



Deane Wagner Poetry Contest

Contest Opens April 1
Postmark Deadline June 1

The Deane Wagner Poetry Contest was named to honor a long time member and poet who tragically passed away in the mid-nineties, 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 The contest seeks to discover exceptional, unpublished poems and to encourage poets through recognition and rewards.

St. Louis Writers Guild's Deane Wagner Poetry Contest opens for submissions every April, the deadline is in June, and prizes are awarded in July. Historically, entries have come from all 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.

GUIDELINES

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Topic: Any topic is allowed, but each poem must be the author's original work and previously unpublished.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.

Contest Opening: The contest opens for submissions on April 1.

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 first manuscript, \$5 additional entry; limit **five** entries per person. Make check or money order payable to St. Louis Writers Guild and include with entry.

Submission Rules:

Poem must not exceed two pages.

Submit two copies of each poem mailed together in one envelope.

Include one typed cover sheet indicating poems' 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 entry.

DO NOT INCLUDE THE POET'S NAME ON ANY ENTRY.

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

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 in July 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 too!

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

1st Place \$100

2nd Place \$75

3rd Place \$50

The top three finalist entries that do not place for the top cash prizes will receive **Honorable Mention certificates and \$10.**

St. Louis Writers Guild no longer publishes the full text from the winning poems, so that the author retains the 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 Station Open Mic Night on the Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. See website for directions.

St. Louis media will be contacted to publicize the contest's outcomes and the winners' names and stories will be retained in the St. Louis Writers Guild archives at Central Public Library in St. Louis for posterity.

Submission Mailing Address

All submissions are required to be **MAILED**, using the United States Postal Service and must bear a postmark date on or before the Deadline (June 1, of the current year). Mail entry to:

**St. Louis Writers Guild
Attention: DEANE WAGNER POETRY CONTEST
P.O. 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.

POEMS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

DO NOT ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.

Entrants may enclose a SASE postcard for confirmation of receipt (OPTIONAL).

St. Louis Writers Guild is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission to further literary arts by connecting, encouraging, and promoting writers and literary organizations.

Best of luck with the contest!