



Last year (2016) we decided was “*The year of GROWTH*” for our **Poetry Society of Oklahoma!** After googling “2017 the year of.....” it seems that 2017 is the Year of the Rooster! “*The Year of the Rooster 2017*” represents good fortune and prosperity, signifying success in the New Year. Sounds good to me and good for **PSO!**

The **PSO** Board set several new goals last year and accomplished most all of them! **PSO** received many fresh viewpoints and ideas that we have implemented. I want you to know how much we appreciate our members’ suggestions. We discussed many ideas that were presented at a **PSO** Board meeting and decided to implement many of them. Without question, **PSO** will continue to grow and be successful because of our thoughtful and interested members. Keep up the good work!

Our **PSO** members all look forward to the Annual Spring Awards Banquet at Twin Hills Country Club in Oklahoma City in March. I am excited that we have something extra (and very special) planned this year! And, people all over the world will be celebrating *National Poetry Month* in April. **PSO** is looking forward to the OKC City Council presenting a Proclamation proclaiming April as *National Poetry Month* in Oklahoma City (for the sixth 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 sixth year in a row!). You may have noticed that **PSO** does like to celebrate *National Poetry Month* in Oklahoma!

Our **PSO** all-day workshop in May with Todd Fuller and Savannah Thorne was a tremendous success! It was a working, hands-on, learning workshop. And, we will be having another all-day workshop again this May with speakers to teach and for us to learn! We will still have the July workshop (an in-house workshop) with members teaching us various and interesting aspects of poetry. October will be a celebration of *National Poetry Day* and our annual business meeting. And, we have scheduled a **PSO** Christmas party. This will be a time of fun, fellowship and

camaraderie ~ a time of sharing. As always, each of our **PSO** events has a delicious luncheon served.

PSO is happy to welcome back several former members and new members, too. We are honored to welcome William Bernhardt and his wife Lara as our newest members of the **Poetry Society of Oklahoma**. Bill is the bestselling author of more than forty books and hosts writing workshops and small-group seminars and is one of the most in-demand writing instructors in the nation. Lara Bernhardt is a writer, editor, and audiobook narrator. They reside in Choctaw, Oklahoma.

We always look forward to time with both new and “old” members. As I have stated previously, you, 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. We believe in enjoying our time together, in learning and in quality fellowship, and would love for you to be a part of all we do.

This is our **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, it will be of interest to you.

As I said, this is an exciting time for **PSO** ~ there are fresh ideas and an enthusiasm to be brought forth in 2017. We still have 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-third year! We want to let people know more about **PSO** – it has been a rather well-kept secret. Our focus is 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/ps/> 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).

My wish for you in 2017:

Begin a new chapter by burying the unpleasant memories of the past and making way for better ones to come in the future. Look forward to the New Year with hope and confidence and you are sure to be blessed with great things. Remember, tough times do not last and arrival of a fresh year is a testimony to this fact. Even your tough phase will not last forever so never abandon hope and lose your confidence. And finally, rise like the phoenix from the ashes each time the evil tries to defeat you.

Patti Koch,

President

“ It is never too late to be what you might have been. “

- GEORGE
ELIOT

