Fagin, 3rd Pl—Sheila Moore, 2nd Pl—Antonia Murguia, 1st Pl—Iris Maahs. Winners in the Open topic were: 2nd HM—Antonia Murguia, 1st HM—Carol Siskovic, 3rd Pl—Antoinette Winstead, 2nd Pl—Sheila Moore 1st Pl—Patricia Keoughan.

We thanked President Winstead for helping us this year by creating the Zoom meetings to get through the pandemic. We look forward to meeting in person for the 2022-2023 AAPT Poetry year.

Our last meeting for the year was then adjourned.

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY

Jeffrey Taylor Reporting

The Austin Poetry Society (APS) continues to hold its meetings on Zoom (link sent to members, e-mail austinpoetrysociety@gmail.com for the link). The feature at the April monthly meeting was Louise Gail Richardson.

The May monthly meeting on May 4th will feature

Preston Tyree reading from his chapbook *Wars Kill People*.

Winners of the most recent APS poetry contest were announced, after which the meeting was adjourned.

BEAUMONT POETRY SOCIETY

Jerry Sells Reporting

Members of the Beaumont Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas participated in a Poetry Slam given by Theodore John Library on April 23rd. It was a small turn-out, but fun was had by all who came out to share their gift of poetry. Dorothy Sell Clover hosted this family-friendly event. Ms. Clover was featured as “Artist of the Month” by Artists of Southeast Texas, an organization committed to community revitalization of all Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana.

DENTON POET’S ASSEMBLY

The Denton Poet’s Assembly meets from 10:00 a.m till noon on the third Saturday of the month, year-round. at the Emily Fowler Branch Library in Denton. Meetings open with a spotlight reading of a member, followed by a brief lesson on a contemporary poet and a sharing of our original poems inspired by that author’s work; we also read an original free topic poem. We participate annually in Merging Visions with members of the Visual Arts Society of Texas. We exhibit in public area venues that pair our poems and VAST members’ art.

FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY

Helen Dent Reporting

The Fort Worth Poetry Society met for their annual social on May 27th at the home of John Bartell. In attendance were Steve Sanders, John Bartell, Cade Huie, Denise Salerno, Charlie Hilliard, Neal Ostman, and Helen Dent.

After members recorded poems for the Fort Worth Society YouTube page, Cade Huie read the opening poem.

In new business, the Fort Worth Society YouTube page will soon be available and members will be able to upload contributions. TikTok is also a possible platform.

for the Forth Worth Poetry Society.

GREATER ELLIS COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY

No Reporter Announced Yet

We are excited to welcome a new chapter to the PST family of poets. This chapter is brand new so no news is being announced for the month of May. We are eager to hear from our new chapter.

HI-PLAINS CHAPTER

Frances Ferris Reporting

We are a workshop group. Members submit one or more poems for critique. Chapter members promote poetry in various towns of our members: Amarillo, Canyon, Happy, Pampa, and Wayside with outreach throughout the Panhandle. We meet on the third Saturday of February, April, June, and July from 2:00–4:00 p.m. at the Kingswood United Methodist Church.

MOCKINGBIRD POETRY SOCIETY

Barry Rynk Reporting

The Mockingbird Poetry Society met Saturday, May 7th at the Heard-Craig Carriage House. Twelve members plus one guest attended. After club business, we shared fifteen original poems.

The 51st Collin County Poetry Contest awards ceremony, April 23rd, was attended by 46 of 60 overall winners. The May 1st Filtered Coffee Shop “May Day” Poetry Open Mic was well received and attended by both Mockingbird and Denton Poet’s Assembly members. Beth Ayers and Barry Rynk were selected winners in the Collin College Spring 2022 Poetry Contest. Beth Ayers and Susan Mardele are participating in the LORE StorySLAM at the Filtered Coffee Shop on the May 29th premiere.

A Mockingbird outing is planned for May 1st at the First United Methodist Church in the Colony to view stained glass windows designed by fellow Mockingbird poet Edmund Burke.

Alice Parker was featured in an interview by Ya Ya Diamond for her *Choice of Changes* and *Friends* books.

POETS NORTHWEST

Eric V. Blanchard Reporting

During the April meeting, Poets Northwest celebrated poets who have influenced and inspired us in our own writing. Each member read a poem written by another poet and then shared a poem of their own that was inspired by that poet or that poet’s works. The poets

who had inspired us were Naomi Shihab Nye, Budd Powell Mahan, Gerald Stern, and others. Some attendees briefly discussed in what ways their work has been influenced by their chosen poets.

Poets Northwest welcomes visitors and guests. If you happen to be in our 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

The Rusk County Poetry Society members celebrated poetry all through the month of April. During the monthly meeting, they wrote collaborative poems titled “Signs of Spring.” Following the meeting, RCPS delivered 4 copies of *Celebration: 50 Years of Poets and Their Poetry* to the Rusk County Library System for circulation among libraries in Henderson, Overton, Mt. Enterprise, and Tatum. Members Sue Morrow, Carol Thompson, and Janet Tyner posted original poems on the April “Poet-tree” in the Tyler Public Library. At the annual Poetry in Schools Awards in Kilgore, RCPS presented a scholarship to the winner of first prize for grade twelve. Adrienne Pamplin and Carol Thompson were among the judges for the contest which recognizes young poets across the East Texas region. On April 21st, ten members of the Rusk County Poetry Society met at the South Main Church of Christ in Henderson. President Mary Tindall called the meeting to order and Richard Hurzeler offered a prayer. Charles Taylor distributed the treasurer’s report. Spotlight Poet Adrienne Pamplin shared poems written by Betty Norman, Adrienne’s mother and a former member of RCPS. Adrienne read two poems she and her mother wrote about each other. She also shared hinky-pinky poems with two words per line. Jo Morrow presented a lesson about Kyrielle, a French poetic form consisting of at least three quatrains with eight syllables to the line, and a refrain as the last line of each stanza. The writing prompt for May is to write a Kyrielle that includes climactic development from stanza to stanza. The next meeting of the Rusk County Poetry Society will be held in the same location on Thursday, May 19th.

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

On Saturday, May 21, SAPA had its final meeting for the 2021-2022 poetry year. We begin again in September, looking forward to meeting in person again. We will combine our in person meeting with Zoom functionality. Program Chairman and resident tech guru Floyd (Michaud) L. Lamrouex said he has the technology to combine big wide screen projector technology with video and sound together with those of us present in the flesh so that our meetings will be both virtual and in person. We all eagerly anticipate his technological coup.

Our meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent meditation. President Sheila Tingley Moore then received approval of the previous meeting's minutes, this month prepared by our vice president Antoinette Winstead who stood in for our Recording Secretary Valerie Bailey who was attending a family funeral. Treasurer Floyd Lamrouex presented the Treasurer's report, which was approved.

From a laptop in a car, Lamrouex announced the 2021-2022 Poet Laureate, Sheila Tingley Moore and the Poet Laureate runner-up Antoinette Winstead. Sheila Moore received the Poetic Excellence Award as well. Congratulations to Sheila and Antoinette for honors well deserved.

Our April Assigned Topic winners were as follows: HM—Sheila Moore, 3rd place: Pat Gibbs, 2nd place: Carol Siskovic, 1st place: Sheri Anderson. Winners in the Poet's Choice contest were: HM: Pat Gibbs, 3rd place: Clyta Coder, 2nd place: Sheila Moore, 1st place: Antoinette Winstead.

Our April contest judge was Barbara Blanks. We thank her for her time and expertise as our judge. We then read our May contest poems.

Finally, we had a discussion about possible 2022–2023 lectures and other program topics. President Sheila Moore then closed the meeting, wishing a productive and Covid free summer to all.

WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY

Nick Schreiber Reporting

Nine members and two guests met in the Texas room of the Kemp Center for the Arts for the final meeting of the 2021-22 year. We discussed all things poetry. Sheri Sutton provided refreshments and drinks.

The meeting started with Officers' reports as usual, which went quickly through the Treasurer's

and President's reports.

During Committee Reports, it was determined that WFPS will conduct a Thursday evening reading during the October Mystery Art Exhibition, an event that has been a positive collaboration for the past half-decade.

The ekphrastic submissions for the Sculpture Art Exhibit have been framed and are on display at the Kemp Center.

The Book Committee reported that we had a successful sale at the MSU-Texas Lifelong Learning Center program in April.

An outstanding monthly program was then given by our very own Dr. Lynn Hoggard on the ancient poetic form of the Ghazal, which originated in the Middle East in the seventh and eighth centuries. The form contains several challenging technical elements, including the matla, radif, and the quafia, within five non-narrative couplets. Addressing the traditional subjects of love and longing, as well as strict adherence to technical form will make for an interesting project over the summer months.

The deadline for the contest is August 31 by midnight. Jeanette Strother of Mansfield served as the judge for our May Contest on the Pirouette form with results as follows:

1st: Rozsellen Sheetz, "The Unexpected Descent"

2nd: Lynn Hoggard, "Love on the Rocks"

3rd: Sheri Sutton, "Genuine Love"

MIKE BALDWIN ANNOUNCES PUBLICATION

Mike Baldwin's newest novel *Neanderthal Gita* is now available from Amazon and other sellers as well as its publisher, Atmosphere Press. *Neanderthal Gita* is a novel of high adventure, and there is nothing else like it on the market. I was intrigued several years ago by the new scientific information about Neanderthals that was just coming to light. I did extensive research on Neanderthals and incorporated it into *Neanderthal Gita*, along with an exciting story plot and characters you won't soon forget. Here's the link to the *Neanderthal Gita* soft cover on Amazon: *Neanderthal Gita*: Baldwin:978639883028: Amazon.com:Books and to the Kindle version: Amazon.com:*Neanderthal Gita eBook*:

You can purchase a signed copy by e-mailing Mike Baldwin at librmike@hotmail.com, and he will give you instructions to obtain your copy.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT APRIL 2022

from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.....176	Sustaining Members..... 5
Associate Members.....10	Recently Deceased..... 1
Life Members.....31	New Members.....11
Student Members.....16	Renewing Members.....2
Supporting Members.....2	Total Membership.....253

WELCOME NEW PST MEMBERS

Brian Cummings, Allen Zack Riley, Palmer
Preston F. Kirk, Waco Jack Gibson, Hideaway
7 New Members from Waxahachie
Mary Avila, Alyssa Cheney, Jessica Cheney
Ed Mestyaneck, Brook Miller,
Trevor Riley, Abundio Vasquez



YOU WILL LOVE PST!



Book Donations Report

From PST Librarian Barbara Blanks



There was one book donation to the PST collection at the Dallas Central Library this month:

Being Superman by John Brooks

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. Send the books to Barbara Blanks. Her address is listed with the Executive Board.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO...

Michaud L. Lamrouex

At the death of his father, George E. Lamrouex on May 9, two days after Michaud's birthday on May 7. He died after a long battle with lung cancer. The Memorial Service is June 4 in Seligman, Arizona.



Sympathy also to family and friends of Inez Grimes

Inez Grimes died at the age of 100 years. A long time member of PST, she will be missed by her many poet friends.

★ THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ★

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TO ALL MY PST FRIENDS

Ten years have flown by and this is my last *Bulletin* to prepare and send out to you. Since I usually don't do a *Bulletin* in the summer months or in November that means I have done eight issues each year, so with 80 issues under my belt, it's time to retire and give someone else the pleasure of editing the PST *Bulletin*.

I hope someone steps up and volunteers to replace me soon. And I hope that whoever takes the job enjoys it as much as I have enjoyed it. I am looking forward to having a little more leisure time to write poetry and enter some contests.

God bless you all, Valerie Bailey