



CALL FOR WRITERS: BRIGHT LIGHT POETRY CONTEST

Southeastern Minnesota Poets is seeking family-friendly poems for possible inclusion in a late-winter virtual program, **Bright Light Stories in the Night**. Six winning poems from local writers will be illustrated by local artists and incorporated into a e-chapbook that will be read by local celebrities—including Mayor Kim Norton—on the evening of February 26, 2021. Additional poems, including two honorable mentions, may be selected to be read at this virtual event but will not be illustrated.

Thanks to grant funding from the SEMAC, six winning poets will receive \$100 in prize money. Honorable mentions will receive \$50.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Submissions must be emailed to poets.semn@gmail.com by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2020. Poets may not send more than one submission (of up to three poems). Please read submission criteria closely. Submissions that do not follow the submission criteria will not be read.

POETRY SUBMISSION CRITERIA

- Eligible writers must live in Southeastern Minnesota (residents of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houtson, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona Counties)
- Poems must be 12-30 lines in length (stanza breaks do not count toward length)
- Prose poems or flash fiction of no more than 200 words are also eligible
- Poems should focus on themes and/or images that bring light, connection, and/or joy to our community
- Poems must be family-friendly, with no charged language, explicit imagery, or overly adult themes
- Poets may submit no more than 3 poems for consideration, all within one Word document or PDF attachment—do not submit poems individually or in multiple emails
- Poems can be new or previously published work to which poets retain rights; however, the publication credit of previously published work must be included in a cover letter
- The cover letter should include your contact information, including mailing address, and the names of the poems you submitted and be sent in the body of your submission email
- Poems will be judged blind by 3-5 peer artists—do not include your name or other identifying material in your attached poetry submission
- Poems will be judged based on the following criteria: craft, community healing, and family-friendly appeal

Questions? Email poets.semn@gmail.com.



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund.