

Revised Guidelines for the 2008 VWC “Inside the Back Cover” Writing Contests

The Virginia Writers Club during 2008 will sponsor three contests for short pieces of writing. The winning entry for each contest will be published inside the back cover of a future edition of the VWC newsletter, *The Virginia Writer*. The winner of each contest will also receive \$40.

The contests will be administered by a VWC committee comprising Jim Morrison, Becky Mushko, and Greg Mitchell.

The first contest will be for flash fiction, with a submission deadline of May 1, 2008. Later in the year, a second contest will be held for poetry, with a deadline of August 1. The third contest will be for essays, with a deadline of November 1.

General guidelines follow:

- Members of the Virginia Writers Club may enter the contest free, as a privilege of membership. Other writers residing in Virginia may enter for a fee of \$8, with a check payable to the Virginia Writers Club submitted with the entry. A writer wishing to join the Virginia Writers Club and applying to become a member of the VWC by submitting an application along with a check for regular annual dues of \$30, will not have to pay the \$8 fee.
- Entries are limited, respectively, to short fiction, poetry, and personal essays.
- Only one entry per writer per contest, i.e., a maximum of three entries per writer, one for each of three contests;
- Excluding titles, the maximum length for flash fiction and essays is 700 words; for poetry, the maximum length is 30 lines.
- Entries must be the original work of the writer, not yet published or submitted for other contests or publishing.
- Entries must be typed or word processed (not handwritten) using 12 pt New Times Roman font. Short stories and essays must be double spaced and prepared on white 8 ½ x 11-inch paper with 1-inch margins. Poetry should be single spaced on white 8 ½ x 11-inch paper.
- A detachable cover sheet must include the title of the piece, the author’s name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, if he/she has one. A short biographic sketch of no more than 75 words should be included on the cover sheet; the biographic sketch of the winner will be included with the winning entry on the inside back cover of an edition of the VWC newsletter.
- With the exception of the detachable cover sheet, the writer’s name must not appear on any other page of the submission, so that the judge will not know who the writer is.
- All rights will revert to the writer after the contest.
- Two hard copies of each entry, with one detachable cover sheet, must be mailed (postmarked) via USPS or other special surface delivery or hand delivered by the respective deadline to the respective coordinator listed

below. No submissions will be accepted by e-mail. Entries should be sent to:

- Fiction (by May 1): H. Gregory Mitchell, P.O. Box 3451,
Fredericksburg, VA 22402
- Poetry (by Aug 1): Becky Mushko, 8 Listening Hill Rd, Penhook, VA
24137
- Essays (by Nov 1): James W. Morrison, 80 Chickadee Circle, Moneta,
VA 24121

- Manuscripts will not be returned. Only the winner will be directly notified of the results of the contest, with notification in advance of publication of the winning entry on the inside back cover of the newsletter.
- Any questions should be directed to James W. Morrison, phone 540-721-1991, or EZWriter@att.net.