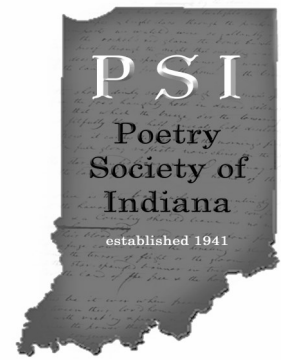


# INDIANA POET



## NEWSLETTER OF THE POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA (FORMERLY , Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs—ISFPC)

—Affiliated with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies—

**VOLUME 77 SPRING/SUMMER 2018**

## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

- We have had a whirlwind of activities this season:
- The President and Secretary have completed the task of reviewing the entire Poetry Society of Indiana By Laws, the governing document for our organization. Below is the final Amendment proposal for your consideration. This will be voted upon during the Fall Rendezvous Business Portion of our gathering. The final amended By Laws then, will become a legal record and submitted to the National Organization Legal Section.
- We welcome Nancy Simmonds, from Northeast Indiana Poets, as our new Second Vice President. Already she has jumped into our dynamic group and has taken the reins of the newly-created Spring Fling Committee. Looking forward to working with you, Nancy!! Deborah Petersen has accepted the vote to remain as President; David Allen will remain our 1st Vice President and continue as our Poetry Contest Chair and the Nominating Committee Chair. Linda Eaton has accepted to stay on as our Manningham Chair, an appointed position.
- With the elected Executive Committee positions on a two –year time frame, we will be accepting nominations for our Treasurer and our Secretary positions. We are also seeking assistance for a Web Master and Spring Fling Committee members.

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*“Imagination is  
the Divine  
Body in Every  
Man.”*

*William Blake*

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Constitution Amendment proposal —to be voted on during Fall Rendezvous

Currently reads:

### ARTICLE IV – GOVERNMENT

The organization shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of the Presidents of all affiliate clubs or their alternates, all elected officers of PSI, the chairmen of all standing committees of PSI and all past presidents of PSI.

The jurisdiction of the Board of Directors shall be the entire state of Indiana and shall include all affiliate clubs, but shall never interfere with the internal affairs or management of any affiliated group.

Propose we amend it to read:

The organization shall be governed by an Executive Committee consisting of all elected officers of PSI. The Executive Committee shall never interfere with the internal affairs or management of any affiliated group.

Reasoning:

In practice, we have not been governed by a board of directors as described in our constitution for years. We are a smaller body now, and more focused on individual members rather than clubs. This amendment would change the constitution to reflect how we actually have been functioning for years.

**WORDS FROM OUR PREMIER POET: "HOW OLD IS POETRY?"**

Most of us are aware that the ancient Grecian culture had poets. Here is an example:

WILL LOST IN A SEA OF TROUBLE

Will lost in a sea of trouble,  
rise, save yourself from the whirlpool  
of the enemies of willing.  
Courage exposes ambushes.  
Steadfastness destroys enemies.  
Keep your victories hidden.  
Do not sulk over defeat.  
Accept good. Bend before evil.  
Learn the rhythm which binds all men.

written by ARCHILOCUS approx. 700 to 650 BC [translated by Kenneth Rexroth]

I have searched for the oldest poem I could find. Here it is:

[translated from Babylonian Cuneiform by Lewis Spence] The poem was written approx. 4,000 BC. The author is unknown.

ISHTAR

The unconsecrated foe entered my courts,  
placed his unwashed hands upon me,  
and caused me to tremble.  
Putting forth his hand  
He smote me with fear.  
He tore away my robe  
and clothed his wife therein,  
he stripped off my jewels  
and placed them upon his daughter.  
Like a quivering dove upon a beam I sat.  
Like a fleeing bird from my cranny swiftly  
I passed from my temple.  
Like a bird they caused me to fly.

6,000 years old this is the oldest poem I have found. If any of you know of an older one let me know.

Michael

# Memorial Award Category for the Annual State Poetry Contest

We have chosen to honor and celebrate the lives of our Members who have passed by creating the Memorial Award Poetry Category for the Annual State Poetry Contest.

We regretfully report the passing of Carol Ogden and Esther Townes this year.

We accept donations for the Award Amounts for this category; families of past members have been willing to offer support for this endeavor.

If you would like to contribute to this Award, please connect with any of the Board members.

Thank you!

## POETRY BOOK SWAP

Instead of distributing 'Door Prizes' during our Fall Rendezvous, we have chosen to offer a "Poetry Book Swap" .

So, bring one—take one.

### JUST TO LET YOU KNOW:

As we spent this last year being intentional about defining "Who we are" and "What do we have to offer" as an organization, a few items are of note:

—We offer our services to assist you in the many steps to publish your Chapbook. Jenny Kalahar and Mary Couch will be giving a presentation on this process during the Fall Rendezvous.

—There will be a "Members Only" Poetry Contest as a part of our newly-designed Spring Fling gathering.

—As the National Organization is not anticipating increasing its membership fees, we are following suit. \$ 18.00 will remain our fees for State and National membership. Enclosed is a Membership Form. If you have already sent in your dues, offer this form to a friend who would like to become a member.

—We are enlarging our embrace to include younger poets. We have a "Youth Coordinator"—Jenny Kalahar—who is currently collecting poems for publication from our younger poets. Linda Eaton, our Manningham Chair, has already connected with schools throughout the state promoting the Contest and opportunities.

—Also enclosed is a Registration Form for our Fall Rendezvous. It is not too late to come join us for a packed weekend! Our Keynote Speaker, Jessica Reed, is a Physicist and a Poet and has a wonderful 'world view' to offer. There are other lectures and workshops in the planning stages currently. This is the event that celebrates and announces the winning poems from the State Poetry Contest. Placed winning poems will be published in our Anthology "Ink to Paper".

—For those who may be interested in playing a part of our Mission, we recently formed the Spring Fling Committee, headed by Nancy Simmonds. If you are seeking a way to contribute time and talent on a very limited basis, reach out to Nancy. We have a "Spring Fling Guide" which delineates all tasks and responsibilities.

—Let us know what we are missing.....

In Service,

Deborah

# SAVE THE DATE

2018 Fall Rendezvous      October 5 — 7, 2018

Turkey Run State Park Inn    Marshall, IN

PSI Spring Fling    Saturday, April 27, 2019

10:00 am to 3:00 pm    Anderson Public Library, Anderson, IN

National Convention    June 23 — June 26, 2019

Hotel Santa Fe              Santa Fe, New Mexico

2019 Fall Rendezvous      October 18 — 20, 2019

Canyon Inn @ McCormick Creek State Park    Indiana

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Visit our newly-created website for updates and happenings: [poetrysocietyofindiana.org](http://poetrysocietyofindiana.org)

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE