



# 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). In the spring of 2023, we began offering hybrid meetings with the use of a borrowed OWL system. We have recently purchased our own OWL, which will allow us more flexibility as to where our in-person meetings can take place. Many of our newer members may not know that MPS has historically charged a registration fee for all members and guests at in-person meetings to help with the costs of renting a facility and for the refreshments provided (most recently \$12 per person). The board has voted to forgo that for the foreseeable future as we work out the details of hybrid meetings. There will, however, be a donation jar on the refreshment table for those wishing to help offset the cost of the meetings.

### 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
- ❖ 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 meeting 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 and are also included in the newsletter.



## 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 if available
- ❖ publication & 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 (\$22) \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional 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.)