



Maine Poets Society

a voice for Maine Poets

since 1936

The Maine Poets Society is

An organization of Maine writers actively engaged in creating poetry, who wish to:

- ❖ broaden their knowledge of poetry
- ❖ increase their skills
- ❖ share their knowledge to help other writers develop and achieve
- ❖ encourage high standards in writing and judging poetry
- ❖ broaden fellow members' interest, understanding, and appreciation of our rich poetic heritage
- ❖ support poetry in schools by encouraging students and assisting teachers, libraries, and other organizations to sponsor contests and readings

membership

By paying the annual dues, anyone may become a member who:

- ❖ is interested in poetry
- ❖ subscribes to the objectives of the society
- ❖ agrees to participate regularly in the activities of the society

gatherings

Are held three times a year in different parts of the state to enable as many people to attend as possible.

Meetings are scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and include:

- ❖ coffee and registration (a registration fee is charged for members and guests)
- ❖ brief business meeting
- ❖ lunch (at the facility, with each person paying for his or her own)
- ❖ two poetry contests
- ❖ speaker and/or reader
- ❖ workshop and/or discussion
- ❖ reading in the round (all present may read an original poem aloud)

Guests are welcome!

mentor program

Mentor programs are available to less experienced members who wish to pair up with more established poets, members who will act as advisors, counselors and critics.

contests

Two contests are held for members in conjunction with each gathering to give opportunity and encouragement to keep writing and to receive constructive feedback, recognition, and praise from knowledgeable judges. Subject, form, and line limit for each contest are announced in the preceding newsletter. Poems are sent anonymously to judges who make written decisions and comments on each entry, presented orally at the meeting. Judges' choices of the top three entries in each contest are recognized with certificates, cash awards, and publication in the newsletter. Honorable mentions for each contest are awarded certificates.



"I feel one of the best things MPS has done for me is to encourage me, through the Round Robins and the contests, to write as a discipline, not just when I feel like it. I'm always extra happy when I place in a contest because I know all poems are unsigned and that the judges are varied and don't know the poets – so it's on the merit of the poem."

– Ina Doban, Camden, Member since 1991

newsletter



Stanza, the MPS newsletter, issued after each gathering, features:

- ❖ publication of the winning poems in each contest
- ❖ announcement of honorable mentions (may be published if space allows)
- ❖ reports of the most recent gathering
- ❖ date and location of next meeting
- ❖ plans for the next contest
- ❖ member news
- ❖ general poetry news
- ❖ markets
- ❖ letters to the Society

round robins

Are composed of six or seven members who constructively criticize each other's poetry by mail. When a participant receives the Robin, she/he puts in an original poem, comments on the other poems, and sends the packet on to the next person on the list. A postcard is sent to the Round Robin Secretary who tracks the Robin's progress. When the Robin comes round again, the old poem — now covered with comments — is removed, replaced, and the packet sent on as before.

history

The Waterville Poets Club and the Dover-Foxcroft Poetry Circle joined in 1936 to form the Poetry Fellowship of Maine. In 1993, the name was changed to Maine Poets Society to reflect the organization's changing emphasis on a statewide network of writers sharing their work.

affiliation

The society is affiliated with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). Maine Poets Society membership fee includes NFSPS membership, and allows our members the opportunity to participate in a variety of contests and events each year. For more information, visit NFSPS online at www.nfsp.com.



Maine Poets Society Membership Application

Name _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

If published, please list publications (on separate sheet if necessary) _____

Please check if you would like to participate in:

Round Robin _____ Mentor Program (check one): Being an MPS Mentor _____ / Having an MPS Mentor _____

Annual Dues (\$20) _____ Donation \$ _____

Make check or money order payable to Maine Poets Society and send to:

Cynthia Brackett-Vincent, Membership Chairperson, P.O. Box 187, Farmington, ME 04938

NOTE: Maine Poets Society is a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies.

For information, visit their website at www.nfsp.com.

MPS memberships run through December 31st. Renewals are due in January of each calendar year.

(New memberships received in September or later are extended through the next calendar year.)