

FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION
Spring General Membership Meeting Minutes
Comfort Inn Suites Orlando
May 18, 2019

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call of Chapters was not taken.

General Comments

President Al Rocheleau opened the meeting by addressing concerns with our anthology, *Cadence*. We need to double check submissions to be sure each entry is accounted for. There's lots of room for error with the anthology, so we must tighten the process to avoid errors.

Old Business

October 25, 26, 27, 2019 are the fall convention dates in Daytona. Al wants to install a chancellor at this event, but we're waiting on the office of Florida Cultural Affairs to take action regarding the candidates for poet laureate.

Newsletter/Website Report

Mark Terry spoke for himself and Dina Tanner to cover these two areas. He said 558 people follow FSPA on the Facebook page, which is automatically sent to Twitter.

The newsletter has been updated for readability and quality. The goal is to add more member poetry to the newsletter and make it content-rich. Send Mark an email if you want to write for the newsletter. Perhaps in the future we can improve the newsletter further so it can be read by the sight-impaired.

Annual Contest Report

Mary Rogers-Grantham reported that she has received 6 entries already. She reminded attendees that the brochure is accessible on the website.

Youth Contest Report

Carolynn Scully reported on the youth poetry contest. She said she appreciates the help from Janet Watson in making the transition. There were 435 entries, but only 303 qualified for the competition. Carolynn made a short list of common disqualifiers and put together samples of the submissions pages to be included in the rules.

Twelve Chairs Report

Al said this generation of teachers is not comfortable with poetry, so they aren't comfortable teaching it.

That's the point of his Twelve Chairs course, to provide service to the community. He will give FSPA the rights to the course, and hopes it will go from FSPA to NFSPS distribution at some point.

Treasurer's Report

Robyn Weinbaum reported that we are doing well, and have done some cost containment. PayPal revenues will be going up. Checks don't get lost with PayPal. She wants to get a card reader to take credit cards for our conventions. Our bank balance is currently \$6,199.89.

Historian Report

No report given.

Membership Report

No report given.

Blackberry Peach Award

Joe Cavanaugh spoke about the Blackberry Peach Award, announcing that B.J. Alligood is this year's winner. He reviewed the criteria: submit 4 poems spoken and written for the annual contest.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Halpern