

## VWC 2008 Two-Tier Writing Contest

**Categories and subject matter:** Entries will be accepted on any subject the poet or author so chooses, in the categories of Fiction, Non-fiction and Poetry.

**Tiers and Eligibility:** In the First Tier, entries must be submitted by geographical region, and will be judged within the VWC Chapter serving that region. *If there is no active Chapter serving one's geographic region, entries are to be submitted to the participating Chapter nearest the entrant.* (See the Website for contact information and region details.) Each participating Chapter will accept entries from (1) VWC members who are members of that Chapter, (2) writers who belong to the Chapter but have not yet joined the VWC, (3) VWC members who are not members of that Chapter but who live closer to that Chapter than any other, and (4) writers who, as part of the process of entering the contest, submit a membership application to VWC or a Chapter.

**Tier 1 entries submitted through the Chesapeake Bay Writers Chapter must be postmarked no later than Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and mailed to CBW, P.O. Box 385, Port Haywood, VA 23138. Or, members may hand deliver entries (in a sealed envelope) addressed to Mary Ann Carr, CBW President, at the June 18<sup>th</sup> Dinner meeting scheduled to be held at the Pilot House Restaurant in Topping.**

At the **Second Tier**, First Tier winners in each category will compete against one another. *No entries will be accepted from the general membership at the Second Tier level.* Each Chapter president will forward only the winning entry in the First Tier (Chapter) competition, in each of the three categories. Winners of a First Tier winning entry will not be eligible for, or forwarded to, the state-wide Second Tier competition unless they are members of the VWC, or submit a VWC application and the annual VWC dues of \$30 with their winning entry. It is the responsibility of each Chapter president to verify VWC or Chapter membership of all submissions to the First Tier competition, and verify VWC membership of winning entries before forwarding them for the state-wide competition. With submissions from ten Chapters, only 30 entries will be forwarded for the state-wide competition—ten entries total per category, one entry per category and Chapter.

**Fees:** There is no fee for entering the contest; however, those writers joining the VWC as part of the contest must submit annual VWC dues of \$30 with their completed application and their entry. Those who join a Chapter must pay the customary dues for that Chapter.

**Awards:** Winners at both levels will be reported in *The Virginia Writer* and in press releases issued by the VWC. Chapters are responsible for First Tier awards and presentation. Second Tier winners will be announced at the VWC Annual Meeting in November (details forthcoming). Second Tier prizes are: 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$100.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, \$50.00; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, \$25.00.

**Deadlines:** First Tier contest deadlines will be established independently by each of the ten Chapters. For the Second Tier contest, Chapter presidents must mail qualifying First Tier winning entries to

**H. Gregory Mitchell**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
**P.O. Box 3451**  
**Fredericksburg, VA 22402-3451**

not later than Friday, 5 September 2008 (entries **must be received** by this date).

### **Official Rules**

*These rules apply to all entries at both levels.*

1. Manuscripts must be the original, unpublished work of the entrant, and must not have won at any level in any other competition.
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 in Times New Roman, 12-pitch, double-spaced on 8 ½ by 11-inch white paper with one-inch margins top, bottom and left, and a ragged right margin.
  - d. Poetry manuscripts must be in Times New Roman, 12-pitch, single- or double-spaced on 8 ½ by 11-inch white paper with one-inch margins top, bottom and left, and a ragged right margin.
  - 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. All use rights remain the property of the author. The VWC may ask permission for winning entries to be published in the VWC newsletter (*The Virginia Writer*), on its Website, or in such other print or electronic media the VWC may decide to publish.
8. Manuscripts for the second-tier contest will not be returned.

*For clarification of any of the above, contact Greg Mitchell*  
(va.writers@gmail.com; 540-786-2859).