

# THE BULLETIN



## ★ THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS ★

Founded November 5, 1921

A member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org



Editor: Valerie Martin Bailey

March 2015



## *National Poetry Month is Coming in April* *There Will Be Showers of Poetry*

*It's Pouring Poetry at PST*

Awake! Arise! April is a month of new life and promise. What a great month to celebrate poetry. Terry Jude Miller of Richmond will be our special guest at the April 11 meeting. He is preparing a program to entertain and inspire both beginners and seasoned writers. What better way to celebrate National Poetry Month than to stimulate and improve our poetry writing skills. The April forecast is for showers of poetry to result from Terry's presentation. Plan to come and celebrate National Poetry Month with us.

### MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

for Saturday, March 14, 2015

by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

**President Catherine L'Herisson** opened the meeting and welcomed our speaker, Barbara Lewie Berry and her husband Louin, of Mansfield, plus brand new members Liz Soutendijk of Quitman and Dr. Jerry Hopkins of Marshall, who joined just before the meeting, and Peter Valles, of The Woodlands who was present at the general meeting for the first time since joining earlier. Past presidents Linda Banks, Budd Powell Mahan, and Jimmy Inez Sessions were also present.

Not only was this National Pi Day (3.141592653), but it was also National Potato Chip Day. As per the tease in the February *Bulletin*, potato chips were in abundance at the break, along with two dips, and also pastries.

L'Herisson read a poem about potatoes, and challenged the audience to identify the author. After one hint, Linda Banks named Valerie Martin Bailey as the composer. Her prize was a huge Idaho potato.

**Director Susan Maxwell Campbell** gave the February Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis (see report on page 6). We were happy to welcome new member Joyce Rowe Scoggins of Bullard.

**Treasurer Aman Khan** gave the February financial statement. The largest deposit was for annual contest sponsorships.

**Librarian Barbara Blanks** reported on five books donated to the PST permanent collection (books listed on page 6). Jan Seale also sent a second copy of her book, *The Parkinson Poems*, which, at the president's suggestion, has been donated as a Popular Book Prize.

NOTE: The Student Awards program is still scheduled for April 18, but the time has changed, It will now be 2- 4 p.m. in the Main Auditorium of the downtown Dallas Central Library. Students come from all over the state to read their poems. They and their families are really excited about being recognized for their poetry. Student Awards Chair Budd Powell Mahan needs your support: People are needed to greet attendees, to sign them in, to hand out the student anthologies. PLEASE contact Budd at [buddmahan@att.net](mailto:buddmahan@att.net) if you would like to volunteer

*Continued on page 2*

### MARCH MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

**Critic Judge:** Edmund Burke, Frisco

**First Place:** LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK- "Day Dreams"

**Second Place:** Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

**Third Place:** Patrick Lee Marshall, Keller

#### Book Prizes

**Reader:** Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield

**Popular Prize:** Barbara Blanks, Garland

**A Galaxy of Verse Prize:** James DeGaugh, Center

**Poetry for Poets Award:** Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield

**William D. Barney Memorial:** Naomi Stroud Simmons, Ft. Worth

**M. Tandy Duemke Prize:** Manuel L. English, Poulosbo, WA

**Other Poems Read By:** Sylvia Medel, David Knape, Aman Khan, Jessica Gonsoulin, and J. Paul Holcomb

**Laugh Lines Judge:** Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

**Winner:** J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak

Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to the Contest Chair, Irene Robertson, at 3107 Marquise Court, McKinney, TX 75070. The e-mail address [Rinii@tx.rr.com](mailto:Rinii@tx.rr.com).

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your help. As much as Budd is appreciated for his hard work, he can't do it all by himself.

Budd, who is also the PST Archivist, said his book about the history of PST is being printed and should be available soon.

**The 2015 *A Book of the Year* (BOTY)** is almost ready to go to the printer. The books should be here by the April meeting.

**Check out the PST Website.** Pictures from the November Awards Banquet are now posted. By the way, our editor gets the *Bulletin* to the printer and to the Webmaster one or two days after the 15th news deadline, but due to Post Office delays with bulk mail, you may prefer to access the newest edition of the *Bulletin* on the Website a day or after the 15th of each month.

**The new 2015 contests are also posted** now on the Website. **Please also take note of a reinstated rule in the annual contests:** Entries must have no more than 60 characters per line, and that includes spaces and punctuation. Lines longer than 60 characters create problems, not only for the editor of *BOTY*, but breaking the lines can put a poem over the line limit in a category. Either or both violations can disqualify an entry.

**Baylor House of Poetry is scheduled for March 25,** in Waco. There will be readings, a luncheon, and other festivities. As always, attendees who send poems ahead of time will receive a spiral-bound reading sessions booklet. For more information, go to <http://www.baylor.edu/English/index.php?id=72592>.

**April is National Poetry Month.** Be sure to contact Extension Chair Beth Ayers and President L'Herisson if you do anything special or your chapter does anything special. The reports go to NFSPS.

**President L'Herisson announced the Nominating Committee** for selecting the 2015-16 PST Board. The committee is always composed of five past presidents. They are: Chairman: J. Paul Holcomb, Linda Banks, Marilyn Stacy, Jeannette Strother, and Jimmy Inez Sessions.

**Don't forget—our summer conference** is scheduled for July 16-18, in Beaumont at the Hilton Garden Inn. Birma Castle is in charge. You won't want to miss it—"Partying with Poetry Mardi Gras Style." More details as they become available.

**The NFSPS Conference will be in St. Petersburg, FL,** from June 24-27. If you plan to go, please contact the president, as we need delegates to represent PST.

**President L'Herisson introduced Dr. Jerry Hopkins,** who is in Dallas to present a program to the SW Commission on Religious Studies. His paper includes research he has done on John D. Vaughan, the eleventh president of PST. He also mentioned writing contests sponsored by the American Christian Fiction Writers. The

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workshop is scheduled for the last weekend in October, in Marshall. Just google Christian Writers Conference for details.

**Spotlight on Members Chair, Jessica Gonsoulin,** introduced our Spotlight Poet, Peter Valles of The Woodlands. Peter has both a BS and MS in Geology, and uses nature as a metaphor in many of his poems

**President L'Herisson introduced our program speaker, Barbara Lewie Berry** of Mansfield. Barbara is an award-winning poet and published author, whose work has appeared in professional and literary journals, poetry anthologies, magazines, and various newspapers. She served as Director of Finance & Administration at a private law firm for 30 years. She has been married to Louin for 58 years, and has a degree in English, which she managed to attain by going to school at night and on her lunch hour for eight years. That is determination! Not only is she a Life Member of PST, but she served on the Board as recording secretary. She was also past president of Poets of Tarrant County, and chaired the 2009 Summer Conference.

Barbara's program was titled, "Dial 777 for Assistance—or An Unlikely Poet Offers Help for Writer's Block." That unlikely poet was Alexander Graham Bell, whose papers—including poetry—are at the Library of Congress. Trying to unleash your creativity when facing a blank page is difficult. Barbara read several poems by poets who found inspiration in the telephone, including Frost, Collins, Updike, Angelou, and Plath. So, if you think you have nothing to write about, write about the phone. Barbara challenged us with a 7-line poem exercise. She passed out sheets with space for our phone numbers on the left, and lines to fill in on the right. Everyone was asked to print their numbers (no area codes), then pass the sheets on to someone else, who then had ten minutes to write a 7-line poem, each line having the same number of words or syllables as the number next to that line. A zero represented a stanza break. Sheets were again passed on, and everyone read the poems others had written. It was a fun exercise, and we had a lot of laughs. Barbara's program was practical as well as enjoyable.

After the break Monthly Contest Chair, Irene Robertson announced the March 2015 winners. (See Winners' Box on page 1.) After the contest poems were read, the meeting was adjourned.

See you in April to celebrate National Poetry Month.

#### MEMBERS AT LARGE

If you are a member-at-large with no chapter in your area, consider starting one. If that's not an option, and you want to be included in the monthly news, send your news to the *Bulletin* editor at: [vbaileyBulletin@satx.rr.com](mailto:vbaileyBulletin@satx.rr.com).

### **ALAMO AREA POETS**

#### ***Iris Maahs Reporting***

Toni Falls and Janice Campbell were guest speakers at the March meeting of the Alamo Area Poets of Texas. They informed the audience that they were two very different voices who heard echoes of themselves in each other's poetry. When they recognized this, they decided to publish a book of poems together. The book, *The Braided Stream, A Poetry Duet*, contains a wide variety of poetry, including subjects about nature, family, loss, grief, relationships, and the Holocaust. Members enjoyed their presentation and look forward to hearing more of their poetry.

Awards for the February Assigned Topic were presented to Iris Maahs (HM), Don Mathis (HM), Antoinette Winstead (HM), Sheila Moore (3rd place), Peggy Mott (2nd place), Linda Crow (1st place). In the Open Topic, awards went to Kim Mott (HM), Lucy McBee (HM), Sheila Moore (HM), Billie Stroud (3rd place), Peter Holland (2nd place), and Peggy Mott (1st place). Barbara Blanks was the judge for February. Her judging and comments were greatly appreciated.

After the winners read their poems, everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by Peggy Mott. The meeting continued with the reading of poems for the March contests. New officers will be elected in April. Sheila Moore announced the new slate of officers selected by the nominating committee: Iris Maahs – President, Antoinette Winstead – Vice President, Nancy Carter – Treasurer, and Margaret Cook – Secretary.

A young rising star on the San Antonio poetry scene, Corrigan Monaghan, will be the guest speaker in April. Also coming up in April, the San Antonio Writer's Guild will sponsor its first Poetry Festival. Lea Fagin, an active member of both AAPT and the Writer's Guild, encouraged everyone to attend the festival on April 9 at Bethany Congregational Church.

Thanks to the generosity of Don Mathis, who just returned from a trip to New Orleans, everyone left the meeting smiling and happy, adorned with Mardi Gras beads in their favorite colors.

### **DENTON POETS' ASSEMBLY**

#### ***Richard Weatherly Reporting***

Following announcements and a welcome to visitors, members read assigned ottava rima poems based on J. Paul Holcomb's February lesson, "Try the ottava rima." After the assignment poems, J. Paul shared a lesson for April.

Later in the program, members and guests were invited to share free-choice poems. After all final business was conducted the meeting was adjourned.

Denton Poets' Assembly poets will present Irish poems/blessings on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at the Good Samaritan Society, Lake Forest Village in south Denton beginning at 3 p.m.

As a way to promote National Poetry month, Patrick Lee Marshall will participate in a taste and talent event on April 25 from 6–9 p.m. at Byron Nelson High School to benefit their scholarship program. Patrick will present poetry in the Library.

*The Merging Visions, Collections V*, poetry and art catalog will be presented at a reception on April 23 at 7 p.m. VAST collaborates with the Denton Poets' Assembly, the Greater Denton Arts Council, and the Denton Public Library to create an annual exhibit of paired original art work and poetry in celebration of National Poetry Month. This exhibition is held in the Meadows Gallery in the Patterson-Appleton Center for the Visual Arts with part of the exhibit traveling to various library locations.

### **FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY**

#### ***Anne Jones Reporting***

The Fort Worth Poetry Society's meeting on March 12 was opened by president Mike Baldwin. Beth Neely read the opening poem, "Killing Time" by Kay Ryme. Minutes and treasurer's reports were given.

In old business, Mike reported that the flier for our chapbook contest has been approved by PST and they will soon start advertising it. We discussed and approved the idea of email entries. Mike will get an email address account for us to use. In new business we agreed on a judge for our yearly inhouse contest, and a speaker for our May luncheon. Mike will call them. He also set the date for the luncheon. It will be May 16 at his house. A Nominating Committee was appointed: Don Shook and Anne Jones. Mike and Marilyn Komechak will be in Austin for our April meeting so adjustments will be made, receiving our contest entries, etc. Susan Campbell will be absent, as well, and Anne will fill in for her.

Then, an amazing thing happened. At the beginning of the meeting we were a small group, but just as we read the kudos and were ready to read the workshop poems, more members kept arriving! Hilda Mendosa was the first. She had missed some months so we were really glad to see her. Susan Taylor came in a few minutes later, and then Paul Holcomb and Naomi Simmons, who had been held up by traffic coming from Dallas. It was wonderful.

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Ten very good poems were then critiqued.

### **GULF COAST POETS**

#### ***Daniel Carrington, Reporting***

The March general meeting of GCP featured the widely-published poet Peter Hyland, author of the poetry collection *Out Loud* and chapbook *Elegy to the Idea of a Child*. In addition, he is an assistant editor for the literary magazine *upstreet* and works for the University of Houston.

This month GCP would like to congratulate members Laura Peña and Jonathan Peckham on acceptance of their work for publication. Laura will have pieces featured in upcoming issues of the online literary journals *Illya's Honey* and *Red River Review*. Two of Jonathan's poems were included in the recently released Poets Collective anthology *Abandon the Shadows*.

In other news, GCP has unveiled our fully-revamped Website at [gulfoastpoets.info](http://gulfoastpoets.info). Many thanks to GCP Webmaster (and Treasurer) Leo Waltz for his tireless efforts to keep us organized!

Looking ahead, GCP has a full 2015 slate of notable featured poets, a list of which can be found at the aforementioned Web address. In addition, we are pleased to announce that this year will culminate with a featured reading by 2012 Texas State Poet Laureate Jan Seale. She will be the guest of honor at our annual luncheon in December.

### **MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER**

#### ***Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting***

Vice-President Alice Parker conducted the March meeting in the absence of President Aman Khan. Besides Aman, four other members were out of town. But we had four guests: Shirley Presson, Fred Gardner, and Katherine and Joseph Whitner. And we have a new member, Rachael Orozco.

Guests were asked to introduce themselves. Fred is from California and is staying with Shirley. Joseph is a Presbyterian minister who has lived in McKinney for ten years. He brought a book of his poems.

For the benefit of the guests, Jessica Gonsoulin read the February minutes, and Alice gave a brief explanation of the Barnes and Noble reading, the Collin County Poetry Contest, and the Mockingbird Chapbook.

Sylvia Medel reported on the progress of the Chapbook. The projected publication date is April, Poetry Month. The next item on the agenda to be discussed is funding. Sylvia also updated the group on the poetry reading at Pioneer Ridge.

On April 18, the Mockingbird Chapter will celebrate National Poetry Month with an open mic and book sale at the Barnes & Noble Bookfair, at the store on Preston and Park in Plano. Chaired by Alice Parker, it begins at 2 p.m.

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Proceeds benefit the chapter. Please use #11558939 when making a purchase on-line between April 18-25. In store coupons are also available, and a percentage of net sales will also "be contributed to your school/organization."

### **PERMIAN BASIN POETRY SOCIETY**

#### ***Jennifer McNeely Reporting***

The Permian Basin Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas participated in an open mic night on March 7 at Tea2Go in Midland. The monthly meeting and writer's roundtable took place on February 28, and poets performed at an open mic on March 14, both at the Ground Floor in Midland. A new venue has been made available to Permian Basin poets on the third Wednesday of the month at Kami-posi. Local poets are encouraged to check the Permian Basin Chapter, Poetry Society of Texas for event announcements. Writing circles are also scheduled at various times throughout the month.

Local poets will participate in the 15th annual Forrest Fest in Lamesa. Performances and workshops will take place throughout the event on April 16-18. Plans are also underway for a poetry and music festival on September 26.

As always, the Permian Basin chapter continues to promote poetry through its own Facebook page and through West Texas Poets. West Texas Poets is a Facebook page created by the Permian Basin Chapter.

### **POETS NORTHWEST**

#### ***Sharon Young Reporting***

Poets at the February meeting were encouraged by Karen Mastracchio to explore poetic forms. Sonnets, Villanelles (along with other French forms), Japanese Haiku and Tanka were highlighted. Poets were given the opportunity to share their personal favorites and what may have drawn them to their choice of form. After open discussion a challenge was given to turn a published Haiku into a Tanka. Nine poets participated and shared their work after adding their 7-7 lines to the 5 -7- 5 lines of the Haiku.

Poets Northwest has started a monthly challenge for all members present at the meetings. An assigned topic will be given and a \$10 prize will be provided by a member volunteer. All poems written on the assigned topic can be shared in the read-around and will be eligible for the \$10 prize determined by random drawing. The "read-around prize" has been established to encourage new works that may go on to the Spring Fling local contest or the annual PST contests. Our first winner: Mike Owens on the February subject "The Color Red." The \$10 prize was provided by Sharon Young.

Plans for the 2015 Spring Fling Awards is in full swing. Thirty-five contests have been sponsored and poets have begun to ready their entries. This event is open to local poets of Harris, Montgomery, Waller, Ft. Bend and

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Galveston counties. Postmark deadline is March 28, 2015.

Meetings are scheduled for every third Saturday of each month at the Pearl Fincher Museum in Spring, Texas. Poets and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works during the second half of the meeting. Poets Northwest is on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest](http://www.facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest) and on the Web at [www.poetsnw.com](http://www.poetsnw.com).

### **POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY**

#### *Lynn Lewis Reporting*

The March 2 meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County was called to order by Vice-President Hollis Davis. The minutes for the February meeting were approved as read. Chuck Poole read the treasury report. J. Paul Holcomb was on the Kudos List: as Poet Laureate of Lewisville, he read an original poem commemorating the city's centennial during their February City Council meeting. Contemporary Poet Reader, Barbara Berry, read Ted Kooser's "The Red Wing Church." Vice-President Davis introduced our Featured Speaker, Steve Sanders, who presented the topic "Writing Poetry for Money." Assignment Poems were read after the break. The meeting was then adjourned by Vice-President Davis.

### **SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION**

#### *Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting*

Twenty members attended our meeting on February 21. Vice-president Sheila Moore again presided in the absence of President Margaret Mayberry, who has been seriously ill since early January. We are grateful that Margaret is out of the hospital and is now in the Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

After the minutes and treasurer's report were approved, our Program Chairman, Michaud Lamroux introduced our member Spotlight Poets: Lois Heger and Richard Graham. Richard is a retired podiatrist who served in the Air Force. His wife Gerri suffers from Alzheimer's, and he read a series of moving poems that expressed the anguish caused by this disease. Richard finds that poetry help him deal with the overwhelming grief of Alzheimer's. His last poem was a happy poem about gardening, which he enjoys.

Lois, a pastor's wife, counselor, and psychotherapist, read an eclectic selection of delightful poems, several humorous, that showcased her versatility and writing skill. She, too, loves gardening and also read on that subject.

Contest Chair Wallace Vaughan announced the January winners. Winners in the assigned topic contest on the subject "Footprints" were: Iris Maahs (1st), Lucy McBee (2nd), Loretta Vaughan (3rd), and Valerie Bailey (HM). Winners in the open topic contest were: John Friedland (1st), Carol Siskovik (2nd), Loretta Vaughan (3rd), and

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LaVerne Dickinson (HM). The poems were judged by Barbara Goerdel of Arlington. We thank Barbara for her time and talent.

After a cookie and coffee break and our book raffle, members read their February poems on the topic "A Change of Plans." These will be judged by Linda Banks of Mesquite.

### **SAN JACINTO CHAPTER**

#### *Donald Graham Reporting*

Our regular monthly meeting was held on March 14. Our guest poet/speaker was Dr. Linda Polk. Linda taught grades 6-12 at Deer Park ISD, she also taught speech at San Jacinto College and she taught on-line grad school. She has also taught history and language arts. Linda's poems and stories were humorous and captivating. Her presentation was enjoyed by everyone. We had a refreshment break and then started our read-around. Our read-around got off on the unusual subject of "mortality" until we got to Ken Jurek. Ken lightened things up by singing "The Wearing of the Green" by Dion Boucicault. (Great job Ken). We had a very good meeting and we hope to see everyone again next month.

### **TEXOMA POETRY SOCIETY**

#### *Frances Neidhardt Reporting*

Our March 7 meeting on Saturday afternoon was a spring literary event on the theme of "Loss and Healing" held at the Sherman Public Library. Vice-president John Creighton Miller presided and announced that the April meeting will host an open mic for anyone submitting original poetry to the *Sherman Democrat's* April celebration of Poetry Month. He then elaborated with details.

Guest for the inter-active program was the distinguished Austin College professor Dr. Roger Platizky, poet and critical specialist on Tennyson and Victorian and Modernist studies on gender, psychoanalysis, and medical humanities. Declaring the theme a subject meditated on for centuries, he first read lines from Wordsworth's "Intimations Ode on Immortality" and Tennyson's "In Memorium," then encouraged comments on personal feelings when writing on the loss of a loved one. From there he read from his own poems, then expanded to moving pieces from his privately published collection of original AIDS poems, *Bearing Witness*. The latter book was created to benefit an AIDS group affiliated with Home Hospice of Grayson County. Platizky made in-depth comments throughout from his personal AIDS ministry and ended with "Your Sightless Days" from Paul Monett's *Love Alone*. Eight persons were present.

For the "round table," poems were volunteered by Dr. Peter Anderson, Frances Neidhardt, John Creighton

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT, MARCH 2015**  
*from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis*

Active Members.....176	New Member.....1
Associate Members.....14	
Honorary Members.....5	
Life Members.....59	
Student Members.....20	
Sustaining Members.....3	
<b>Current Member Total...272</b>	
Renewing Members.....3	

**Joyce Rowe Scoggins**  
 15622 Treasure Cove  
 Bullard, TX 75757



*Welcome*  
*New Member*

**Help us keep our membership roll up to date.**

Please let Membership Chair Lynn Lewis know if there is any change in your contact information: Address, Phone, or E-mail address.  
 Contact Lynn at [elsquared59@yahoo.com](mailto:elsquared59@yahoo.com)

**FLASHING RED LIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Please do NOT** send address updates to *BOTY* Editor, Linda Banks. These **MUST** be sent to Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. Lynn keeps the master list and sends it to Linda to publish in *Book of the Year*.

*Excerpt from Flower God, God of Spring*



*by Robert Lewis Stepenson*



Spring comes with a bound,  
 Spring the deliverer,  
 Spring, song-leader in woods, chorally resonant;  
 Spring, flower-planter in meadows,  
 Child-conductor in willow  
 Fields deep dotted with bloom, daisies and crocuses:  
 Here that child from his heart drinks of eternity....

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**Book Donations Report from Barbara Blanks**

Librarian Barbara Blanks announces six book donations for March:

*Valley Ark: Life Along the Rio*, by Jan Seale and Ansen Seale.

*Jan Seale: New and Selected Poems, #12*, the TCU Texas Poet Laureate Series.

*Nape*, by Jan Seale

*The Wonder Is: New and Selected Poems 1974-2012*, by Jan Seale.

*The Moccasin, Vol. LXXVII, 2014*, the anthology of the League of Minnesota Poets (contains poems by two PST members).

*The Parkinson Poems*, by Jan Seale – donated as a gift prize for the Popular Prize monthly contest.

**Please send book donations to Barbara Blanks at the address listed in the Executive Board box, next column. They will be kept in the PST's permanent collection at the Dallas Central Public Library.**

**THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS (PST)**

Meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at the Preston Royal Library • 5626 Royal Lane • Dallas, TX 75229. The poetry year runs from September through May, with the exception of November when the Annual Awards Banquet is held at a Dallas area hotel. The Annual Summer Conference convenes in a different area of the state each July.

**★ THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ★**

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