

# POETRY SOCIETY OF AMERICA

## ANNUAL AWARD GUIDELINES

The PSA's Annual Awards are among the most prestigious honors available to poets. They offer emerging and established poets recognition at all stages of their careers. The awards recognize everything from a single poem written by a high school student to a first book, to our highest honor, the Frost Medal, which celebrates a lifetime achievement in poetry.

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

#### PSA MEMBER AWARDS: AWARDS 1-5 ARE OPEN ONLY TO PSA MEMBERS

- **Award 1—The Writer Magazine/Emily Dickinson Award—\$250**  
Given by the PSA to honor the memory and poetry of Emily Dickinson, for a poem inspired by Dickinson though not necessarily in her style.
- **Award 2—Cecil Hemley Memorial Award—\$500**  
Established by Jack Stadler, former Treasurer of the PSA, and his late wife, Ralynn Stadler, for a lyric poem that addresses a philosophical or epistemological concern.
- **Award 3—Lyric Poetry Award—\$500**  
Established under the will of PSA member Mrs. Consuelo Ford (Althea Urn), and also in memory of Mary Carolyn Davies, for a lyric poem on any subject.
- **Award 4—Lucille Medwick Memorial Award—\$500**  
Established by Maury Medwick in memory of his wife, the poet and editor, for an original poem in any form on a humanitarian theme.
- **Award 5—Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award—\$1,000**  
Offered in memory of a benefactor and friend of the PSA, and partially endowed by the Estate of Rachel Dalven, and the estate of Ellen Lamon Anderson, for a manuscript-in-progress of poetry or verse-drama. Previously published work may be included in your submission; include acknowledgement of publications on your cover page. Poems entered as part of a Di Castagnola manuscript may be entered individually in other PSA contests, but NOT if they are previously published. Note: The anonymous cover page for this submission must also include a one-paragraph description of the collection or project. Page limit: 20 pages or less.

#### PSA MEMBER/NON-MEMBER AWARDS

##### AWARDS 6-II ARE OPEN TO ALL ELIGIBLE POETS AND PUBLISHERS

- **Award 6—Louise Louis/Emily F. Bourne Student Poetry Award—\$250**  
Endowed under the wills of Louise Louis Whitbread and Ruth M. Bourne, this prize is awarded for the best unpublished poem by a student in grades 9 through 12 from the United States. Teachers or administrators may submit an unlimited number of their students' poems (one submission per student-see Entry Fees, below).
- **Award 7—George Bogin Memorial Award— \$500**  
Established by the family and friends of George Bogin for a selection of four or five poems that use language in an original way to reflect the encounter of the ordinary and the extraordinary and to take a stand against oppression in any of its forms.
- **Award 8—Robert H. Winner Memorial Award—\$2,500**  
Established by the family and friends of Robert H. Winner, whose first book of poems appeared when he was almost fifty years old. This award acknowledges original work being done in mid-career by a poet who has not had substantial recognition, and is open to poets over forty who have published no more than one book. Send a brief but cohesive manuscript of 10 poems (up to 20 pages). Please include year of birth on cover page. Previously published work may be included in your submission; include acknowledgement of publications on your cover page. Poems entered as part of a Winner manuscript may be entered individually in other PSA contests, but NOT if they are previously published.

- **Award 9—Louis Hammer Memorial Award—\$250**  
In memory of Louis Hammer, established by friends of the poet, translator, and editor, for a distinguished poem in the surrealist manner.

## BOOK AWARDS

### AWARDS 10 & 11

Books must be submitted directly by publishers. Entry forms are required. Please email, write, or call Brett Fletcher Lauer, Managing Director at the PSA, to request a form (brett@poetrysociety.org; 212-254-9628). No book may be submitted to both contests.

- **Award 10—Norma Farber First Book Award—\$500**  
Established by the family and friends of Norma Farber, poet and author of children's books, for a first book of original poetry written by an American and published in either a hard or soft cover in a standard edition in 2009. Translations are ineligible, as are chapbooks. Winning books are distributed to PSA members at the Benefactor level or above.
- **Award 11—William Carlos Williams Award—Purchase Prize Between \$500 and \$1,000**  
Endowed by the family and friends of Geraldine Clinton Little, a poet and author of short stories and former vice-president of the PSA, for a book of poetry written by a single author who is a permanent resident of the United States. The book must be published by a small press, non-profit, or university press in a standard edition in 2009. Translations are ineligible, as are chapbooks. Winning books are distributed to PSA members at the Benefactor level or above.

### AWARDS 12 & 13 ARE BY NOMINATION ONLY

- **Award 12—The Frost Medal—\$2,500**  
Awarded annually at the discretion of the PSA's Board of Governors for distinguished lifetime service to American poetry. Since 1995, the recipient of the Frost Medal has delivered the Frost Medal Lecture, a retrospective reading and talk that is the highlight of the Annual Awards Ceremony.

Robert Frost, Edgar Lee Masters, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Marianne Moore, and Wallace Stevens have all been honored by the Poetry Society of America with this Award. The Frost Medal has recently been awarded to Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Michael Harper, Anthony Hecht, John Hollander, Richard Howard, XJ Kennedy, Galway Kinnell, Maxine Kumin, Marie Ponsot, and Sonia Sanchez.

The prize is provided for by a contribution from Jack Stadler, PSA Treasurer Emeritus.

- **Award 13—The Shelley Memorial Award—between \$6,000 and \$9,000**  
Established by the will of the late Mary P. Sears in 1929 and given by nomination only, the Shelley Memorial Award is awarded to a living American poet, selected with reference to his or her genius and need, by a jury of three poets—one appointed by the President of Radcliffe, one by the president of the University of California at Berkeley, and one by the PSA Board of Governors.

Recent winners of this award have included Kimiko Hahn, Lyn Hejinian, Angela Jackson, Yusef Komunyakaa, James McMichael, Alice Notley, Ron Padgett, Ed Roberson, George Stanley, and Gary Young.

## DEADLINE:

The PSA will only accept submissions postmarked between October 1 –December 22, 2009.

## WHAT CAN I SUBMIT:

You can submit to all contests.

You can only submit one entry per contest.

However, you can't submit the same poem to more than one contest:

THE EXCEPTION: Individual poems submitted as part of a group to either the Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award or Robert H. Winner Award may be submitted to another PSA contest.

No previously published work can be submitted:

THE EXCEPTION: The Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award and the Robert Winner Award. Please include a separate cover-sheet for publication acknowledgements.

## HOW TO SUBMIT:

Submissions must be sent in duplicate.

For each individual contest the entry must include two copies of your submission.

Each entry must have a separate cover page or your submission will be disqualified.

The cover page must include:

Name

Address

Email (if available)

Phone

Name of the Award

Title and First Line of first (or only) poem in submission

If you are PSA Member, you must note this on your cover sheet to ensure your contest fee is waived.

Your name should not appear anywhere else besides this cover sheet.

The name of the Award must appear on the right hand corner of each page of your submission.

If you are sending poems to more than one contest, please use the same envelope.

## WHAT IS INELIGIBLE:

Translations are ineligible.

Collaborative work is ineligible.

A poem that has previously won a PSA Award cannot be re-submitted.

Submissions from PSA employees or officers are ineligible.

## ENTRY FEES:

All contests are free to PSA Members, with the exception of the **Norma Farber First Book Award** and the **William Carlos Williams Award**, which must be entered and paid for by the publisher.

The entry fee for Non-Members is **\$15**, which entitles the Non-Member to enter any or all of contests 6 through 9.

High school students may send single entries to the **Louise Louis/Emily F. Bourne Student Poetry Award** for the fee of \$5.

High school teachers or administrators may submit an unlimited number of their students' poems (one submission per student) for a **\$20** entry fee.

Checks should be made payable to the **Poetry Society of America**. Please do not send cash.

**NOTIFICATION:**

For an acknowledgement of receipt of submissions, please include a self-addressed, stamped postcard (SASP).

If you would like to receive a print announcement of the awards winners, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE); the winners will also be announced on our website ([www.poetrysociety.org](http://www.poetrysociety.org)).

No entries will be returned; do not enclose a SASE for that purpose.

Due to the volume of submissions we receive, we cannot inform entrants of incorrectly submitted or disqualified material, nor can we accept any corrections or revisions to submissions.

**WHERE TO SEND:**

The PSA will only accept submissions postmarked between October 1st and December 22nd of 2009.

Express Mail and FedEx packages are acceptable but must also be postmarked on or before December 22nd.

Please mail your submission to:

Poetry Society of America  
Annual Award Submission  
15 Gramercy Park  
New York, N.Y. 10003

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST:**

A completed submission includes:

- TWO copies of your each submission, with a cover sheet attached to one of the copies.
- A SASP if you would like acknowledgement of receipt of submission
- A SASE if you would like to be notified of the winners
- A check for \$15 from Non-Members
- Membership status clearly marked on cover sheet of each entry.