



Patti Koch
President

Eighty-eight years ago **The Poetry Society of Oklahoma** had its beginning on February 9, 1934 in the library of the YWCA in Oklahoma City. About thirty poets came together in response to a newspaper request made by Zoe Tilghman, who worked as a literary editor for a newspaper. The group approved Mrs. Tilghman's plan for a State Poetry Society, and a month later the participants elected officers and they chose Mrs. Tilghman as the first President of **PSO**. And, here we are, so many years later still writing and promoting poetry.

Chinese philosopher, [Lao-tzu](#) said, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” And, that is exactly what **PSO** is doing - moving forward, one step at a time. **The Poetry Society of Oklahoma** is all about poetry and uniqueness. We encourage you to, “***Come and Grow at PSO!***”

These last two years have certainly been like nothing we have ever seen or lived through before, although, the dust bowl and the great depression were happening during the time **PSO** was formed. Those times were also very difficult. We have dealt with changes in our world, country and personal lives that have been very challenging, to say the least. Once again a variety of subjects are everywhere for us to write about! What an opportunity to make another ***GREAT YEAR***, and a better year for each of us and our **Poetry Society of Oklahoma**.

PSO members always look forward to our Annual Spring Awards. This year, again, we will not be having our annual banquet but will still have our Annual Poetry contest winners and awards. In 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 eleventh 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 eleventh year in a row!). National Poetry Month was inaugurated by the [Academy of American Poets](#) in 1996. Poem in Your Pocket Day also takes place every year on a day during National Poetry Month. This year Thursday, April 28th is National Poem in Your Pocket Day. **PSO** enjoys promoting and celebrating ***National Poetry Month*** in Oklahoma! **PSO** truly enjoys promoting and celebrating POETRY to the fullest every month!

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 7th October 2022. October is the time of our annual business meeting and also a time of fun, fellowship and camaraderie ~ a time of sharing.

It is always sad to announce that **PSO** has lost several long-time members this year due to sickness and death. It is difficult 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.

There is an abundance of information at our web-site: <http://www.angelfire.com/poetry/psa/> 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).

I think it is important for each 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.

It seems to be popular these days to have a “Bucket List.” If poetry is on yours then **PSO** is the place for you! Poetry can have a very positive and profound impact on our lives. Poetry gives us a deeper understanding of the language and it allows us to see our writing differently. Poetry enables us to express ourselves and our ideas better. I hope that this is one of the many attributes of **PSO**!



A poet is, before anything else, a person who is passionately in love with language. -- W.H. Auden