

2011 VWC Golden Nib Writing Contest



ABOUT THE CONTEST: In 2005, the Virginia Writers Club, Inc. created a two-tier writing contest whereby entries would be submitted and judged at the (first tier) VWC Chapter level first, and then each Chapter would forward their first-place winning entries for judging at the (second tier) statewide VWC level. Entrants need to live within the jurisdiction of the respective Chapter to enter the first tier of the contest. For those living in an area where no Chapter exists, they may submit their entries to the Chapter closest to them.

SUBMIT ENTRIES TO YOUR LOCAL VWC CHAPTER BY THEIR SPECIFIED DEADLINE

Each Chapter has their own guidelines, deadline and membership requirements for entering the Chapter level contest. All chapters must adhere to the state contest rules (on right). Some Chapters require membership in their Chapter, some don't.

All entries in the second tier statewide VWC contest must be a first-place Chapter level entry and the entrant must be a statewide VWC member. Thus, if a winner at the Chapter level is not a member of the statewide VWC, a membership application and payment of dues must accompany the entry.

Contact your local VWC Chapter to find out what the deadline is for Chapter Contest Submissions!

NOTE: Entries sent by writers directly to VWC for the statewide contest will not be accepted. Each chapter president is responsible for forwarding only the first-place entries from the chapter competition (in each of the three categories), written by a member of the VWC or a writer who completes an application to join the VWC and submits a check for annual dues of \$30 to accompany the entry.

STATEWIDE VWC AWARDS: There are ten VWC Chapters in the state. Only first place winners from the Chapters will be eligible for the statewide contest. That means only 30 entries will be forwarded for the statewide competition - ten entries total per category (fiction, nonfiction, poetry) - by the Statewide Deadline of Sept. 3. Winners of the statewide VWC Contest will be announced and awards presented at the statewide VWC Annual Meeting on NOVEMBER 5. Awards for each category: **First Place**-\$100; **Second Place**-\$50; **Third Place**-\$25.

CONTEST RULES

Entries will be accepted on any subject the author or poet so chooses, in the categories of Fiction, Nonfiction and Poetry.

1. Manuscripts must be the original, unpublished* work of the entrant, and must not have won a prize at any level in any other competition.

*Includes writing that has been circulated, distributed or printed in such a manner that it is made known to the public at large to include material published on personal websites.

2. Entrants may submit not more than one entry per category of fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

3. Fiction and non-fiction entries must be not longer than 3,000 words. Poetry entries must be not longer than 40 lines.

4. Format:

a. Detachable cover sheet including author's name, address, telephone number, email address (if available), category (fiction, non-fiction, poetry), and title.

b. All other pages must show contest category, title and page number in the header. If the author's name appears on any page of the manuscript other than the cover sheet, the entry will be disqualified.

c. Prose (fiction and non-fiction) manuscripts must be printed in a plain and legible font, such as Times New Roman in 12- to 14-pitch. Manuscripts must be printed on 8½ by 11-inch white paper, double-spaced, with one-inch

margins top, bottom and left, and a ragged right margin.

d. Poetry manuscripts must be printed in a plain, legible font, such as Times New Roman in 12- to 14-pitch. Manuscripts must be printed on 8½ by 11-inch white paper with one-inch margins top and bottom.

e. No hand-written manuscripts will be accepted.

5. Submissions must include an original and one copy of the manuscript.

6. Submissions not in accord with format and other rules will be disqualified.

7. First, second and third place winning entries in each category will be published in Portable Data File (*.pdf) format, on the VWC Web site. All other rights remain the property of the author.

8. Manuscripts for the second-tier contest will not be returned.

Attention VWC Chapters!

Winning Chapter entries need to be submitted by **SEPT. 3** to:
Christine Valenti, VWC Contest
10103 New Scotland Dr.
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

For more information, contact
ChristineRoseValenti@hotmail.com
or call: 540-645-0549