



Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The SMPS is a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets, holds open meetings on the second Saturday of the month from September through May at the River Hills Mall, Mankato, MN. from 12:00 – 3:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all who love poetry and writing. For further information contact *Bethany Berry, Editor* at Bethany.berry@mnsu.edu, or *Sue Chambers, President*, at 507-278-4200 or e-mail PoetSue@aol.com.

SMPS Officers:

Sue Chambers, *Pres.*

Ike Sarma, *VP.*

Faye Mattison, *Sec.*

Dorla Wachter, *Treas.*

Monica Haack,
Corresponding Sec.

Sandra Newbauer, *Regional VP*

March 2006 Volume 26, Issue 03

Thistle-Down

Have Poem, Will Read

On March 11 the Southern Minnesota Poets Society will be featuring Shirley Ensrud, member and author, discusses publication and marketing.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER: Shirley Ensrud grew up on a farm northwest of Mankato, the seventh of nine children who all attended a one-room school the first eight years of their education, then graduated Mankato High School.

She has lived in Blue Earth since her marriage 57 years ago. She is now retired after forty years in accounting, and has self-published five books of poetry. Her poetry has been published in anthologies of CSS Publications, Wordsmith Publishing, Poetry Press, NFSPS' Prize Poems and Sidewalks as well as every issue since 1986 of The Moccasin, annual anthology of LOMP. Her three daughters have given her nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, all girls.

Besides family and poetry, other interests are golf, bridge, crossword puzzles, cryptograms and literature of all kinds.

Please Don't Miss This Exciting Opportunity to Hear Shirley Speak



Coffee Hag Reading

SMPS Poetry readings continue at the Coffee Hag every 3rd Monday of the month. Join us there! On **March 20** our theme is **"Consequences"**

✓ **Mark Your Calendar**

NFSPS Poetry Convention

Don't forget the NFSPS Convention. Call Sue Chambers for information on registration and hotel accommodations. The convention is in San Antonio, Texas; June 8th - 11th. In order to facilitate as many LOMP members going as possible LOMP is providing a subsidy of \$1,000.00 to get our members there on a group bus. For more information or if you are interested in attending contact Susan Chambers at 507-278-4200 or e-mail her at PoetSue@aol.com

Poetry Assignment for March:

This month, let Minnesota's petulant weather inspire you to write a poem about storms, any form, 30-40 line limit

President's Message

When setting up schedules, you can always expect change. Thanks to all for your understanding with the changes in location last month. We are back at the RiverHills Mall this month! I would like you to note a few more changes.

Our speaker for April, Steve Reagles, called me the other day. He was excited because he has received an honor and will be reading from his works out East. Of course, his honor comes when he was to present his program to us, so he cannot do the April meeting. He will be back on the calendar next year, and sends his greetings to all SMPS members.

We will miss Steve, his programs are always stimulating. But as I usually find, what seems to be a misfortune turns into opportunity. Phillip Bryant, a Professor of English at Gustavus Adolphus has agreed to take Steve's place. John Rezmerski will interview him: "Talking Poetry With Philip Bryant". This should be a great program!

For me, things seem to come in threes. That has happened again this time. Derek, our March program, got called on business out of town and he and Shirley Ensrud will be trading places, he will do his program in May. Please mark all these changes in your SMPS brochure!

Speaking of change, small revisions to even your best poems can often turn them into winners of a competition, where before they only received a merit or honorable mention. Are you polishing your poems? The NFSPS annual competition with 50 categories has a deadline of March 15th. I would like everyone to submit at least a couple of poems—many of our assignments were taken from categories, so you should have some poems ready to go.

I will be asking the membership to consider having SMPS subsidize members who want to go to San Antonio. We have a healthy savings account and I would like to see a good turn out on the LOMP bus.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on the 11th. Happy writing! SUE

**LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS
PLAN SPRING MEETING IN
MINNEAPOLIS**

Plan on joining us at the LOMP Spring Meeting at the Ramada Inn of Minneapolis on April 28th and 29th. Friday night will feature Diane Glancy at the LOFT. Saturday will feature Sharon Chmielarz.

Contact Sue Chambers at schambers@katolaw.com if interested in carpooling in her van, which seats 7. She will be leaving at approximately 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 28th. She will return on Saturday evening.

If you are coming, be sure and get a poem in for the critiquing seminar.

**EXCERPT FROM THE
LOMPLIGHTER**

Keynote Speaker Sharon Chmielarz has also agreed to conduct the Critiquing seminar at the Fall Meeting. This presents a wonderful writing chance for our members.

The seminar, a regular feature of our state meetings, provides an opportunity for you to hear detailed analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of your submitted poems, without the seminar leader knowing who wrote the poem until after the completion of the critique.

There will be no ranking. We encourage everyone to send a poem on which they want input.

Because of time restrictions, the seminar leader may need to select a limited number of poems for public analysis, but each poet will receive written comments.

We ask that you consider a poem of less lines rather than more, but in any event no more than one page. Many poets chose one of their newest poems for feedback.

Only members of LOMP may enter.

DEADLINE: Postmark APRIL 8, 2006

SUBMISSION RULES :

Send two copies of a one-page poem , 12 pt. or higher font.

Specify "Free Verse" or the fixed form of the poem.

Include one copy with and one without your name and address postmarked by April 8, 2006.

Mail your poem to our critique coordinator:

VAL BUMP

350 St. Clair Ave

St. Paul, MN 55102

The seminar leader receives copies with no identification and will not know who wrote the poem until after the completion of the critique.

Include a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of your poem if you are not planning to attend the conference.

If you include an envelope, your critique will be returned to you shortly after the Spring Meeting.

Hotel and registration forms will be coming in the next LOMPLIGHTER.

Not a League of Minnesota Poets member? Become one today and received information, Moccasin magazine and discounts on contest entry fees.

Contact the League at:

Lomppoet@gmail.com

SMPS SYMPATHY

**We have just learned that
Bonnie Wolle's mother
passed away last week.
SMPS sends love & prayers
to Bonnie and all her family**