

2026 Member Contest Guidelines

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES TO ENSURE YOUR POEM IS INCLUDED IN THE CONTESTS.

Submission to ASPS member-only contests, which also includes special contests offered from time-to-time, is limited to current members of the Arizona State Poetry Society. Members may submit only UNPUBLISHED original poems. The contest chair asks that you wait 45 days after the contest deadline before submitting these poems elsewhere. There is no entry fee for the five contests.

SUBMITTING:

If USPS mailing, enclose one copy of each poem with your name and address in the upper left corner. In the upper right corner, include the Month – Category Number – Category Name. Please proofread your work thoroughly.

If emailing, attach a copy of the poem to your email and ONLY PUT THE CATEGORY AND THE MONTH on the poem. Do NOT put your name and address on the poem. In the body of your email, please enter Category, Month, and Title of the poem. All email submissions must be in a Word document; no PDF documents will be allowed. If a poem is submitted in PDF form, the submission will be disqualified and the poet will NOT be notified of the disqualification.

FORMAT:

All submission must be submitted in Word documents; no PDFs. If you are a Mac owner who has Word for Mac, just send the submission as .docx file. If you use Pages, you can export it as a Word file and submit it that way.

- All information is to be clearly typed in English only, on 8 ½ x11 white paper, without lines or illustrations. In one email, submit up to three poems in separate attached documents, one for each category in which you enter. Put a title on each poem, even haikus.
- For consistency, poems should be submitted in Times New Roman 12 point.
- Submissions have a **maximum of 40 lines per poem** for all poems and a **limit of 50 characters per line**. Spaces or breaks between stanzas will count as a line but poem title does not count as a line. Introductory or editorial remarks, quotations, epigraphs, dedications, etc. will be included in the total line count.

- If submitting in Category III, please do not title your poem the same as the category III topic.
- **Submissions not adhering to the stated rules will be disqualified.**

LIMITS: Submissions have a maximum of 40 lines per poem and a limit of 50 characters per line. Spaces or breaks between stanzas will count as a line but poem title does NOT count as a line. Introductory of editorial remarks, quotations, epigraphs, dedications, etc. will be included in the total line count. Submit only one poem per category per month. Please, no simultaneous submissions. No pictures or artwork are allowed as part of an entry. Poems exceeding the line and character limits will be disqualified and the poet will NOT be notified of the disqualification.

DEADLINE: Mailed entries must be postmarked by the first of the month and received by the fifth of the contest month. Email entries must be received by the fifth of the contest month.

WINNERS: Each specified month, nine (9) selected poems will receive a \$10.00 award each, and are published in the next issue of our anthology. To assist our bookkeeping, winners are requested to cash checks promptly. For those who have a Zelle account with your bank, let us know your user name (usually either an email address or phone number) and we can send you the award by Zelle.

NEW IN 2025: Last year we implemented a rule that a member who wins in any category is ineligible for future submissions for the remainder of the calendar year. This policy remains. However, **this year we are creating a fourth category called Same Year Winners for those who have won in any of the Member Contest categories and may now submit to this new category. This will allow for all members to continue to submit to our member contests, but it will give more members a chance to win in the first three categories without penalizing those who have already won.**

Submissions Preferred by EMAIL TO: membercontests@azpoetry.net and trevorruth@me.com

USPS Poem Submissions to:

Brenda Wildrick

ASPS Member Contest Chair

204 Ash St.

OR Trevor Ruth

1743 N. San Marcos

Apache Junction, AZ 85120

Fort Morgan, CO 80701

CATEGORIES:

Category I: Traditional (identify form)

Category II: Free Verse

Category III: The Monthly Subject (see below); any subject, any form

Category IV: Same Year Winners (any subject, any form)

January: Moving On

March: Overseas

May: A Sudden Storm

July: ~~Sesquicentennial~~ CANCELED

September: Lost Mail

By submitting to the Member Contest, you confirm that all your work and submissions are yours alone and that no part of your submission has been generated by ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence content generator. We reserve the right to reject your work at any time in our review, acceptance, and publication process if we discover that content has been AI generated or otherwise plagiarized.

Winning poems will appear in ASPS Annual Anthology, Sandcutters: © 2025 as an anthology by the Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS), with first rights only. All rights to individual poems remain with the contributing poets. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, or by use of any information storage or retrieval system, except as may be expressly permitted by the individual poet. We ask that credit be given to ASPS when reprinting is granted. Individual authors confirm that these poems are their original creations, and to the publisher's knowledge these poems were written by the listed poets. ASPS does not guarantee nor assume responsibility for verifying the authorship of each work.