

Thistledown

☪ Monthly Photo ☪



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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

TWIN RIVERS
COUNCIL FOR THE



☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☪

SMPS - Specific Local Events

✓ **Luncheon Program with Doris Stengel**

May 14, 2011

12:30pm Bring your lunch and chat

1:00pm Presentation

Emy Frentz 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 Frentz Arts Guild

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

Regional Events

✓ **Combo Night: Arts Talk!**

May 16, 2011 at 6:00pm

Emy Frentz 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).

☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far (cont.) ☪

✓ **Minnesota State Arts Council Meeting**

May 26, 2011 at 7:00pm

Room 104, Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center

Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council's Biennial Plan to the Minnesota State Arts Board for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 will be discussed during a public hearing on May 26, 2011. Individuals or groups can present oral testimony about the arts council's programs, policies and budget at the Mankato meeting. *Due to the state deficit the Arts Council will be reducing its programs by about 20% in Fiscal Year 2012-2013.* Prairie Lake's board members are asking the public to comment on concerns about the State arts funding and how the arts are vital to you and those in your community. Written comments about the grant programs may be submitted by May 20 by email to plrac@hickoroytech.net or sent to Brenda Byron, Executive Director, Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, 207 North State Street, Suite A, Waseca, MN 56093.

A summary of the biennial plan and budget is available upon request. Commentary and recommendations will be considered at the board meeting on May 26, 2011. The council receives funding for re-granting from the Minnesota State Legislature and the McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis. There will be no reduction in McKnight Funding which funds the Emerging Artist and Fellowship grant. In FY 2010 Prairie Lakes awarded 201 arts grants totaling \$385,430 to artists, arts organizations, community groups and schools. The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council serves the nine-county area including Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan Counties.

☯ 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@southernmnpoeets.org
Correspondence Secretary	Sandra Newbauer snewbauer0147@charter.net

☯ Editor's Corner ☯

This is a repeat of last month's corner since I got no reply in April. I am looking for someone to take a turn being the newsletter editor after my three-year run. 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 you are interested.

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

☯ I Signed Up For What!?!? ☯

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages		
(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>)