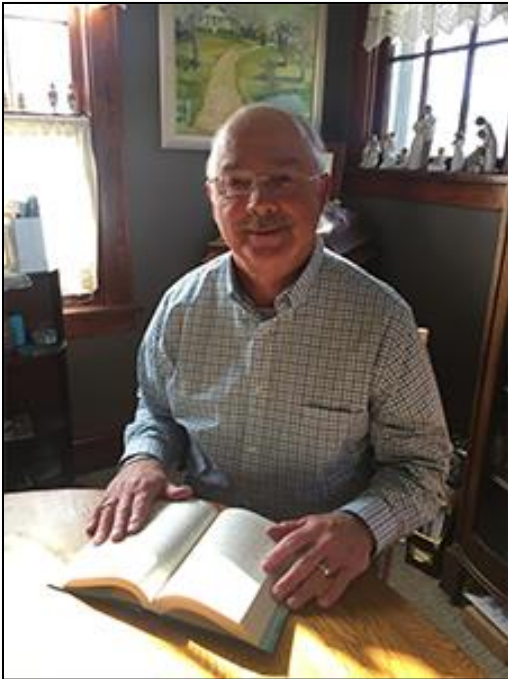




2027 Prairie State Poetry Prize for a 1st or 2nd Book of Poetry

Deadline: Midnight, October 31st, 2026

The Prairie State Poetry Prize includes a cash award of \$150 in addition to publication by Highland Park Poetry Press, 20 copies of the winning title, and a featured poet spot at an HPP event. Manuscripts are judged anonymously and all finalists will be considered for publication. This year's final judge is Illinois poet Michael Escoubas.



ABOUT THIS YEAR'S JUDGE: **Michael Escoubas**

serves as Senior Editor, Contributing Poet, and Staff Book Reviewer for Quill & Parchment, a 24-year-old literary and cultural arts online poetry journal. He has authored six collections of poetry and is a two-time Pushcart Prize Nominee.

Guidelines for Prairie State Poetry Prize Submissions

- The Prairie State Poetry Prize for First or Second Book is only open to poets who have previously published no more than one full-length poetry collection. You are still eligible if you have published a poetry chapbook(s) or books in other genres.
- Friends, family or students, past and present, of the final judge are ineligible.
- Individual poems may have been published previously in magazines, journals, anthologies, and chapbooks, but the collection as whole must be unpublished.
- Manuscripts must be 48-85 pages of poetry written in English by a poet residing within the U.S.
- Translations of the work of others and previously self-published books are not eligible.
- Manuscripts must be sent in a single word .doc or .docx file with no identifying information (name, address, email, bio, publications acknowledgments, etc.). We read anonymously.
- In a separate document, submit a cover letter with your bio and contact information and an acknowledgments page of individual poems published within the manuscript.
- Send manuscript and cover letter as attachments to jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org – indicate **Prairie State Poetry Prize** in subject line.
- Manuscripts should 1) use a legible 12pt – 14pt font, 2) be paginated and 3) include a table of contents.

- A \$25 reading fee is required for each submission. Send to paypal.me/HighlandParkPoetry or check made payable to *Highland Park Poetry*, c/o Jennifer Dotson, 1690 Midland Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035
- Simultaneous submissions are fine. Notify Highland Park Poetry if your manuscript is accepted elsewhere.
- No edits can be made to manuscripts after you submit. However, if chosen for award or publication, edits can be made prior to final proofs.
- The judge may choose no winner if they find no manuscript that, in their estimation, merits publication and the award.
- In the unlikely event that, due to unexpected illness or life events, that a judge is unable to select an award winner, a member of the Highland Park Poetry editorial team will select the award winner.
- Your submission acknowledges that you understand and agree to all guidelines.
- The winner will be notified by email or telephone. Results will be announced on our website and Facebook pages by April 1st, 2027.
- Questions about the Prairie State Poetry Prize should be directed to Jennifer Dotson, Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org.

Ethics Statement

Highland Park Poetry subscribes to the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses (CLMP) Contest Code of Ethics: “CLMP’s community of independent literary publishers believes that ethical contests serve our shared goal: to connect writers and readers by publishing exceptional writing. We believe that intent to act ethically, clarity of guidelines, and transparency of process form the foundation of an ethical contest. To that end, we agree to 1) conduct our contests as ethically as possible and to address any unethical behavior on the part of our readers, judges, or editors; 2) to provide clear and specific contest guidelines defining conflict of interest for all parties involved; and 3) to make the mechanics of our selection process available to the public. This Code recognizes that different contest models produce different results, but that each model can be run ethically. We have adopted this Code to reinforce our integrity and dedication as a publishing community and to ensure that our contests contribute to a vibrant literary heritage.”