



2020 is the Year of the Rat according to the Chinese zodiac. Though people consider the rat not adorable, and it even makes its way into derogatory languages, it ranks first on the Chinese zodiac signs. It has characteristics of an animal with spirit, wit, alertness, delicacy, flexibility and vitality. Sounds like the characteristics of some good poets and a ***GREAT year*** for our **Poetry Society of Oklahoma!!**

It has been said that a **good poem** is a symptom of the author's effort to make sense of the world. And often, ideas that can't be expressed in prose can sometimes be expressed through strong images. A **good poem** often uses clear, memorable, concrete images to make a point. They say that, "Poetry is like a canvas, you can paint a picture with it!" So, let's get started!

As in previous years, our **PSO** members are looking forward to the Annual Spring Awards Banquet in March at Twin Hills Country Club in Oklahoma City. The following month, (April) people all over the world will be celebrating ***National Poetry Month***. Each year **PSO** looks forward to the OKC City Council presenting a Proclamation proclaiming April as ***National Poetry Month*** in Oklahoma City (for the ninth year in a row!). And, our Oklahoma State Legislators will present a Resolution stating April as ***National Poetry Month*** for the State of Oklahoma (again, for the ninth year in a row!). National Poetry Month was inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996. Poem in Your Pocket Day 2020 is on April 30th and is part of National Poetry Month. **PSO** enjoys promoting and celebrating ***National Poetry Month*** in Oklahoma! **PSO** truly enjoys promoting and celebrating POETRY to the fullest!

In July **PSO** has a Poetry Workshop with both a keynote speaker from outside **PSO** and our own in-house workshop with members teaching various and interesting aspects of poetry. It is a fun, interesting and learning time for everyone. In October **PSO** will celebrate ***National Poetry Day***. The next ***National Poetry Day*** is Thursday 1st October 2020. October is the time of our annual business meeting and also a time of fun, fellowship and camaraderie ~ a time of sharing. As always, each of our **PSO** events has a delicious luncheon served.

PSO has lost several long-time members this year due to sickness and death. It is a difficult time as we always look forward to time with both new and "old" members. Each year we try to stress

that our **PSO** members are our *most important and greatest asset*. We are very glad to have each and every one of you with us. To our new members, we would like to welcome you to our **PSO** poetry family. At **PSO**, we always welcome new faces and look forward to getting to know you better. Positive people make for a positive **PSO**. We believe in enjoying our time together, in learning and in quality fellowship. We are happy that you will be a part of all we do. We want you to ~ **“Come and Grow at PSO!”**

I think it is important for all of us to be aware of our **PSO** Mission Statement.

PSO Mission Statement

**Association for education in, appreciation of, and the mutual enjoyment
of poetry**

**To encourage members in improving knowledge
and skill in writing and reading of poetry**

**To make mutual contribution to a general
interest in and for quality of poetry
in our society and the world**

**To provide educational instruction and guidance to those
interested in the art of poetry.**

If you are a **PSO** member of long standing you are familiar with this Mission Statement and if we are welcoming you as a new member, we hope it will be of interest to you.

PSO still has growth challenges and we at **PSO** want to offer the opportunity to those interested in poetry to participate in The **Poetry Society of Oklahoma**. This is our eighty-sixth year! We want to let all people know more about **PSO** and our focus on poetry – **ALL** aspects and we take pride in our love of poetry.

There is an abundance of information at our web-site: <http://www.angelfire.com/poetry/psol/> and we are also on Facebook.

As a member of **PSO**, you will automatically receive our **PSO** newsletter, *The Oklahoma Rose*, bi-monthly and four quarterly newsletters, *Strophes* (NFSPS).

In 2020:

If poetry – writing poetry, is on your bucket list, think about what the following people have said: “The secret of getting ahead is getting started.” *Mark Twain* ** “Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me.” *Carol Burnett* ** “With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.” *Eleanor Roosevelt* ** “The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.”

*Confucius ** *** “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” *Helen Keller*

All of these Positive statements can have a profound impact on our lives and, these encouraging words could be just the influence that we or another person may need to begin their journey of writing poetry. I hope that this positive attitude is one of the many attributes of PSO!

*Patti Koch,
President
A friend loves at all times.
Proverbs 17:17*



Nothing is impossible! The word itself says, "I'm possible!"

--Audrey Hepburn