



# 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

## 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

## meetings and gatherings

### General Meetings--Guests Welcome

General meetings are held twice a year (in May and September). We are planning to resume meeting in person with online participation via Zoom or a similar platform. Historically our in-person meetings have had a 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. schedule. A \$10 registration fee has been charged for both members and guests to cover the cost of renting a facility and for refreshments. For our future hybrid meetings, a decision will be made whether to go with an all-day format or only a half day. We know that all day on Zoom can be tiring. The meeting location is still to be determined. Those attending in person are welcome to bring guests. Non-members wanting to attend remotely will be asked to request access to the link.

### For Maine Poets' Society Members

Winter gatherings currently include a workshop (with a limited number of attendees if in-person), and a members-only "Reading in the Round" on Zoom.

### Meetings have included:

- ❖ a brief business meeting
- ❖ open mic (sign up on registration; preference given to those who have not submitted a poem for the contest)
- ❖ workshop and/or discussion
- ❖ lunch (with attendees bringing a bag lunch)
- ❖ poetry contest results
- ❖ critique of winning poems by the contest judge, followed by a reading of his/her own work

## contests

One contest, open to members only, is held 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.



## newsletter

*Stanza*, the MPS newsletter, issued after each general meeting and prior to the winter gatherings, features:

- ❖ publication of the winning poems in each contest
- ❖ reports of the most recent gathering
- ❖ date and location of next meeting
- ❖ plans for the next contest
- ❖ member news
- ❖ general poetry news
- ❖ markets

## 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.nfsps.com](http://www.nfsps.com).

We have a website : [MainePoetsSociety.com](http://MainePoetsSociety.com)

And a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1747588905507733/>

### Maine Poets Society Membership Application\Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had a poem published? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

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

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

**John Seksay, Treasurer, 72 Green St., Augusta, ME 04330**

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

MPS pays for your membership in NFSPS for each year you are a member of MPS.

MPS memberships run through December 31st. Renewals are due on or before January 1st of each calendar year. (New memberships received in September or later are extended through the next calendar year.)