

Thistledown

☞ League of Minnesota Poets -- Spring Meeting ☛

In April the League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP) will hold its Spring meeting. This year the event will be in Rochester. Details of the event:

Date/Time

Saturday April 16, 2011 from 9:00am -- 3:45pm

Location

Tekakwitha Lounge, Assisi Heights
1001 14th Street NW
Rochester, Minnesota

Cost

\$35.00, which includes lunch

For more information, visit the website at <http://mnpoets.com/>

Also, I am forwarding a note to everyone from Sue Chambers regarding transportation:

“Christina and I are carpooling to Rochester, we could pick someone up at the top of the hill Hy-Vee if anyone wants to ride along (or if you want to come, at that little carpool place at the intersection of Hwys 60 and 14). I intend to leave early Saturday morning (probably around 7:30am) and turn around right after the event, as I am hosting a dinner party that evening. Let me know if anyone wants to carpool.”

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☞ SMPS Officer Voting for 2011 - 2013 ☛

At the May Saturday Luncheon this year we will not only be treated to a talk by Doris Stengel. Do your best to join us on May 14 because we will also be holding elections for SMPS officers!

Here is the current slate of candidates -- if you are interested in a position but are not listed yet, please contact Jana Bouma so we know to include your name on the final list.

Office: President

Candidates:

- Jana Bouma (incumbent)
- Derek Liebertz

Office: Vice President

Candidates:

- John Rezmerski (incumbent)

Office: Regional Vice President

Candidates:

- Sue Chambers (incumbent)

Office: Correspondence Secretary

Candidates:

- Sandra Newbauer (incumbent)

Office: Treasurer

Candidates:

- Gerry Tostenson (incumbent)

Office: Recording Secretary

[Seeking candidates!](#)



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato



☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☛

SMPS - Specific Local Events

✓ **Luncheon Program with Florence Dacey**

April 9, 2011

12:30pm Bring your lunch and chat

1:00pm Presentation

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

Florence is the author of *Rock Worn by Water* and hails from Cottonwood, MN. Join us in welcoming her and listening to her presentation.

✓ **Third Thursday: Poetry Slam 101**

April 21, 2011 at 7:00pm

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

An introductory slam for those new to the event style. Stretch those wings and see what a slam is like! Please note, last month's newsletter showed the date incorrectly. The event date is **April 21**.

✓ **Luncheon Program with Doris Stengel**

May 14, 2011

12:30pm Bring your lunch and chat

1:00pm Presentation

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

The oh-so-rude blizzard earlier this winter caused a bump in the schedule, but Doris promises to return during fairer weather and give us the presentation we missed. Be there!

Also, Sue plans to do an informal potluck dinner at her house on May 13th at 6:30 p.m. when Doris returns. Everyone bring food and poems for a read-around -- we can't get snowed out this time ... can we?

✓ **Third Thursday Reading**

May 19, 2011 at 7:00pm

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

This month features Ike Sarma and John Rezmerski as headliner readers; open mike to follow as time allows.

☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far (cont.) ☛

Regional Events

✓ **Craig Groe Art Exhibit: *plusminus***

April 14, 2011 -- May 11, 2011 (gallery run)

April 19, 2011 at 6:00pm (reception)

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

Artwork by our fellow poet and Craig Groe will adorn the walls of the guild gallery during April and May. Congratulations to you Craig, thanks for your efforts. I look forward to seeing what'll be on display.

✓ **More Than Writing Conference**

April 22, 2011 -- April 23, 2011

Centennial Student Union

Minnesota State University in Mankato

This two-day conference is hosted by the MSU MFA Creative Writing Program, is free to attend, and open to the public. The event will feature panels, discussions, and readings featuring local and regional writers. There will also be a book fair where writers and publishers will have books for sale.

For details about the scheduled events during the conference, visit: <http://english.mnsu.edu/morethanwriting/index.htm>

✓ **Combo Night: Arts Talk!**

May 16, 2011 at 6:00pm

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

In May our fellow poet and abstract artist Patti Ruskey will be featured in this monthly discussion series.

✓ **The Cambria Eisteddfod: Chairing of the Bard**

June 26, 2011 from 12:00pm -- 5:00pm

Morgan Creek Winery

Are you a bard? Do you want a hand-carved chair? How about basking in the shade of a great oak tree and hearing 5 poets regale you with performance and history? Whether a participant or audience member, the 2011 Eisteddfod really should be on your calendar!

Full entry rules will be coming in a separate email to you in two weeks. If you don't have email, it will come by snail mail.

The deadline for submissions will be May 20 (postmark). Finalists will be notified by June 6. In previous years, a poem about local history has been required. This year the required poem must relate to Independence Day (in a historical context, not merely the context of personal independence).

☪ SMPS Officers ☪

President	Jana Bouma jbouma@hickorytech.net (507) 243 - 4050
Vice President	John Rezmerski rez@gac.edu
Regional VP	Susan Chambers schambersmediator@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Gerry Tostensen gerrytos@hickorytech.net
Recording Secretary	<i>to be determined</i>
Newsletter Editor	Derek Liebertz newsletter@southernmnpoets.org
Correspondence Secretary	Sandra Newbauer snewbauer0147@charter.net

☪ Editor's Corner ☪

The newsletter has been my baby for three years now, and despite the occasional procrastination on my part it's been a lot of fun.

Just wanted to put a call out to anyone who would like to take a turn at being the editor -- the newsletter editor is not part of the SMPS officer list (see page 1), which is why I get paid ten times as much as anyone else! Of course that's still \$0.00, but my math cannot be argued. ☺

I would be happy to do a Fall 2011 transition month or meet mid-Summer with anyone wanting to grab the red pen. Let me know if interested. I offer an outstanding benefits package including a limo with driver, ten cases of your favorite movie theater candy, and ... uh, five left socks. STUPID dryer.

Your editor, **D E R E K**

☪ SMPS Member News ☪

- I know, just **know** that SMPS members made exciting things happen out there. You all will remain anonymous until next month, however. If someone should be noted here, email newsletter@southernmnpoets.org today!

☪ I Signed Up For What?!? ☪

Talk to Derek at a meeting if you are interested in helping, or email newsletter@southernmnpoets.org -- thank you!

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD)	Apr 9, 2011	Sandy Newbauer
(TTB)	Apr 21, 2011	Ike Sarma
(SMD)	May 14, 2011	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 18, 2011	Derek Liebertz

Southern Minnesota Poets Society
c/o Derek Liebertz, Newsletter Editor
1131 E Main St
Mankato, MN 56001

Be sure to keep SMPS as a part of your life! Just fill out the form below and send it with your membership fee to our Treasurer Gerry Tostensen. Thanks for supporting Southern Minnesota Poets Society!

The SMPS membership year runs from **January 1st** - **December 31st** of each calendar year

SMPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

New Member? Yes No (circle one)

Dues Enclosed: Regular (\$15.00) ____ Student (\$7.50) ____

Mail application and check to: **Gerry Tostensen SMPS Treasurer, 24070 577th Lane, Mankato, MN 56001**

All SMPS members are encouraged to also become members of the League of Minnesota Poets (<http://www.mnpoets.org>)