

Poetry



St. Louis Writers Guild
Founded in 1920
stlwritersguild.org

Opens April 1
Deadline June 1
*entries must be postmarked or
emailed before 11:59 pm on June 1.*

Prize Money
First Place \$50
Second Place \$30
Third Place \$20
Honorable Mention \$10

Submit Entries Online at
www.stlwritersguild.org/contest-submission/

Entries can be mailed to:

St. Louis Writers Guild
Attn: Deane Wagner Poetry Contest
P.O. Box 411757
St. Louis, MO, 63141

Award Ceremony at the
SLWG Open Mic Night!

Due to international restrictions, we
are not able to accept international
submissions at this time.

Deane Wagner Poetry Contest

Presented by St. Louis Writers Guild

The Deane Wagner Poetry Contest was named in 1994 to honor a long-time member and poet who tragically passed away, but this contest has been an annual tradition of St. Louis Writers Guild since 1921. It is held each spring with First, Second, and Third Prizes and Honorable Mention awards presented in mid-summer. The contest seeks to discover exceptional, unpublished poems and to encourage poets through recognition and rewards. Historically, entries have come from across the nation and Canada. Stories are blind-judged by an expert in the fields of writing and literature.

Poets do not need to be members of St. Louis Writers Guild to participate in this contest.

PLEASE READ CONTEST GUIDELINES CAREFULLY; THEY WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

Topic: Any topic is allowed, but each poem must be the author's original work and previously unpublished. Poems must be intended for an *adult* audience (rather than for children), but must not contain blatant sexual, violent, religious, political, or other content that is not appropriate for a general audience composed of persons of all ages and sensitivities.

The contest opens to submissions on April 1 for National Poetry Month. Do not mail entries prior to April as they will be disqualified and cannot be returned.

Deadline:

Entries must be **postmarked on or before June 1 of the current year.**

Entry Fee: \$10 for up to two poems. Limit of **two** entries per person.

Please note: The previous year's first-place winner is prohibited from entering the current year's contest.

Judge: The poetry judge is chosen by the board of St. Louis Writers Guild and is compensated for their time.

Judging: Entries are vetted to ensure poets followed the rules. The poetry contest is blind judged. The judge reads all entries and selects winners based on their own criteria.

For a complete biography of the judge, please visit our website.

Announcement of Winners: Winners' names and poem titles will be posted on the St. Louis Writers Guild website and announced in SLWG's electronic newsletter, *Here's News!* Entrants can subscribe to *Here's News!* on SLWG website's Homepage. Winners will also be announced on Facebook and Twitter! A reading of the winning entries will be held at the August Open Mic Night. See website for details.

Deane Wagner Poetry Contest – Submission Guidelines

Prizes Certificates and cash prizes will be awarded as follows to the top place winners:

1st Place \$50

2nd Place \$30

3rd Place \$20

Honorable Mention \$10

Submission Rules:

- Poem must not exceed two pages.
- Include one typed cover sheet indicating poem's title, followed by the author's name, address, telephone number, and email address.
- Poems must be typed in single-spaced format on standard white paper (8-1/2 x 11) in black ink using a standard typeface or font, such as Courier, Times New Roman, Georgia, or Arial.
- You must include a page number in the lower right corner if poem exceeds a single page.
- The poem's title must appear on each page.
- DO NOT INCLUDE THE POET'S NAME ON ANY POEM.
- Entry fees must accompany the submission to be considered by the judge.

St. Louis Writers Guild no longer publishes the full text from the winning poems, so the author retains publication rights. All winners are invited to read their winning entries before a live audience at a special SLWG open mic reading event at the SLWG Open Mic Night. This event may be broadcast online. See website for directions.

Online Submission Guidelines – Must be received by 11:59 pm CST on June 1

- Fill out the form at www.stlwritersguild.org/contest-submission/
- Preferred File Formats for Upload – PDF, .doc, .docx
- Upload all poems on a single form (Max of 2 poems)
- Pay the fee using Stripe.
- A confirmation message will be displayed once successfully completed.
- For questions, please contact SLWGInfo@gmail.com
- Poem and entry fee must be submitted for acceptance.

USPS Mail Submission Guidelines – Must be postmarked on or before June 1

- Hard copies of the stories can be mailed or dropped off at SLWG events while the contest is open.
- *One* typed cover page must be paperclipped to the top page of the manuscript copy, indicating the:
 - Story's title
 - Author's name, address, telephone number, and email address
- Please make checks payable to St. Louis Writers Guild and include in envelope
- The USPS address for submission is: St. Louis Writers Guild, ATTENTION: Deane Wagner Poetry Contest, PO Box 411757, St. Louis, MO, 63141.
- IMPORTANT: Please note that "Signature Required" mail will not be accepted. SLWG cannot respond to telephone and email inquiries concerning receipt of entries.
- MANUSCRIPTS WILL NOT BE RETURNED. DO NOT ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR MANUSCRIPT RETURN. Entrants *may* enclose a SASE postcard for confirmation of receipt.