

2012 - 2016

Alabama Poet Laureate Nominations Guidelines

What is the Alabama Poet Laureate Position?

The Alabama Poet Laureate recognizes and honors a citizen poet of exceptional talent and accomplishment. The Alabama Poet Laureate also encourages appreciation of poetry and literary life in Alabama. This position was created by the state legislature (Code of Alabama - S 143 - Powell) May 5, 1931.

What is the Term of Service and Compensation?

The term of service is a four-year renewable term. The award is honorific.

Who is eligible to be nominated Alabama Poet Laureate?

Any citizen of the state of Alabama may nominate a poet for the Poet Laureate position. A poet may not self-nominate him or herself, and no award will be given posthumously. Nominations for Alabama Poet Laureate will be accepted for Alabama poets who meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Must currently be a resident of Alabama and have resided in Alabama for at least ten years.
2. Must be at least 21 years old.
3. Must have at least one book of poetry published by a commercial or small press within the past ten years.
4. Must be available to travel and give presentations.
5. Must have produced work of the highest caliber and critical acclaim and have contributed substantial service to the development of the literary arts as demonstrated by the submitted application.

What is the selection process for Alabama Poet Laureate?

The President of Alabama Writers Conclave will appoint a Poet Laureate Nominations Committee who will review applications and present a candidate for election at the annual meeting July 21, 2012. The Governor of the State of Alabama will then appoint the selected candidate in an official ceremony.

How will Alabama Poet Laureate nominations be evaluated?

1. Excellence as evidenced by the submitted poetry sample.
2. Exemplary professionalism as evidenced by an established history of substantial and significant publications in journals and books including at least one book of poems published by a commercial or small press (see eligibility requirements) and special honors, awards, fellowships, or other recognition.
3. Advancement of poetry in Alabama communities as evidenced by an established

history of activity in Alabama's literary community through readings, publications, public presentations and/or teaching.

To be considered, nominations must include the following:

1. Completed nomination form (attached), signed by nominator and nominated poet that include a binding statement that the poetry sample is the nominee's and the materials submitted are true and complete.
2. A cover letter from the nominator of no more than two pages providing the following information: name and a short biography of the nominated poet and a summary of significant awards and published works.
3. The poet-nominee's resume.
4. A summary of no more than one page indicating why the nominator considers the work of the nominated poet to be of the highest quality.
5. A work sample of no more than ten poems. Submissions may not exceed 15 continuously numbered 8 1/2" x 11" pages (one side), no less than 12 point type. Please provide copyright information where appropriate; all submissions become part of the public record. Both published and non-published poetry may be submitted. All submissions must be typewritten or computer generated. Materials hand-written will not be accepted.
6. A recent photograph of the nominee.

Receipt deadline for all nominations is Saturday, December 31, 2011.

Mail nominations to:

Irene Latham
Poet Laureate Nominations Committee, AWC
412 Windchase Way
Birmingham, AL 35242

2012 - 2016 Alabama Poet Laureate Nomination Form

Receipt Deadline: Saturday, December 31, 2011. **Review the nomination guidelines before signing this form.**

Nominator Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (other) _____

email address _____

I accept full responsibility for meeting all requirements of the Alabama Writers Conclave to provide all information required to evaluate this nomination. I attest that all included information is true and that this nomination submission signifies intention of compliance with all general and special guidelines and restrictions imposed by the Alabama Writers Conclave as stated in this document.

Signature of Nominator _____ Date _____

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Poet-Nominee Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (other) _____

email address _____

I give full permission for my name to be placed in nomination for this position by the above nominator. I certify that the nominee information is true and accurate and that the work sample submitted is an accurate representation of my work. If selected, the Office of the Governor of the State of Alabama and the Alabama Writers Conclave have my permission to use my work sample, or a portion thereof, for publicity purposes.

Signature of Poet-Nominee _____ Date _____