

**Call for Submissions
2026 PSM Peninsula Poets Contest Edition**

READ CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY

- Contest dates: June 15 – Aug. 10, 2026. **Poems and payment must be received by NOON of August 10th, 2026 with no exceptions. Late entries will be discarded and late fees will be retained as a donation to PSM. Thank you!**
- No simultaneous submissions or previously published poems, including on social media.
- One poem per category (up to 10 different poems), with no poem submitted to more than one category.
- Category 2, up to 18 lines. Other categories, no line limit. Page limit: one page strongly preferred. No artwork.
- Michigan residence/PSM membership not required, but you can join PSM before June 1 to get the member rate: <https://poetrysocietyofmichigan.com/about/>
- We only accept properly formatted, emailed submissions. Submit early in case your poem needs reformatting.
- Questions? Contact David James at PSMpoetrycontest@gmail.com. Check our Facebook page for updates.

FORMATTING - EMAILED SUBMISSIONS ONLY (follow examples below exactly):

- **Subject line:** Last name, 2026 PSM Peninsula Poets Contest. (Ex: “SMITH, 2026 PSM Peninsula Poets Contest”)
- **Body of email:** includes ALL AND ONLY the following:
 - Poet’s full name and current PSM membership status as of 5/31/26: (My Name, PSM Member: Yes/No)
 - Mailing address, email address, and phone number
 - A list of category number(s) and poem title(s) submitted.
- **Submit poems in one, single attachment:**
 - Microsoft Word file, Times New Roman size 12 font, **single-spaced** (not “exactly,” “multiple,” “1.5” or any other specification).
 - One-inch margins, left-justified; no headers, footers, or formatted/inserted page breaks.
 - Poems in numerical order by category number, each poem on its own page within the attachment.
 - Each page in the attachment includes only: Category number, poem title, poem, in that order, with **no contact information in the attachment**. NO PDFs. Please follow the examples below.
- **Email your submission to:** PSMpoetrycontest@gmail.com

Attachment Example:

Category 1
Poem Title
Words words
Words words words words
Words words words word
Words words word
Words words words word
Words words words

Body of email Example:

Poet's Name, PSM Member/Yes
123 Main St. Kalamazoo, MI 49009
myemailaddress@gmail.com 269.123.4567
Category 1: Poem Title Category 4: Poem Title Category 7: Poem Title

ENTRY FEES:

- Pay upon submission ON THE PSM WEBSITE under the “Annual Poetry Contest” tab.
- **FORWARD the PayPal or Venmo receipt you get back (or a screenshot of it) to David James at: PSMpoetrycontest@gmail.com before Aug. 10, NOON. Your name should be on the receipt you forward.**
- **Fees:** Members: \$3 per poem Non-Members: \$5 per poem

***If you don't know your membership status,** email Tasha Webber at treasurer.psm@gmail.com to inquire before submitting. Membership must be current or renewed by May 31, 2026 to qualify for member rates.

***Online payment is strongly preferred via the PSM website “Annual Poetry Contest tab”; however, if paying by check the same deadline applies for receipt of payment. Mail checks to: PSM Poetry Contest, P.O. Box 1035, Cadillac, MI 49601.**

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: 1st/\$100, 2nd/\$50, 3rd/\$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: 1st/\$100, 2nd/\$50, 3rd/\$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 “about philately, postage stamps, postcards, the art of letter writing or letter poems.”

Prizes: 1st/\$100, 2nd/\$50, 3rd/\$25

Category 4: The Barbara Sykes Memorial Humorous Poem

Barbara Sykes loved to write humorous poems. The award is sponsored by her niece, Honorary Chancellor Patricia Barnes, for a humorous poem in any form.

Prizes: 1st/\$100, 2nd/\$50, 3rd/\$25

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: 1st/\$100, 2nd/\$50, 3rd/\$25

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: 1st/\$100, 2nd/\$50, 3rd/\$25

Category 7: Overcoming Adversity

A poem in any style about overcoming adversity. The award is sponsored by Mary Ann Bozenski.

Prizes: 1st/\$100, 2nd/\$50, 3rd/\$25

Category 8: Music - The Faruq Z. Bey Award for 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: 1st/\$100, 2nd/\$50, 3rd/\$25

Category 9: Loss

This award is sponsored by George Wylie. A poem in any style about Loss.

Prizes: 1st/\$100, 2nd/\$50, 3rd/\$25

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: 1st/\$100, 2nd/\$50, 3rd/\$25