

# 2024 Call for Submissions

## PSM Peninsula Poets Contest Edition

### **READ CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY**

- Call for Submissions opens June 1, 2024. **Poems AND payment must be received by August 1, 2024 - no exceptions. Checks must be postmarked by July 25. Sooner is highly advised. Your submission includes both your poem(s) and payment.**
- Simultaneous submissions and previously published poems are not accepted, including on any social media.
- Indicate in your submission exactly how you wish your name to appear in the publication if you win.
- While you may submit a single poem to each category (up to ten separate poems), no poem may be submitted to more than one category.
- Line limits: Category 2 has a line limit of 18 lines. Other categories have no line limit.
- Page limits: A page length limit of one page per poem is preferred, but poems may extend a bit beyond if necessary.
- Artwork is not accepted.
- Please read the requirements of individual categories and adhere to them. They are not all the same.
- Please check our Facebook page periodically for important updates. They will not appear on our website.
- Overseas entries are welcome; however, your poem(s) and fee(s) must arrive within the time frame described above. Payment must be in USD in the form of a personal check. No Western Union or other forms of payment are accepted.
- You do not have to reside in Michigan or be a member of PSM to enter. Please visit: <https://poetrysocietyofmichigan.com> for full membership details and a membership form to fill out and return with payment (to the Kalamazoo address), if you wish to join.
- Questions? Contact Diana Hart at [psmppcontest@gmail.com](mailto:psmppcontest@gmail.com).

### ***EMAIL SUBMISSIONS (Strongly preferred – see sample next page):***

- **Email subject line** must include your last name, and 2024 PSM Peninsula Poets Contest. Example: "Hart, 2024 PSM Peninsula Poets Contest"
- **In the body of your email**, do include all the following, and only the following:
  - author's full name and current PSM membership status (PSM Member: Yes/No)
  - mailing address, phone number, and email address
  - a list of category(ies) and poem title(s) being submitted
- **Submit poems in a single attachment:** Microsoft Word file, Times New Roman, size 12 font, single-spaced with one-inch margins, and left-justified. No headers, footers, or formatted/inserted page breaks. Poems should appear in numerical order by category number, each poem on its own page within the attachment. Your name and contact information should not appear anywhere in or on the attachment. NO PDFs accepted. Each poem in the attachment should include only: Category#, poem title, poem, in that order.
- Send your email submission to: [psmppcontest@gmail.com](mailto:psmppcontest@gmail.com). \*See **ENTRY FEES** below.

**\*NOTE: Even if your poems are submitted via email, your payment must be RECEIVED by us no later than Aug. 1. Postmark mailed checks by July 25, to ensure their arrival by August 1. Late submissions (poems and/or payment) will be disqualified. Plan accordingly.**

### ***HARD COPY SUBMISSIONS (see sample next page):***

- If you do not have email, please mail hard copies to **PSM Peninsula Poets Contest Edition, 5325 Chickadee Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009**. Same format as email: one poem per page preferred (if a poem is longer, please print that poem double-sided, no staples), with only the category#, poem title, and poem, in that order, on each poem. Times New Roman, size 12 font, single-spaced, one-inch margins, and left-justified. Your name and contact information should not appear anywhere on any poem.
- **Include a separate sheet** with all the following, and only the following on it:
  - author's full name and current PSM membership status (PSM Member: Yes/No)
  - mailing address, phone number, and email address (**phone and/or email required** – plus mailing address)
  - a list of category(ies) and poem title(s) submitted
  - SASE for notification of receipt of materials, if you do not include an email address.
- Include your check for payment of entry fee(s). \*See **ENTRY FEES** below.

**\*NOTE: Your hard copy poems AND payment must be RECEIVED by Aug. 1. Postmark your submission with check by July 25, to ensure arrival by August 1. Late submissions (poems and/or payment) will be disqualified. Plan accordingly.**

**Sample poetry submission, and sample email/cover sheet:**

Category 1

Come Together

Here come old flat-top,  
He come groovin' up slowly  
He got ju ju eyeball,  
He one holy roller  
He got hair down to his knee  
Got to be a joker, he just do what he please  
Etc.etc.etc.etc.etc.....

Ima Beatle, PSM Member/Yes

123 Main St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

[myemailaddress@gmail.com](mailto:myemailaddress@gmail.com)  
269.123.4567

Category 1: Come Together  
Category 2: Let It Be  
Category 5: Because  
Category 10: Across The Universe

**ENTRY FEES:**

**Categories 1 and 8:**

- Members: \$4 each
- Non-Members: \$6 each

**Categories 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10:**

- Members: \$2 each
- Non-Members: \$4 each

**\*All Checks must be made out to Poetry Society of Michigan and mailed to:**

PSM Peninsula Poets Contest Edition  
c/o Diana Hart  
5325 Chickadee Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

**\*Payment in the form of checks in USD only are accepted.** Residents of AK and HI, and countries outside of the contiguous United States, should postmark submissions with payment no later than July 18. Moneygram, Western Union and the like are not accepted.

**\*If you are not a member and wish to join or renew your membership:** please include with your submission a **separate check** in the amount of \$30 for the annual membership fee, designated as such in the 'for' line of your check. Mail with completed form to the Kalamazoo address listed above. **If you are in doubt as to your membership status,** please inquire in advance of submission so that your contest entry fee is calculated correctly and postmarked by July 25. Failure to correctly calculate your fees based on membership status may result in disqualification. **Email Deb Belcher with questions about your membership status:**

[membership.psm@gmail.com](mailto:membership.psm@gmail.com)

**Category 1: Margo LaGattuta Memorial Award**

In 2011 **Margo LaGattuta** was posthumously named the first Honorary Chancellor for PSM. The category is sponsored by Polly Opsahl and Friends of Margo. Any subject, any form.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>--\$100, 2<sup>nd</sup>--\$50, 3<sup>rd</sup>--\$25

**Category 2: Chancellor's Prize**

**The Chancellor's Prize:** A poem of eighteen lines or less, any subject. **Open to poets who have not yet published a full-length book of poems** (chapbook and self-published full-length books excepted). Sponsored by Honorary Chancellor Eric Torgersen.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>--\$75, 2<sup>nd</sup>--\$50, 3<sup>rd</sup>--\$25

**Category 3: Founder's Prize**

**The Founder's Prize** is sponsored by Susan Herman, in honor and memory of her grandfather Clifford Allen, one of the founding members of the Poetry Society of Michigan, for a poem in any style about Michigan.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>--\$50, 2<sup>nd</sup>--\$35, 3<sup>rd</sup>--\$15

**Category 4: The Barbara Sykes Memorial Humorous Poem**

**Barbara Sykes** loved to write humorous poems. The award is sponsored by her niece, Patricia Barnes, for a humorous poem in any form.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>--\$50, 2<sup>nd</sup>--\$35, 3<sup>rd</sup>--\$15

**Category 5: George Dila Memorial Prose Poem**

**George Dila** was a beloved award-winning writer of fiction and poetry and the founder of Ludington Visiting Writers. The award is sponsored by Phillip Sterling for a prose poem, any subject.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>--\$50, 2<sup>nd</sup>--\$35, 3<sup>rd</sup>--\$15

**Category 6: Nature – The Jude P. Dunbar Memorial Prize**

A poem in any style about Nature. The award is sponsored by Melanie Dunbar, in honor and memory of her father.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>--\$50, 2<sup>nd</sup>--\$35, 3<sup>rd</sup>--\$25

**Category 7: Love**

A poem in any style about Love. The award is sponsored by the Poetry Society of Michigan.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>--\$50, 2<sup>nd</sup>--\$35, 3<sup>rd</sup>--\$15

**Category 8: Music - The Faruq Z. Bey Award for Writing or Poetry related to Music**

This award is sponsored by the Detroit Writers Guild (DWG) in honor of the great jazz saxophonist Faruq Z. Bey. Any form.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>--\$100, 2<sup>nd</sup>--\$50, 3<sup>rd</sup>--\$25

**Category 9: Loss**

This award is sponsored by George Wylie. A poem in any style about Loss.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>--\$35, 2<sup>nd</sup>--\$25, 3<sup>rd</sup>--\$15

**Category 10: Women and Science**

The **Dr. Lucille E. Thompson Decker Memorial Award** is sponsored by Dr. Kathleen P. Decker on behalf of her mother. Lucille was born in 1927 in Grand Rapids and had a distinguished academic and professional career before retiring as a Senior Associate Editor in the Biochemistry Department at Chemical Abstracts Services. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>--\$50, 2<sup>nd</sup>--\$35, 3<sup>rd</sup>--\$15