



MAINE POETS SOCIETY

a voice for Maine Poets since 1936

After a one-year hiatus the Maine Poets Society is proud to present our eighth **Maine Prize Poem Contest**, open to all Maine residents. There are two categories: one for poets who have been previously published and one for those who have not, with new and larger prize awards of \$150 and \$75 respectively. The deadline is March 31st, 2026.

Guidelines

- Open to all Maine residents, including seasonal, except for Maine Poets Society board members.
- Entries must be postmarked between January 15th and March 31st, 2026.
- There is a \$6 entry fee for the \$150 prize poem contest, and a \$3.00 entry fee for the \$75 contest for previously unpublished poets.
- You may enter up to 4 poems. Each poem requires a separate entry fee.
- Previously published poems are not eligible. Publication in a newsletter or an online workshop does not count for this purpose.
- Submissions simultaneously submitted elsewhere, and those generated using AI, are not eligible.
- Topic and form are left open, but there is a 50-line limit, not counting title, epigraph, and stanza breaks.
- Entries exceeding this will be disqualified.

Submission Process

- Please send **two** copies of your poem, one identified with your name, mailing address, email address and telephone number and which contest you are entering (previously published or not previously published) and **one with no additional information**, to MPS President Jenny Dougherty, 31 Rustic Lane, Portland, ME 04103.
- If your entry will be postmarked out of state, please enclose a letter verifying your address when resident in Maine.
- Mark your envelope **CONTEST**.
- Enclose a check payable to Maine Poets Society, with 'Contest entry' on the memo line.
- Entries will not be returned, so please retain a copy.

Judge

Our distinguished judge for the \$150 prize poem contest in 2026 will be Meghan Sterling, author of four full length poetry collections and winner of Lily Poetry Review's Paul Nemser Book Prize. She is currently Poet Laureate of Gardiner, Maine.

Presentation

Our prizes will be presented at the 2026 Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance awards evening. The shortlists will be announced beforehand by email and on the MPS Facebook page.