

History of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, Inc.

65th Anniversary Issue

What is the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets?

An organization of people who are interested in poetry, who write poetry, and/or who are willing to work to make Wisconsin poetry-conscious and conscious of its own poets; the organization is formed exclusively for literary and scientific purposes.

Mission:

- To secure fuller recognition of poetry as one of the important forces making for a higher civilization and to create a finer appreciation of poetry by the public at large.
- To help Wisconsin poets through seminars, criticism and study to perfect their work.
- To encourage the study of poetry in the schools of the state.

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note: The WFOP Constitution and Bylaws are not included in this booklet because changes were pending at the time the 65th Anniversary booklet was printed . It is hoped that the 75th Anniversary booklet will contain the constitution and bylaws current in 2025. www.wfop.org has links to current documents.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Dana Akers	Elizabeth Mitchell
Inga Gilson Caldwell	Ruth Morehouse
Buelah Jackson Charmley	Elizabeth Mott
Ella Stratton Colbo	Mayhew Mott
Rev. Daniel B. Coyne	Marian Paust
Alice Davis	Ruth Dana Pederson
August Derleth	Clara Catherine Prince
Maude Dickinson	Alice Phelps-Rider
Ella Bartlett Dixon	Eleanor Totman Reynolds
Emma Louise Grade	Elizabeth Richards
Alice Burton Hackett	Anna C. Rose
Jennie Twetten Hammer	Edith M. Sanders
Marie Kirsten Harris	Lyda Schultz
Amanda Heiden	Helen Scott
Bessie Heth	Ivy Riggs Shinn
Edward I. Kamarck	Lillian Strost
Myrtle Abbot Lange	Helen Thomas
S. Louise Leighton	Fidelia Van Antwerp
Phebe Jewell Nichols Lookaround	L. Eleanor Voxwinkel
Arlyle Mansfield Losse	Meta Wahl
Edna K. Meudt	Emily Sprague Wurl

HONORARY MEMBERS

Sherwood Collins	Ralph McCanse
August Derleth	Frank Stillman Moulton
Russell Ferrall	John Pick
Ruth Mary Fox	Clara Catherine Prince
Robert E. Gard	Marion Brimm Rewey
Edward I. Kamarck	Raymond Stanley
William M. Lamers	

These lists come from the 50th Anniversary History of WFOP

HISTORY OF THE WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS

note: The first section of this history was obtained from the booklet prepared for the 50th Anniversary by Jo Bartels Alderson and others. Most information regarding election of officers was removed for this 65th Anniversary History booklet and placed in the Officers by Year section.

Several small groups had organized poetry societies in Wisconsin but none of these remained when Louise Leighton returned to her home state in 1947. Clara Catherine Prince of Milwaukee, founder of the American Literary Association and editor of *American Poetry Magazine* (second oldest in the United States), suggested to Louise that she try to organize a state poetry society. Clara felt that Louise, having belonged to state poetry groups in New York and Minnesota, would be most qualified to carry out a similar project in Wisconsin. It was decided to follow somewhat the pattern of other state organizations.

Louise Leighton of the American Poetry Magazine Editorial Committee and Maude Dickinson of the executive committee of the American Literary Association invited Phebe Jewel Nichols Lookaround and Eleanor Voswinkel, both supporters of the ALA, to serve as a committee to mail out letters to fifty writers. Thirty three indicated interest and desire to become members of a state poetry group.

On November 12, 1949, six of those who replied met in Madison at the YWCA in the morning to discuss preliminary plans and in the afternoon joined Maude Dickinson at her home for tea. These seven were: Louise Leighton, Eleanor Voswinkel, Edna Meudt, Ione Wintering, Eleanor Totman, Maude Dickinson, and Zena Curless. They decided to try to organize a Wisconsin Poetry Society.

FIRST DECADE (1950-1960)

1950 The Wisconsin Rural Writers Association was at this time a young and rapidly growing group with Edward Kamerck at the helm. Louise Leighton went to see him for advice and assistance. He not only reserved a room at the University of Wisconsin Memorial Union but came and helped with the day's program. Fidalia Van Antwerp, president of WRWA, came also and was an interested and active member of both associations. Therefore in Madison on April 23, 1950 in the Reception Room of the Memorial Union the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets became a reality. Officers elected were president, Louise Leighton; vice-president, Maude Dickinson; secretary, Edna Meudt; treasurer, Eleanor Totman; historian, Eleanor Voswinkel. Regional vice-presidents were: northern, Dana Akers; southern, Edith Sanders; eastern, Ivy Riggs Shinn. Committee chairmen appointed were: membership, Anne Rose; education, Maude Dickinson; radio and reading, Edna Meudt; music, Adele Martin; constitution, Helen Thomas, Eleanor Voswinkel, and Lyda Schultz; social, Fidalia Van Antwerp. At this meeting the name of the new society was chosen. Maude Dickinson proposed the name of The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets and this met with unanimous approval and adoption. Clara Catherine Prince and August Derleth were accorded Honorary Membership at this first meeting. According to a newspaper

published in May announcing a meeting on June 10, 1950, poets who paid their WFOP dues before the June meeting would be considered charter members. At the June 10 meeting held at the Tomah Library with Eleanor Voswinkel and Adele Martin co-hostesses, Rev. Father John Brudermanns, pastor of St. Mary's and a Tomah Library Board member, spoke. Guest speakers were: Carmen Nelson Richards, Jessie Goddard Broman, and Lillian Atchersen, Minneapolis writers. Maude Dickinson also talked about poetry markets and read some of her poetry.

Eleanor Voswinkel donated and started the first WFOP scrapbook. Under her guidance a record of organizational events and membership publicity was begun. She held office from 1950 until 1952. The second WFOP historian was Anne Rose who held the office from 1952 through 1954. The third historian was Maude Totten who served from 1955 through 1956. The fourth historian was Marian Paust who held the office from 1957 through 1959. In 1960 Betty Anderson was elected historian but was unable to carry on the duties and resigned. Marian Paust continued as historian from 1960 to 1974. In May 1963 Marian Paust ordered a second History Book made for all the accumulated data that had been assembled but not put together in book form.

The first newsletter, dated May 1950, co-edited by Louise Leighton and Edna Meudt, was titled *The Bulletin of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets*. At the June 10, 1950 meeting the name was changed to *The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets Muse Letter*. The title was suggested by Louise Leighton. The Constitution and Objectives of the organization were decided on and adopted. A poem seminar was held.

The usual format of early *Muse Letters* contained meeting dates set, distinguished speakers, group poetry discussions and panels, roll call poems read by each member to the group, introductions of new members and officer, market lists and contests. It mentioned the publications and honors awarded members and reported memorials. It listed officers elected and committees appointed at annual spring meetings. Helen C. Smith mimeographed and underwrote the cost of early *Muse Letters*.

Edna Meudt, radio chairman, having been in contact with WHA in Madison, announced that Harold B. McCarty, station director, had approved plans for a WHA Program Series with Professor Raymond Stanley, WHA production manager and dramatic reader, selected to read the poems. Professor Stanley suggested the title for the new series: THE POET'S CORNER after the one in Westminster Abbey, England and this was adopted. Script plans called for the reading of poems accompanied by suitable background music of Don Voegeli, musical director for the State Broadcasting Service. The first program was scheduled for September 2, 1950 with poems by Dana Akers and Louise Leighton. Mrs. Jean Eggleston prepared the scripts. This series became a half hour program and was aired weekly for about three years. Poetry for WFOP was read intermittently until Professor Stanley left WHA in 1961 to pursue a career in television and motion pictures.

The eastern regional group took the name “Phebe Chapter” honoring Phebe Lookaround. They met twice that year; in July in Port Washington and in October in West Bend. The southwest group met near Janesville at the Sander’s cottage on Clear Lake.

Speaker at the fall meeting in Baraboo on September 30 at the First Congregational Church was August Derleth, Sauk City author. At the December 2 meeting at the Wisconsin Hotel, Milwaukee, Dr. John Pick of Marquette University’s English department spoke about Gerard Manley Hopkins.

1951 There were three meetings in 1951. On February 24 at Madison, Dr. Jerome Buckley was speaker and John Cappon was seminar critic. On May 20 in Madison Ray Stanley was guest reader. On October 20, Phebe Lookaround spoke on “Indian Heritage” at the Baraboo Congregational Church. At this meeting three people were elected to Honorary Membership: Raymond Stanley, Robert E. Gard, and Edward Kamerck. Maude Dickinson resigned as vice-president due to ill health, and Winnie Saunders succeeded her. Marian Paust was elected central regional vice-president.

October 15, 1951 was proclaimed Poetry Day in Wisconsin by Gov. Oscar Rennebohm. Star Powers was chairman of the committee to make this an important annual event. Edna Meudt succeeded her in this capacity.

WFOP also assisted at the WRWA State Conference by furnishing a poetry speaker and conducting a poetry workshop.

1952 A meeting was held at the Charles Allis Art Library in Milwaukee on February 23. Margarette Ball Dixon, Minnesota poet and art teacher, conducted a seminar. Edith Marcks, Milwaukee civic leader, spoke on “Wisconsin Writers”. The spring meeting on May 7 in Janesville was held at the home of Oliver and Edith Sauders. Professor Chad Walsh, author, poet and teacher at Beloit College, spoke on “Poetry Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow”. New officers elected were: president, Edna Meudt; vice-president, Winnie Saunders; secretary, Helen Smith; treasurer, Mayhew Mott; historian and membership chair, Anne Rose. On August 2nd in Madison, Raymond Stanley was the speaker and reader on the topic “Poetry for Radio.” On October 11 at Keshena at the Angus Lookaround Memorial Museum co-hostesses were Phebe Lookaround and Ivy Shinn. Arlyle Mansfield Losse spoke on Robert Frost, and Professor Emeritus Harry Glicksman was the featured speaker. On January 17th at the Raulf Hotel in Portage, with Marian Paust, regional vice-president central region acting as hostess, Professor Ralph McCause was guest speaker and poem critic.

Regional meetings were southwest and central at Janesville and Rock Prairie Church and eastern at Fredonia. Milwaukee and Keshena held their meetings combined with the state meeting.

The first Membership Roster and History was published in 1952 by president Edna Meudt and distributed to the membership. It contained the WFOP Constitution as revised on April 26, the

Bylaws, and listed Honorary and Active membership lists. The first page, copyrighted by M. E. McClelland and Frank Moulton, Madison architect and artist, was reproduced on the Roster for the first time. Frank Moulton also designed and gave WFOP the cut used on the organization's letterhead. This cut has become the insignia of WFOP. He also drew the design for the jacket of *Poems Out Of Wisconsin*, the fellowship's first anthology edited by Maude Totten.

1953 WFOP stationary was made available for purchase. The spring meeting was held on April 12 in Madison and featured talks by Maude Dickinson and Rose McCalmont. Guest speaker was Professor Harry Glicksman on "How Poetic Thinking May Yield Poetic Writing". At the July 11th meeting in Milwaukee at Mary Zimmerman's home, Star Powers discussed Poetry Day and Dr. William Lamers spoke on "Poets To Live By". On November 14, members met in Baraboo at the Congregational Church with Katherine Green and Lee Douglas acting as readers and discussion leaders. A highlight of this meeting was the presence of August Derleth who maintained a helpful association with WFOP members though the rest of his life.

Sectional meetings were held at: Phebe Chapter-Manitowoc with Phebe Lookaround, hostess; at Wauwatosa in Ida Opperrud's home; at Waupaca with Inga Caldwell, hostess. A central region meeting was held at the Richland Country Club in Richland Center by Marian Paust and southwestern region in Erchal McLay's Janesville home.

The idea of a Wisconsin poetry anthology evolved into action and Ruth Morehouse was appointed editor by president, Edna Meudt. Morehouse received advance orders until this task was taken over by treasurer, Arthur Fisher. Later Louise Leighton was appointed business manager.

Edna Meudt and Emily Wurl co-chaired the first student contest. Amanda Heiden and Clarence Thorwald publicized the project. Allis Chalmers, Kroger, and Thorp Finance Corporations gave generous cash awards. Other prizes of cash, books and poetry magazine subscriptions were donated by members. Approximately 500 entries were received.

1954 WFOP sponsored a second state-wide Junior/Senior High School Poetry Contest. Entries numbered just under 1000 and Edna Meudt and Marian Paust were co-chairs. Again both corporations and members donated cash and prizes.

The spring meeting took place on April 24. The second meeting was held June 19 in Ripon College Chapel with college president, Dr. Kuebler and Professor Botgillia as speakers. October 23rd Phebe Lookabout was hostess. Dr. John Pick spoke on "Poetry and Modernism". Mary Agnes Starr sang old French songs accompanied by her autoharp. Louise Leighton was made a life member at this meeting. In December, the Fellowship met at Elizabeth Baker's home in Racine. A program of Christmas music was presented with the story of Handel's Messiah.

The Phebe Chapter met in Manitowoc in the spring and during the summer in Menasha with Dorothy Dalton Kuehn and in the fall in Milwaukee. South-Central had their spring meeting at the Sander's home and summer and fall meetings at Arngibbon near Janesville.

1955 The winter meeting on February 26 was at the College Women's Club in Milwaukee. Honorary member, Dr, William Lamers, Assistant Supt. of Schools in Milwaukee, and Dr. Robert E. Gard, Wisconsin Idea Theatre Director, were speakers. Professor Gard previewed his forthcoming book *Grassroots Theatre* in which several Fellowship members were mentioned. Ldya Schultz presented WFOP with two beautiful flags, gift of the Women's Relief Corps. On April 23, WFOP enjoyed a program arranged by Emily Wurl at the Memorial Union in Madison called "Meet the Authors". Those who read from their books included: Inga Caldwell, Mary Zimmerman, Alice Phelps-Rider, Louise Leighton, Helen Smith, Mary Lehman and Helen Nencka.

1956 The first meeting of the year was held on January 14 at Wauwatosa. It was announced that the first anthology, *Northern Spring*, edited by Ruth Morehouse, was ready for distribution. Revisions were made to the constitution. No state-wide student poetry contest was undertaken due to the financial commitments involved in publishing the anthology. The May 25 meeting brought the election of officers. On September 15 at the Finney Library in Milwaukee, Dana and Helen Akers were featured speakers. The December 8 meeting was in Madison, and Sherwood Collins of Wisconsin Idea Theatre spoke on "Poetic Drama". At that meeting the first silver Roll Call Winner's loving cup, donated by Oliver Sanders, was displayed. Edith Sanders' major project was the beginning of the second anthology. She was assisted by Marian Paust, Star Powers, Edna Meudt, Loise Leighton, and Ida Opperud. The sudden death of Fidelia Van Antwerp in August was a sad event for all writer groups in Wisconsin. A Fidelia Van Antwerp Memorial collection of books and manuscripts was placed in the State Historical Library. Edna Meudt was commissioned to write a tribute to Fidelia in a Memorial Booklet which was printed and shared with WRWA. The central south-west group met on August 20 at the Congregational Church in Baraboo. Part of the day's program was in honor of Fidelia, beloved friend of all.

1957 The meeting on May 11 was held at the Presbyterian Church in Oshkosh. Speaker and reader was Catherine Jocelyn. October 5th members enjoyed a scenic trip to Lookaround Museum in Keshena. Renatta Mayer, Green Bay, spoke on using poetry in her welfare work. The November 30 meeting was held at Elizabeth Baker's home in Racine. The eastern group presented a program of readings and music and Carol Heft read parts of "My Fair Lady".

1958 The winter meeting was canceled and the first meeting of the year was held on May 17 in the Memorial Union. Louise Leighton was appointed to write the History of the Fellowship and to arrange for its publication in a brochure also containing the revised Constitution and new Roster. Speaking at this meeting was Clement Silvestro of the American Society of Historians and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. His topics was the Civil War period in Wisconsin. Mary Agnes Starr, national chair of the Folk Music for the Federation of Music Clubs, told of the

work of this committee and asked for help in collecting folk songs. On October 11 in Keshena Irene Tidwell read a paper on the history of the Fox River Valley.

1959 On January 31 the Fellowship convened at the Finney Branch Library in Milwaukee and heard Prof. Ruth Mary Fox of Milwaukee State Teachers College talk on poetry and conduct a seminar. On April 26 at the Memorial Union in Madison the new history brochure was distributed. Honorary member, Professor Ralph McCanse spoke on "Poetry Techniques". Edna Meudt began planning for the next Junior/Senior State High School Poetry Contest.

The National Federation of State Poetry Societies was organized in Baton Rouge, La. WFOP was invited to become a charter member. WFOP became a charter member in 1960 when NFSPS adopted its constitution. WFOP served NFSPS in various ways. Edna Meudt served as NFSPS president 1962-63; Marvin Davis, president 1964-65; Grace Ferrall, treasurer 1970-71; Russell Ferrall, president 1970-71; Honorary Chancellor, August Derleth 1971; 1963 Convention Chair, Dr. John Grinde; 1971 Convention Chair, Edna Meudt; 1963 Contest Chair, Marian Paust. During 1970-71 Grace and Russell Ferrall brought up-to-date the publication of *Prize Poems of NFSPS Inc.* of 1967, 1969, and 1970 editions. Edna Meudt was the official registering agent for the Incorporation of NFSPS at Madison in 1966. August Derleth lectured at the 1971 convention hosted by WFOP at Edgewood College in Madison.

SECOND DECADE (1960 TO 1970)

1960 The first meeting was held at the Finney Library in Milwaukee with Argyle Mansfield Losse, a librarian there, the hostess. At Janesville, June 4, it was announced that Mayhew Mott had met with a fatal accident enroute to the meeting. Dr. Rachael Salisbury spoke on book publication. A memorial service was held for five members who had passed away this year: Myrta Abbott Lange, Mayhew Mott, Father Daniel Coyne, Marion Hext and Dorthy Mead. At the August 28 meeting the membership voted to affiliate with NFSPS. August Derleth presented a discussion of poetry written by members. On November 19th in Baraboo members elected its board. Ethel Rich and John Pierce presented a talk on reading poetry. The annual Writers Cup Award presented by Theta Sigma Phi (honorary journalism society) to a Madison or area journalist for "outstanding achievement during the past year" was given to Marian Paust.

1961 On February 18 at the College Women's Club in Milwaukee, affiliation with the Academy of American Poets was approved. The title of the second anthology, edited by Maude Totten, was *Poems Out of Wisconsin*. There was a joint luncheon with the National League of American Pen Women which featured a talk by Leroy Gore, editor of *Wisconsin Tales and Trails* on "Editors." May 27 in Oshkosh the guest speaker was Professor John Engels of St. Norbert's College. A donation was received from Allis Chalmers toward the publication of the anthology. On August 6 at the Memorial Union, an invitation by WRWA was accepted to hold a poetry program at their annual meeting at Green Lake in September. Author and radio personality

George Vukelich was guest speaker, and Rev. Henry Spear presented a School Contest Poetry Program.

A project of WRWA which has benefited WFOP members is the Bard's Chair Jade Ring contest. Only WRWA members can participate but many WFOP members also belong to WRWA and have won in several writing contest categories. The Bard's Chair Award is a special additional award given in the field of poetry.

It was announced that Edna Maude's book, *In No Strange Land*, won first place in the National League of American Pen Women contest. On September 23 at Green Lake, the joint WRWA-WFOP meeting was held. Paul Engle, University of Iowa, was guest speaker. Castle-Pierce Co., Oshkosh, was awarded the publication of the second anthology. *Poems Out of Wisconsin* was ready for distribution in October. It received a Book of the Month award at Milton College and NFSPS placed a copy in the Louisiana University Memorial Library. Doris Platt of the Wisconsin State Historical Society began a Creative Writers WHA Interview Program Series which continued for several years. Many WFOP members were interviewed: Marian Paust, Edna Meudt, Henry Spear, John Grinde, Sam Bryan, James and Jo Bartels Alderson. Grace Voll was awarded the George Washington Honor Medal given by the Freedom Foundation, Gettysburg, Pa.

1962 On April 7 at the Memorial Union in Madison Edith Sanders presented the silver loving cup, donated by Oliver and Edith Sanders, for the best poem in the new anthology as selected by Honorary member, Ruth Mary Fox, to Edna Meudt for "Young and Fair is Christopher". Beatrice Frackleton was guest speaker and her topic was "How To Increase Publication". On July 14 at the Finney Library in Milwaukee Oliver Sanders, treasurer, reported that the anthology was "in the black". The Constitution committee report was read along with proposed changes. As president of NFSPS, Edna Meudt talked about their activities and as the new chair of State Poetry Day, she discussed this activity, too. Suzanne Gross of Milwaukee was guest speaker. The October 6th meeting was held at the Phebe Lookaround home in Keshena. James Frechette, a Menominee, spoke on the Menominee termination. At the instigation of president Jo Bartels Alderson, the Fellowship established a Student Award in 1962-63 for a worthy WFOP student member.

1963 The April meeting was postponed because WFOP would be host of the NFSPS Convention held on June 14-16 on the University of Wisconsin campus in the new Wisconsin Center, Madison. Edna Meudt was NFSPS president. John Grinde was General Chair for the event; James and Jo Bartels Alderson, reporters-at-large; Mr. and Mrs. George Bergmeister, acting treasurer and registrar; Hazel LaTour and Myrtle Jackson, hostesses. Marian Paust was named chair of the 1963 NFSPS contests. Convention highlights were: the speech of Dr. Ralph Purcell (a Chester Nimitz Fellow and Director of National Endowment for the Arts) on "How Legislation Affects the Artist"; the inspiring talk by Henry Rago, editor of Poetry Magazine; the discussion on religious poets by August Derleth; Aaron Bohrod on modern art and the artist's role; talks of Robert E. Gard and Fred Buerki, UW Drama department; two workshops presented

by Mildred Breedlove and Eunice Pond LaSelle; "Painting and Poems" by James and Jo Bartels Alderson; music and poems by Teresa Bauer, recipient of Midwest Singer of the Year Award; a campus tour, and meeting with guest Dr. Helen White, former president of the American Association of Universities. The autumn WFOP meeting was held November 4 at which a donation to NFSPS was approved. The membership approved a second WFOP History Book. The meeting closed with musical selections. A new roster and constitutional changes were adopted and printed in a 1963 booklet by James and Jo Bartels Alderson. Cover design was by Bernard T. Petersen, prize winning Oshkosh artist. Inclement weather cancelled the winter meeting.

1964 The spring meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Oshkosh. A new slate of officers was elected. In 1964 WRWA, in association with the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture, joined in sponsoring a two week intensive creative writers workshop at Rhineland. Edna Meudt accepted the responsibility of conducting the poetry sessions. The NFSPS Convention was held June 14-16 at Huntington, Va.

A WFOP Board meeting was held during the summer at the Beaver Dam home of Henry Spear. The fall meeting was held at Trinity Methodist Church in Beaver Dam on October 10th. The program included: biography and poems by Douglas Schwefel; "Haiku" talk by Sam Bryan, and tape recording of the previous NFSPS Convention.

1965 The spring meeting was held at the Venne Arts Center in Wausau on April 10. Program highlights included: "Poetry as Experience" by Sister M. Terese of Wausau. At the press breakfast in April in Madison, Edna Meudt received the coveted 1965 Writers Cup Award for Poetry. The October 9 meeting was held at Hideaway Acres near Dodgeville. Program highlights were: House on the Rock panorama tour, "Calendar of Poems" by Marcie Leizke and "How Can I Get My Poems Published?" by Henry Spear. A letter was received from NFSPS announcing the next convention in Dallas, Texas. The winter WFOP meeting was at the Venne Art Center in Wausau. Star Powers presented a program on "Inversion and Imagery". There was a panel evaluation of the High School and Grade School contests led by Henry Spear.

1966 The spring meeting was held at the Madison Public Library. Program highlights were: an open forum led by Madra Oliver on "How Can I Get My Song Published?", "Poetry and Walls", a tape recording by Don Dombrowsky and a talk on "Experimenting with Modern Poetry Forms" by Edna Meudt.

The next NFSPS convention was in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Henry Spears was on a panel to discuss "State Poetry Society Problems." NFSPS started its own National Library, a depository for works by members. A National Archives Collection was established in Baton Rouge, La. and a National holograph collection was established in Provo, Utah. The fall WFOP meeting was held October 1st at the Shawano City-County Library. Edna Meudt spoke on suitable Poetry Day programs. She also reported on her Rhinelander workshop group. Arthur Fischer spoke on "Publishing Poetry Books", and Anne Stubbe reported on the Wausau Festival of Arts program.

James and Jo Bartels Alderson were selected as co-editors of a new poetry anthology. August Derleth edited *Wisconsin Harvest*, a WRWA anthology. Twenty six WFOP members had works in this collection. There was a total of 71 contributors.

1967 The spring meeting was held in Baraboo on April 8, at the First Congregational Church. There was a book display of works by WFOP authors. The fall meeting was at the Oshkosh Public Museum. Helen Smith won an award from the Philippine government. The WFOP Student Scholarship Award was presented by Richard Penn. Mrs. Lawrence Larmon won NFSPS's Gertrude Saucier Award. WFOP was awarded a \$1,500 grant from the Wisconsin Arts Foundation and Council as part of a state program funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts to help finance a five year anthology of Wisconsin poetry. This volume, co-edited by James and Jo Bartels Alderson, was titled *Poetry Out of Wisconsin*.

1968 The spring meeting was held on April 6 at the Memorial Union. It opened with singing "Wisconsin Evermore", words written by Elizabeth Mott to the music of America the Beautiful. (It was adopted as the official WFOP song in 1956.) Books by member authors and the NFSPS 1967 Prize Winning Poems were available for sale. The National Federation of State Poetry Societies convened in Edmond, Oklahoma in June.

The Fellowships fall meeting was held on October 5 at Shawano in Keshena Elementary School. There was a poetry workshop and a Native American dinner in the cafeteria with Native American dancing as entertainment. Prof. Robert Andrews of University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, spoke on "Modern Trends in Poetry".

1969 The spring meeting was held at Baptist Assembly in Green Lake on April 5. August Derleth was named editor of the fourth WFOP anthology. Requirements for contributing were discussed. Cost of publication was aided by grants from the Wisconsin Arts Foundation and Council. James Alderson was appointed anthology business manager. The cover design was of a Wisconsin evening landscape by Frank Utpatel. The program included "An Afternoon with the Brownings" by James and Jo Bartels Alderson. Henry Spears donated \$10 to WFOP for every thirty copies of *Wisconsin History in Poetry* sold. Arthur Fischer was presented with a plaque. The fall meeting was held in Sturgeon Bay at the home of Frances May. The meeting was devoted to the discussion and reading of children's poems. Members reported on their publication experiences. Henry Spear announced a new printing of *Wisconsin History in Poetry Volume 1*. A free will offering was taken to be used toward a scholarship to School of the Arts in Rhinelander. The fund was called the Frances May Scholarship Fund and Henry Spear was appointed to select the student winner.

The NFSPS convention was held in Boise, Idaho. Henry Spear gave the invocation and Edna Meudt conducted a workshop on "Contemporary Poetry". *The Voice of Young Wisconsin Volume 2* was very favorably reviewed in Poetry Pilot, newsletter of the Academy of American Poetry.

THIRD DECADE (1970-1980)

1970 The spring meeting was held in the First Methodist Church in Madison on April 11. Children's poems was the roll call topic selected. Program highlights included a "Minus Thirty Panel" discussion. Excellent reviews for anthology #4 were quoted. NFSPS convention was held in June in New Orleans.

Federal funds of \$180,000,00, available for aid of the Arts and Humanities, was split equally over three years between the National Endowment of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Henry Spear donated \$100 to WFOP from book sales of *Wisconsin History in Poetry*. There was guitar music during lunchtime. A copyright was applied for for the Muse Letter and the fourth anthology received a Special Commendation rating in the annual Council of Wisconsin Writers contest. The fall meeting was held on October 10th at the Mead Inn in Wisconsin Rapids. AAP announced that Frances May had won a prize at the Cheltenham Festival of Arts, England. WFOP pledged \$100 to the NFSPS Anthology Fund of Prize Poems.. Henry Spear reported completion of Volume 2 of *Wisconsin History in Poetry*. In October WFOP and other writer organizations were guests at a coffee, sherry and cookie party hosted by August Derleth at his home, Place of the Hawks. An August Derleth Day Celebration, sponsored by the Sauk City Chamber of Commerce was held at the Riverview Ballroom. At Derleth's home, it was noted that Edna Meudt had receive the Governor's Award for Creativity.

1971 The spring meeting was held at the Picasso Plaza Hotel in Oshkosh. Members became aware that a legislative bill was needed to establish a State Arts Council in Wisconsin. Henry Spear announced he was working on Volume 3 *Wisconsin History in Poetry*. He donated \$50 to NFSPS so that their newsletter, Strophes, would be mailed to WFOP members.

The annual NFSPS convention was held at Edgewood College in Madison on June 10-12. Program highlights included a campus tour; poetry readings by members; a cheese, milk and cracker dispenser courtesy of the American Dairy Association of Wisconsin; James and Jo Bartels Alderson presented "Interview with Emily Dickinson"; an editors' panel discussion on Canadian poetry; Catherine Lubbe's "What a Poetry Society Can Do for Students". Henry Spears donated \$100 each to NFSPS, WFOP, and WRWA from sales of *Wisconsin History in Poetry*. The main address was given by William Stafford, Poetry Consultant for the Library of Congress. A workshop was held under the direction of Dr. Hans Juergensen. "My Life in Poetry" was the subject of August Derleth's speech. A reception was given by the Dominican Sisters and a Menominee prayer service by Gerti Sennett followed.

The fall meeting took place October 10 at the home of Frances May and at the Corpus Christi Parish Hall in Sturgeon Bay. The program was "Interview with Emily Dickinson". The members voted to give \$100 to the NFSPS Anthology Fund.

1972 The spring meeting was held in Portage on April 8 at the Ram Hotel. Program highlights included: a display table of poetry; flute and piano selections by Portage high school students; speaker Roger Mitchell and a tour of the Zona Gale Home and Library. *NFSPS Prize Poems* was available for sale. Plans were discussed for the publication of a WFOP magazine entitled *Hawk & Whippoorwill Recalled*. The annual NFSPS convention was held in Louisville, Kentucky. The fall WFOP meeting was at the home of Russell Ferrall in Gresham on October 14. The Muse Letter cover was designed by Violet Jahnke. Edna Meudt read the State Poetry Proclamation and reported that the first poetry day observance was in 1400. Prof. Robert Andrews spoke on "Poetry"; Phyllis Maples reported on "Dial a Poem" and Gerti Sennett on "Dial a Story" program in Russia. Discussion of WFOP's incorporation was held. The State Library Board was establishing a Hall of Fame for Wisconsin Writers. Dr. Ruth Mary Fox received the Governor's Award for Creativity. Dr. Helen Smith received the annual Award, a silver cup at the Fleetwood Music and Arts Festival in England. Helen Venne and Anne Stubbe established a poetry society in Wausau. Edna Meudt conducted weekend poetry workshops at Valley Studio near Spring Green. Anne Stubbe presented a "Lyric Poetry Lesson" in the Muse Letter. *Hawk & Whippoorwill Recalled* received an \$800 grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board and the National Endowment for the Arts and was available for purchase at the September WRWA meeting in Ft. Atkinson.

In October, Attorney Jack Rath made out the required papers, Mardi Fries, WFOP secretary, signed them and the Articles of Incorporation as an educational, non-profit, non-political organization were received in La Crosse. Notice was received stating that on November 16, 1972, the papers had been duly made out and had been recorded by the State of Wisconsin and were on file there.

1973 The spring meeting was held April 14 at the Wisconsin Center in Madison. The program included WFOP authors reading from their books. Ruby Kuenzl contributed the "Poetry Sonnet Lesson" in the Muse Letter. Portage writers had published an anthology. Helen Smith became business manager for *Hawk & Whippoorwill Recalled*. Poetry submissions for the magazine were reviewed by an anonymous three person committee. The autumn meeting was held at the Don Q Inn on October 13-14 near Dodgeville. The program included readings and talks by Viola Wendt, Randall Nickolas, and Jeri Mc Cormick. Readings from Scott Momaday and Walt Whitman were given by Russell Ferrell and Helen O'Brien. Gerald Fieldhouse spoke on the ethnic history of the area. Evening highlights were: concert by Therese Bauer, feathered soloist with the Wisconsin Opera Company and songs and music by Julie Hackbarth and Madra Oliver Sletten. August Derleth was included in the Wisconsin Authors Hall of Fame. WFOP applied to the Internal Revenue Service for a mailing franchise.

1974 The spring meeting was held April 6 at Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee. Roll call poems, a tour of the notable art department and a meeting of the board was followed by “Wisconsin Poets, Which Direction?” by Sr. Terese Lentfoehr, ”Sound in Poetry” by Viola Wendt, a panel consisting of Susan Firer, James Hazard, Tom Montag, Martin Rosenbaum and a memorial for Sr. Louise Leighton.

The fall conference was held October 12 at the University of Wisconsin-Medford campus. The morning speaker was Josef Zderad who spoke on “Some Things That Should Be Said” which emphasized individuality and the inspirational aspects of writing. Mrs Lawrence Larmon led a discussion on “Poetry To Be Judged”. After lunch Edna Meudt gave a report on the NFSPS convention in Carlisle, PA. The afternoon speaker was Marchia Lee Masters, poetry editor of the Chicago Tribune and daughter of poet Edger Lee Masters. Helen C. Smith and Henry Spear were commended for their many generousities to the Fellowship. A new poetry journal by and for women, *Primipara*, was launched by Diane Anderson Donna Cole, Nancy Brettsprecher, Jane Farrell, Marcia Fischer, Diane Nichols and Jeri McCormick.

A LOOK FORWARD

written by Marian Paust-April 1974

We have progressed four years into our third decade so that we now look forward to 1975 and our 25th anniversary. Commitments: Russell Ferrell, now Editor of Prize Poems, has been elected vice-president of the Wisconsin Arts Board; Edna Meudt elected vice-president for Letters of Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts & Letters and chair of the Creative Writing Panel of WAB. She also co-edits with Max Golightly an anthology for NFSPS. Dr. William Stafford will serve as Consultant. The successful pilot programs in the schools and prisons will be enlarged. WFOP has undertaken publication of a magazine, *Hawk & Whippoorwill Recalled*. Dr Raymond Sivesand, Director of Historical Sites and Markers for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, is placing the magazine on sale at the six historical sites. The initial order has been filled-Volume I, Number 1 is a commemorative for August Derleth. The sales potential for future *Hawk & Whippoorwill Recalled* issues will be evaluated as these are published, he informed WFOP members.

As the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets continues to grow in membership and becomes more enriched with background of experience and sincere interchange, its members will, we are sure, in turn cooperate to pass on to interested others this same wealth of assistance and experience they have enjoyed by means of helping other state and national writing groups through serving as their officers, sponsors, speakers, teachers, critics, and judges. They will continue to give unstintingly of their time and ability to further stimulate, encourage and develop individual talent.

During this twenty four year interval we have suffered the loss of sixty-nine members but we will carry on the traditions that our founders built this organization upon, expanding our goals, undertaking as many worthwhile projects in the field of poetry as we can for the common good.

1975 The Silver Anniversary conference of the Fellowship was held April 5 in the Historical Landmark home of Helen and Alfons Hering in Wausau. The Wausau Women's Club hosted the event. Henry Spear was honored with the presentation of a plaque and a membership until the year 3000 for his generous support of the Fellowship, both financial and inspirational. Jo and Jim Alderson presented a dramatization of the lives and love of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Jo Alderson wrote the script. A chicken dinner, family style, was enjoyed at the Zion Lutheran Church. Dr. Mary Shumway of the English Department of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point spoke of poetry and read her own works.

The Fellowship's application to the Wisconsin Arts Board for a grant to aid the publication of *Hawk & Whippoorwill Recalled* was denied. The spring issue of the magazine was expected to be the final one.

The fall conference was held in the Hall of Presidents, Cartwright Center, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Mardi Fries was chair and Wilford Beaver was in charge of publicity. The Writers' Circle of UW-La Crosse assisted. John Judson, poet and editor of Northeast/Juniper Books, and Ed Hill, special collections librarian at UW-La Crosse, were speakers. Dr. Charles Haas' drama students gave an interpretation of poetry and an excellent banquet program was given by Clifford Franklin Gessler and James O. Holmlund of La Crosse. Films of the work of Emily Dickinson, "Magic Prison", and Theodore Roethke, "In a Dark Time", were shown and poetry workshops were conducted by Lenore Coberly. Henry Spear's gifted the Fellowship with \$500, garnered from his many Badger Poetry House publications. A motion was made and passed to continue to publish *Hawk & Whippoorwill Recalled* until grant moneys can be procured. Each contributor was asked to purchase at least two copies.

In December the board of directors voted to put the proper wording into the Constitution so that the organization could become tax-exempt.

1976 The spring conference was held April 3 at the Steenbock Center of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters in Madison. The speaker for the afternoon was Robert March, professor of physics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His topic was "The Dreams Stuff is Made Of". He discussed in layman's language his creative work in physics and his ideas about art and creativity. He is the author of *Physics for Poets* which is a widely used physics text. Luncheon was at the nearby Ivy Inn.

The fall meeting took place October 8-9 in conjunction with the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. The meeting was held at Northland College in Ashland. Members

read their poetry at Alford Hall the evening of October 8. At the general meeting the next day, it was voted to make revisions to the bylaws to meet the IRS requirements (regarding what would be done with funds if the organization disbanded) for qualifying for tax-exempt status.

Special events were available to those attending this joint meeting were a boat trip to Stockton Island, informal visits to artists' studios in Bayfield and a Native American dinner followed by a Pow Wow performed by members of the Red Cliff Indian Reservation near Bayfield.

1977 The spring meeting took place April 16 at the Holiday Inn in Menomonee Falls. Star Powers conducted a workshop on "The Creative Process". A panel discussion was held with poetry editors Diane Nichols of *Primipera*, Jeffrey Winke and C. Rossiter of *Third Coast Archives* and Joyce Webb of *Hawk & Whippoorwill Recalled* and *SPAFASWAP*. Dr. Duane Powers donated three items from his rare book and manuscript collection which were auctioned off to raise funds for WFOP.

Lord Chumley's Pub at the Ram Hotel in Portage was the site of the fall meeting on October 1. Speakers for the event were Prof. John P. Long who talked about "The Appreciation of Poetry", and Doria Wright who conducted a workshop on "Syllabics."

Attorney Jack Rath worked for over two years to get state and federal tax exemption for the Fellowship and the summer *Museletter* announced his success. This made WFOP eligible to receive grants and stipends.

1978 The Don Q Inn in Dodgeville was the location of the April 22 meeting arranged by Edna Meudt. A business meeting was held in the morning and then a Haiku workshop was conducted by Joyce Webb. The first afternoon speaker was Warren Carrier, Poet Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, founder and editor of the *Quarterly Review of Literature*. The second speaker was Gerald Wallace, playwright/director of the People's Theatre, Milwaukee, who gave a poetry reading with musical background.

The fall meeting was held September 30 at the Mielke Theatre and Fuller's Inn in Shawano. The speaker for the day was Jen Jenkins, associate professor in theatre and cinematic arts at Brigham Young University in Utah.

1979 On April 6-7 the Fellowship's spring meeting was held at the Pioneer Inn in Oshkosh. James, Jo, and Kate Alderson made the arrangements. The board of directors met Friday evening for dinner and a business meeting. This was followed by a poetry reading for the membership. The meeting Saturday morning was devoted to roll call poems and discussion. The speaker for the day was Robert Spiess, editor of *Modern Haiku*. His subject was "One Method of Editing a Poetry Magazine." Betty Strand gave a poetry reading. Lenore Coberly presented a slide talk and poetry reading about the trip to China she and her husband had taken in February as part of the University of Wisconsin's Mission to China, at the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Science.

The fall board meeting was held the evening of October 13 at the Hayloft Motel in Spring Green. Discussion ensued regarding the grant application being prepared by Jeri McCormick for the Wisconsin Arts Board regarding a new anthology. Jeri McCormick and Mardi Fries were selected to co-edit the new book. The next morning roll call poems were read followed by a talk by John Westberg, poet and publisher of the *North American Mentor* and Dean of Humanities of the University of Wisconsin-Richland Center. In the afternoon Helen O'Brien read from *An Uplands Reader* by Dodgeville poets. Her husband, Dale O'Brien, was the illustrator.

FOURTH DECADE (1980-1990)

1980 The spring meeting was held on April 25-26 at the Best Western Ridge Motor Inn in Portage. The new anthology was titled *Poems Out of Wisconsin V*. The speaker for the afternoon was Lois Fryatt, an instructor for Nicolet College. In June, the Wisconsin Arts Board awarded a grant to the Fellowship for *Poems Out of Wisconsin V*.

The fall meeting was held October 7-8 at Wulff's Island Motel, Mequon. A poetry reading was held Friday evening. Prof. James Liddy was the Saturday afternoon speaker, followed by WFOP members Margaret Lee and Nancy Caviale. Janet Loos made the meeting arrangements.

1981 The Don Q Inn in Dodgeville was the site of the spring meeting on April 17-18. The Upland Writers' group hosted the event, lead by Nancy Caviale. The Saturday morning featured poet was Gianfranco Pagnucci. The luncheon speaker was Herbert Kubly of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, an internationally famous author and Wisconsin's only National Book Award recipient. WFOP members Lynn Patrick Smith and Gerald Wallace entertained with their music and songs.

On September 8, Frank Stillman Moulton died. He designed the Fellowship's original letterhead stationary and was an honorary member for many years.

The fall meeting took place October 9-10 at the New Visions Art Gallery/Hospitality Room at the Marshfield Clinic. The Friday night board meeting was followed by an open mic reading. After the Saturday morning business meeting, Mark Brunner, poet and editor of *Jump River Review*, spoke. In the afternoon Reinhold Kaebitzsch and Robert Spiess presented a program titled "A Duet of Turtles". Interested people toured the clinic. Mrs. Lawrence Larmon, Star Powers, and Anne Stubbe arranged the meeting.

1982 April 2-3 were the dates for the spring meeting held at the Wisconsin Center in Madison. On Friday afternoon guided tours were given by: Karen Updike, Cooperative Children's Book Center; Fran Rall, Elvehjem Art Center; Iefke Goldberger, Rare Books Room of the Memorial Library; and Lenore Soberly, Library at the Historical Society of Wisconsin. An informal dinner was held at the Memorial Union Cafeteria. "An Evening of Poetry Reading" was held at Fran

Rall's home with Robert Spiess and Reinhold Kaebitzsch. On Saturday morning there was a membership business meeting followed by a lunchtime lecture and dance demonstration by Prof. Bela Sandor, member of the Wisconsin Ballet Company. The afternoon speaker was Ronald Wallace of the English Department of the UW-Madison and director of the University's creative writing department.

At the NFSPS convention in June in Memphis, TN Marion Brim Rewey won the first prize award.

The fall conference was at Butch's Anchor Inn, Oshkosh on October 2-3. Esther Tank and James and Jo Bartels Alderson made arrangements for the meeting. The general meeting and roll call poems filled Saturday morning. After lunch there was a demonstration of Middle-Eastern dancing called "Poetry in Motion." Ann Alderson also entertained.

It was announced at this conference that the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters would house the WFOP archives.

1983 Dorothy Schwenker of Janesville and Margaret Shimkus of Racine were the hostesses for the spring meeting held April 8-9 at the Town and Country Restaurant in Janesville. On Saturday afternoon Lenore Coberly shared with the group her second trip to China in 1981. She met with Ai Qing who presented her with a book inscribed in his calligraphy.

The Wisconsin House in Shawano was the location of the fall meeting October 9-10. In her blue velvet Menominee attire, Gerti Sennett presented a program on Menominee history, legends, poetry, and the Lord's Prayer in Native American sign language. Russell Ferrall conducted a workshop.

1984 The spring conference, April 27-28, began with a board dinner at the Thyme Supper Club in Dodgeville. The next day sessions were held at the Methodist Church. Gianfranco Pagnucci presented a slide program of nature paintings and read from his works. An authentic Cornish lunch was served by the ladies of the church. Nancy Caviale and Betty Strand read selected works of Viola Wendt. Russell Ferrall introduced Prof. William Harold of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee who spoke on "The Celebration of Regionalism".

Richard Roe became WFOP Historian and he announced he planned to ask the Historical Society of Wisconsin to house the Fellowship archives. Loretta Strehlow reported that Wisconsin poets shone brightly at the NFSPS convention.

The fall meeting was held at the Best Western Ridge Motor Inn in Portage, October 26-27. Saturday morning's speakers were Angela Lobo-Cobb and Credo James Enriques of Madison. Their subject was "Rituals and Maps: The First Anthology of Wisconsin Minority Poets". In the afternoon Tom Montag of Midwestern Writers Publishing House, Fairwater, spoke on "Poetry and Place and the Place of Poetry" with Robert Joseph Thompson. Montag said that he and his

wife Mary would no longer be publishing the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* and offered the opportunity to the Fellowship to continue the calendar. Frank and Mary Nugent arranged the meeting with assistance from Writers at the Portage.

1985 The spring board meeting was held April 19 at the Inn on the Lake in Racine. A communication from the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters indicated that the Fellowship would receive the Academy's 1984 Citation, the highest award the Academy was authorized to bestow, in recognition of the Fellowship's dedicated and distinguished work. The award was presented April 27 at the Academy's annual conference luncheon in La Crosse.

Tom Montag suggested that WFOP assume publication of the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. Betty Strand agreed to get cost estimates from three printers. The board authorized Betty to proceed with the project.

Saturday's events took place at the DeKoven Foundation. Prof. Carol Lee Saffioti's slide presentation was titled "Comments and Views; Writers and Poets of England". Prof. Saffioti was an associate professor of English at the UW-Parkside. Readings by high school students and the Root River Poets took place in the afternoon. These were followed by Prof. Alan Shucard who discussed "Getting Published" and read his poetry. Shucard was also an associate professor at UW-Parkside. Announcement was made of the Edna K. Meudt Award for Proficiency in Poetry. The \$100 award was sponsored by Mardi Fries.

On Friday, October 25, the board of directors met at Butch's Anchor Inn, Oshkosh. An open poetry reading was held at the home of Esther Tank. The Saturday afternoon speaker was Dale Kushner, teacher, poet and scholar. She spoke on "The Process of Revision: The Muse and Hard Work". In honor of the late Arthur Fischer of Oshkosh, one of whose collections was called "The Corn Crib", a prize of \$10 was offered for the corniest poem. These poems were read before adjournment.

1986 The January *Museletter* announced that the Fellowship had received money requested from the Wisconsin Arts Board for publication of the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*.

The spring board meeting was held April 18 at Michael's Restaurant in La Crosse. Betty Strand, editor, and Nancy Caviale, business manager, reported on their progress for the *1987 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* which would be ready for distribution in late spring. James Alderson requested a copy of the 1957 bylaws and Articles of Incorporation and that the history be updated. The morning speaker was Charles Hass, speech department of UW-La Crosse, who spoke on "Hints to Enhance—Oral Readings". The afternoon speaker was Ben Logan, Wisconsin native and resident who authored a number of books. His subject was "The Narrative". Mardi Fries was in charge of arrangements.

In the fall *Museletter*, editor Robin Chapman asked for poems and drawings for the 1988 *Wisconsin Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. It was also announced that Edna Meudt had been selected as a 1986 Notable Wisconsin Author by the Wisconsin Library Association.

The fall board meeting and poetry reading was held October 24 at the Downtowners Motel in Green Bay. The next day featured Marcia Letzke as morning speaker. Her talk was titled "I Feel a Poem Coming On". The afternoon speaker was Jane Farrell with the topic "Poetry for the People." A panel led by Mardi Fries featured Edna Meudt, Frances May, Richard Roe and Ellen Kort discussing narrative poetry.

1987 The first *Museletter* announced that Russell Ferrall and Marion Rewey had been made honorary members of WFOP. The spring meeting was held in Madison on May 1-2. Karen Updike arranged the program. Friday night's informal reading took place at Genevieve Whitford's home and was preceded by a delicious home-cooked dinner served by Genevieve to about sixty people. At Saturday's general meeting at the Wisconsin Center Prof. Dick Ringler presented a multi-media event with historical images of war and peace in art and literature. A workshop and reading were presented by Ellen Kort and Laurel Mills.

On October 16-17, the Fellowship met at Beaver Dam. The Friday night board meeting and poetry reading were held at the Campus Inn. The Saturday general meeting was at the Beaver Dam Community Library. Jeri McCormick and Kay Saunders read from their new books. The afternoon program was a panel of WFOP members exploring the subject "Sustaining the Poet, Encouraging the Arts".

1988 The spring meeting took place in Glendale. The Friday, April 22, board meeting was held at the Bavarian Inn. The Saturday business meeting was at the Midway Motor Lodge. "Expanding the Audience for Poetry" was the topic discussed. Prof. William Harrold of the UW-Milwaukee was the moderator for a panel who explored "Performance Poetry". The program concluded with performance poets from the Milwaukee area.

The fall board meeting and poetry reading were held on September 30 at the Ridge Motor Inn in Portage. The next day the general meeting was held at the Zona Gale Center. Portage mayor Jerome Kutzke welcomed the group. There was much discussion about WFOP's hosting the 1990 NFSPS National convention. David Steingass, member of Poets in Schools, presented "A Loaf of Bread and a Jug of Thou", a humorous look at the serious business of poetry. Larry White Feather, a Cherokee-Osage Native American of the Qualia Reservation, spoke about "Native American Culture". Attendees had the opportunity to tour the Zona Gale House and to see the writer's study. Elaine Clipper Hanson arranged the meeting.

On October 15, the Fellowship sponsored an observance of Poetry Day in the Rotunda of the State Capitol. The program included a memorial reading honoring Felix Pollak, Madison; Kelly Cherry, Madison; Russell Ferrall, Shawano; and Jeri McCormick, Madison. John Trueblood

previewed the *1989 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. The winter *Museletter* announced that Arthur Madson would edit the *1990 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*.

1989 The spring meeting was held at the restored Grand Opera House in Oshkosh on April 1-2. It was hosted by James and Jo Alderson who had organized the original restoration committee for the theatre in 1965. Much discussion at the meetings focused on WFOP's hosting the NFSPS convention in Madison, June 21-26, 1990. The afternoon speaker was Henry Timm, manager of the Grand and a theatre artist in his own right. He spoke about "Poetry in Drama." There was also a presentation by members of The Company for Wisconsin Arts. The Aldersons gave a "tour" of the restored theatre.

The May *Museletter* announced the death of founding member, Edna Meudt. A memorial reading was held at Woodland Pattern Book Center in Milwaukee under the direction of Angela Peckenpaugh. The May *Museletter* also announced that Richard Roe would organize the NFSPS convention of June, 1990, and that Jo Alderson had received first place for a poetry book in the National Federation of Press Women's 1988 communications contest. The award was made in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in June, 1990.

The fall meeting took place on October 14-15 in La Crosse under the direction of Cris Prucha and George Klawitter, on the Viterbo College campus. The board meeting was held Saturday morning and roll call poems were read after lunch. The Viterbo College dance troupe presented a unique number by John Cage which blended music, dance and the poetry of e. e. cummings. Patricia Hampl led an informal discussion on "The Craft of Poetry". She was author of two books of poetry, a founding member of the Loft, and a faculty member of the University of Minnesota. Michael's Restaurant was the location for the business meeting and dinner.

The meeting was funded by a National Poetry Day Festival grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Committee. George Klawitter was project director assisted by Mardi Fries and Cris Prucha. Helen Fahrback was named editor of the *1991 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*.

FIFTH DECADE (1990-2000)

1990 The Hoffman House at Ramada Inn in Janesville was the scene of the spring conference on April 28. The morning session included the general business meeting and roll call poems. It was voted that WFOP fund the Meudt Memorial Contest in perpetuity. The afternoon speaker was MacCanon Brown whose topic was "My Journey As a Writer". Another poetry reading was held at Diane's House of Prime Rib.

Wisconsin hosted the 1990 NFSPS convention at St. Benedict's Center in Middleton, June 21-25. Richard Roe was convention chair. On June 21, there was a bus tour of Madison, a cookout

supper and an Edna Meudt Memorial. June 22 activities included the opening of the general session and presentation of the Manningham awards and other awards. Readers and speakers for the day were Nancy Caviale, Amy Jo Schoonover, Jeri McCormick, Betsy Strand, Louis Rall, and Diane Glancy. On Saturday, June 23, speakers were Dr. LaVon B. Carroll, Maureen Cannon, Irene Warsaw, Franco Pagnucci, Ron Wallace and special guest William Stafford. The speakers on June 24 were Dr. Glenn Swetman and a panel moderated by Susan Chambers. The panel included Max Golightly, Glenn Swetman, Lenora Coberly, Franco Pagnucci, and Barbara Stevens. William Stafford spoke in the chapel following the evening banquet.

Poetry readings, nature hikes, board and business meetings, award presentations, workshops and music by Lynn Patrick and Janet Smith were some of the other features of the convention. One hundred and fifty-seven poets from across the country attended.

The Fellowship's fall conference was held October 12-13 at Green Bay. The board meeting was Friday night at the Regency Center. An informal poetry reading took place afterward. Saturday's session was convened at the Downtowner Motel. The afternoon speaker was Kyoto Mori, a Green Bay poet who read from her work and commented on its sources.

1991 April 12 was the date of the spring conference at the Don Q Inn in Dodgeville. The program was arranged by Nancy Caliale, Steve Andrews, and Betty Strand and featured art and music in alliance with poetry. Ron Ellis read from his work with a musical background and Michael Belongie showed how he used paintings as a writing resource. Karen Updike and Sue DeKolver were planning a poetry-in schools project. Fran Rall was to work with the Elvehjem Art Museum on sponsoring a contest to generate and select outstanding poems inspired by the museum's collection, and Peggy Shimkus was selected to coordinate the Manningham student contest.

The fall meeting was held in Shawano, October 4-5. The board met on Friday evening at the Wisconsin House Inn. The general meeting on Saturday and roll call poems took place there Saturday morning. The afternoon program featured Linda Kunda of the Mielke Theatre. She presented a tapestry of songs, music, dances and poetry. Kay Saunders' topic was William Butler Yeats. Helen Fahrback was selected to head the poetry-in-schools project. Loretta Strehlow coordinated many events for Poetry Day, October 15, including readings and a radio program. The fall *Museletter* announced that Marion Rewey had been elected to the NFSPS board of directors.

1992 The Fellowship's spring meeting was April 3-4 at the Amora Villa Motel in Appleton. The Saturday afternoon speakers were Angela Peckenpaugh who spoke about "The Use of Research in Writing Poetry", and Dr. Martha Harris Baker whose subject was "Celebrating Diversity: Works of Paul Laurence Dunbar". Angela Peckenpaugh was an associate professor of English at UW-Whitewater and Dr. Baker was Multicultural Coordinator for the Appleton School District.

The Beaver Dam Community Library was the site for the fall conference. Jim Stephens, writer, teacher and Native American poet, spoke about “This Moment in Wisconsin Literature”, followed by Lenore Coberly, editor of the *1993 Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar*. Elaine Cavenaugh was recognized for designing a new WFOP brochure. Also recognized for service to the Fellowship were Peggy Shimkus, Lenore Coberly, Ruth Dresden, and Josie Zell.

The fall *Museletter* reported on the deaths of Helen C. Smith, an early member of the Fellowship; Prof. Edward Kamarck, who helped found the Fellowship; and Prof. Robert E. Gard, who founded the Wisconsin Rural Writers’ Association, the Wisconsin Arts Foundation and Council, National Community Theatre Center, The Wisconsin Idea Theatre Conference, the Rhinelander Creative Workshop and the Rhinelander School of the Arts.

1993 Carolyn Foche was the featured speaker for the spring meeting held at the Ramada Inn in Milwaukee on May 14-15. Her second book of poetry, *The Country Between Us*, was the La Mont selection of the American Academy of Poets. She had been a journalist in El Salvadore for Amnesty International (1978-80) and the Beirut correspondent for “All Things Considered” on National Public Radio. She read at Woodland Pattern Book Center in the evening. Foche's subject at WFOP on Saturday was “Using Poetry to Explore Social Issues”.

Elaine Cavenaugh invited poets to read at the Boener Botanical Gardens Annual Rose Festival in June.

At the summer board meeting, it was voted to extend the officers’ terms from two to three years to allow administrators to undertake larger projects. The fall meeting was held at the St. Benedict Center in Middleton. Afternoon speakers were Ginny Moore Kruse, whose topic was “Poetry for Children”. and Jesse B. Ferguson, who read her first-prize winning poem in the NFSPS Manningham Contest’s middle/junior high school division.

Marion Rewey was elected First Vice-Chancellor of NFSPS. She was interviewed by *Writer’s Digest* poetry editor, Michael Bugeja, along with two grand prize winners in the magazine’s contest.

1994 The spring meeting took place April 15-16 at the Holiday Inn in La Crosse. In keeping with recent custom, Friday evening was devoted to the board meeting and an open poetry reading. At the Saturday general meeting, members ratified three-year terms for officers. After luncheon, John Judson gave a reading. Judson is author of fourteen books of poetry and contributed to over 300 periodicals. Apryl Denny spoke about “William Wordsworth’s Poetic Process as Revealed in the Manuscripts of His Late Poems, 1825-1850”. She was assistant professor of English at Viterbo College. Jim Stephens read a tribute in the memory of Gerti Sennett who died March 8 in Milwaukee.

On October 7-8, the fall conference was held at the Radisson Harbourwalk Inn in Racine. The Saturday afternoon speakers were Jerrold Belland, educator, poet and artist, and Carol Ann and

George Armour, a husband and wife team who presented programs of poetry and Native American legend.

Several members of the WFOP had their works read at the Elvehjem Museum in Madison in connection with their poetry-about-art contest.

1995 The Holiday Inn Centre, Green Bay, was the location of the spring meeting, April 28-29. The theme was “Stalking the Wild Word”. The Saturday afternoon speaker was Robert Berner who was a Fulbright Senior Lecturer at the University of Bergen, 1983-4, and a seminar leader at Bjorklunden (Door County seminar center) since 1985. His book, *The Rule of Four: Essays on the Principal of Quaternity*, was recently published. Six poets from the northeast region shared their poetry: Annette Grunseth, Lauren Mittermann, Mary Jo Stitch, Barbara Larsen and Carrie and Peter Sherrill.

The fall conference took place at the Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, October 6-7. The focus was on workshops, under the title of “No Stone Unturned: Nurturing the Poetic Voice”. Topics covered were: “Poets’ Groups” presented by Lenore Coberly; “From an Editor’s Point of View” presented by Jim Stephens; “A Writer’s Workshop in Squaw Valley” reported by Robin Chapman; and “An Iowa Summer Workshop” reported by Jeri McCormick. A special cake celebrating WFOP’s 45th anniversary was served at the afternoon break. Jo Alderson followed with a history of the Fellowship.

1996 President Mardi Fries called the spring meeting to order on April 27 at the Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells. The Saturday afternoon session featured workshops on the subject “Submitting For Success”.

The spring *Museletter* reported on a plan by Barbara Larsen and Ellen Kort for a new poetry contest structure to celebrate the 50th anniversary of WFOP. Barbara Larsen announced that the committee members were: Barbara Larsen, Ellen Kort, George Johnson, Elmer Otto and Neil McCarty.

The fall conference took place at St. Benedict’s Center, Middleton, Max Garland was the Saturday afternoon speaker. He was twelfth recipient of the Juniper Prize, given by the University of Massachusetts Press, and also of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Those in attendance also received a complimentary copy of *The Rose Jar*, the autobiography of Edna Kritz Meudt, edited by Jim Stephens.

It was announced in the winter *Museletter* that, at the suggestion of Lenore Coberly, the poetry page would be edited by Star Powers.

A “WFOP Nor’easter Summer Party” was held at the home of George A. Johnson in Green Bay on June 23. There was an \$85.00 cover charge-which was waived if a person brought one of the

following: 1. A poem to read, 2. A smiling face, 3. Two unfettered dromedaries, or 4. Seamus Heaney.

1997 April 18-19 were the dates of the spring conference at the Valley Inn in Neenah. The theme was “Poetry: Your Wild and Precious Life”. The first Saturday afternoon speaker was Denise Sweet, an Anishinaabe poet, professor of Humanity Studies and chair for the American Indian Studies program at UW-Green Bay. Following her talk, she was joined by Dennis Hawk, a musician and storyteller, who demonstrated a variety of Native American flutes, guitar and percussion used for meditation, healing, prayer, and performance. Sweet and Hawk gave a special performance combining poetry and music.

The fall conference took place at the Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, October 3-4. Saturday afternoon’s speaker was William Lawlor, professor of English at UW-Stevens Point. His collection of poetry titled *Let’s Go Down to the Beach* was published in 1996 by Poetry Harbor. Lawlor was organizer of the Mission Coffee House Literary Arts Series in Stevens Point, recipient of a Summer Study Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to do research on the Beat Generation and a translator of poems written in Spanish.

WFOP was granted \$2,106 from the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Commission for a state-wide Sesquicentennial poetry contest. Yvette Flaten wrote the grant application and Sandra Lindow chaired the event. Retired Prof. William Kloefkorn, Nebraska Poet Laureate, judged the contest.

1998 Papa’s Place Conference Center, Baraboo, was where WFOP convened April 24-25. Saturday afternoon’s program featured a poetry workshop arranged by Lenore Coberly. Two widely published poets, Margaret Benbow and D. K. Dilhunt, discussed poems submitted in advance by Fellowship members. Following the workshop, Star Powers and Michael Belongie invited members to submit ideas for WFOP’s 50th anniversary celebration.

Oconomowoc’s Olympia Resort was the location for the fall meeting, October 9-10. On Saturday afternoon Star Powers and Michael Belongie held further discussions about the 50th anniversary celebration. James Hazard and Susan Firer spoke. Hazard, Milwaukee, was the author of *New Year’s Eve in Whiting, Indiana*. Firer, also Milwaukee, was one of sixty-four poets whose work was chosen to be architecturally incorporated into Milwaukee’s Midwest Express Center. Her third book of poems, *The Lives of Saints and Everything* won the Council for Wisconsin Writers’ Posner Poetry Award and the 1993 CSU Poetry Center Prize.

The summer *Museletter* announced the winners of the Sesquicentennial Contest. First place, Ellen Kort for “Learning the Way”, second place, Nadine St. Louis for “Ladysmith”, and third place, Peg Lauber for “Standing in the Stinging Street”.

1999 The spring meeting was convened at Leathem Smith Lodge in Sturgeon Bay, April 23-24. Barbara Larsen was conference chair. President Peter Sherrill proposed conference locations be rotated among the regions instead of regions volunteering to host. Plans for the 50th Anniversary

were underway. Speakers for the Saturday general meeting were Herbert Williams and Mark Turcotte. Williams was a retired professor of communications arts who had taught speech and theatre at UW-Marquette for 30 years. His subject for the conference was “Polishing the Performance of Your Poems”. Turcotte was winner of the 1999 Artist Fellowship in Literature from the Wisconsin Arts Board and author of three books of poetry. His work appeared in the Poetry Society of America’s “Poetry in Motion” project. Saturday evening closed with “Performance Poetry” in the Lucerne Lounge.

The fall conference took place at the Chequamegon Hotel in Ashland, October 15-16, and featured Hope McLeod and Matt Welter. McLeod has been a regular at the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua in Bayfield. She has written and performed musical stories which emphasize local history. Welter has spent many summers portraying a lighthouse keeper on Raspberry Island, one of the Apostle Islands. He was a widely published poet, reviewer, teacher of writing workshops and poetry reading presenter. A poetry slam was held at the Black Cat Cafe on Saturday evening.

Karla Huston edited the Poetry Page in the *Museletter*. Chris Falk, *Museletter* editor, inquired from members about the history of the masthead image. Jo Alderson shared that the engraving was done for WFOP by Frank Moulton. Peter Sherrill and Cathryn Cofell appeared on WPR’s Higher Ground program in September. Cofell and Sherrill encouraged members to write Governor Thompson in support of establishing a position of Wisconsin Poet Laureate. The first meeting with other writers’ groups was held in Madison, September 18.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SIXTH DECADE

written by Jo Bartels Alderson-January 2000

Because the year 2000 is a special year for WFOP, special plans have been made to celebrate it.

On June 10, fifty years to the day from the first official Fellowship meeting in Madison, the current membership will gather at the Green Lake Conference Center to observe the group’s birthday. Outstanding speakers, guests, programs, and activities have been scheduled. Book tables and exhibits are also planned.

The Literary Fund Committee will present “The WFOP Poetry Muse Prize for Excellence”. It will be the first award made by the committee.

Festivities will begin at 8:30 am on June 10 and continue through June 11. Lodging and meals will be available on site beginning June 9.

Regarding the Celebration 2000 Committee, co-chair Star Powers and Michael Belongie report, “In July 1997 at the summer board meeting, the WFOP

Anniversary Committee members were announced as Star Powers, Lucy Rose Johns, Bruce Dethlefsen, Jo Alderson, and Michael Belongie. Michael volunteered to be chair if Star Powers would co-chair. It was agreed. At a later meeting, Phyllis Wax volunteered to be registrar. At the first board meeting of the new officers it was suggested that all the new officers be members ex-officio of the Celebration 2000 Committee also. They were Sheryl Slocum, Peter Sherrill, Sue DeKolver and Cathryn Cofell.

“Early on, WFOP members were asked to send in postcards with their ideas for our 50th Anniversary, including choice of place, kinds of programs, special speakers, etc. All of these were reviewed. By October 1 of 1999 we had our place secured and most speakers and activities in place. All members of the Committee are working together and singly on all of our plans. We think we have a winning agenda.”

Because of the special celebration, there will be no meeting in April. Governor Tommy Thompson will issue a proclamation on the WFOP’s 50th anniversary celebration.

Consultants: Lenore Coberly, Russell Ferrall, Mardi Fries, Jeri McCormick, Cristine Prucha, Richard Roe, Dorothy Schwenkner, Esther Tank and the Celebration Committee.

SIXTH DECADE (2000-2010)

2000 The 50th Anniversary Conference was held at the Green Lake Conference Center on June 9-11. The program fee was \$20 per person. Robert Spiess and Marge Piercy were the main speakers. Conference co-chairs Michael Belongie and Star Powers thanked a number of people for helping: Lucy Johns, Bruce Dethlefsen, Sheryl Slocum, Peter Sherrill, Cathryn Cofell, Sue DeKolver, Ellen Kort, Joan Johannes, Kathy Miner, Joanne Alderson, Phyllis Wax, Helen Padway, Cam Coberly and Mara Ptacek. There were 184 entrants in the first Muse Prize for Excellence in Poetry competition. Nancy Rafal was entry clerk for the contest.

2001 The spring conference took place at Interlaken Resort, Lake Geneva in April. Sue DeKolver, Bruce Dethlefsen, and Karla Huston spoke about their experience at the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival in New Jersey. The membership welcomed Ellen Kort as the first appointed Wisconsin Poet Laureate. Shoshauna Shy became editor of the *Museletter* Poetry Page and Karla Huston suggested that WFOP initiate a website. Jeannie Bergmann put the site together and agreed to maintain it. The Wisconsin Academy Review established the annual John Lehman Award for Poetry and also a short story contest. The fall conference was held at the Manchester East Hotel in Glendale with Marilyn Taylor and Ellen Kort main speakers.

2002 At the fall 2001 conference, the membership voted to increase dues to \$25/year for active members and \$15/year for associate members. The spring conference was held at the Landmark Resort in Egg Harbor. Featured speaker was Robert Morneau. Robin Chapman and Judith Strasser facilitated a weeklong workshop at The Clearing in Ellison Bay in May. Eau Claire's Best Western Midway Hotel was the site of the October conference. The six-women group called the Lady Poetesses from Hell provided a lively entertainment.

2003 The spring conference site was the Mead Inn and Conference Center in Wisconsin Rapids. Speakers were Bill Wiese and James Lee. Lou Roach stepped down as calendar business manager and Michael Farmer stepped up. The Lannan Foundation Poets videos became available for members. Nancy Rafal and Michael Farmer will house the videos and handle requests. The Lorine Niedecker Centenary Celebration was held in Milwaukee and in Fort Atkinson. The fall conference was a joint Wisconsin Regional Writers and WFOP venture. Speakers included Robert Nazarene, David Schweitzer, Kathleen McGwin and Pamela Gemin. The conference took place at the Pioneer Resort and Marina in Oshkosh. Jeannie Bergmann reported that the WFOP website could now be used by members to pay dues online through PayPal. Dorothy Westring was honored with a lifetime membership.

2004 Peter Piaskowshi became membership chair. The spring conference was held at the Best Western Inn on the Park in Madison and featured talks by Jim Flemming and Judith Strasser. The membership voted to withdraw from NFSPS membership because of increased costs and reduced benefits. Trudy Barach of Canterbury Books in Madison was given honorary membership. The "Fearsome Foursome Award" was established in remembrance of Kay Saunders. Bruce Dethlefsen began his first term as secretary. Wendy Vardaman was named editor of the *Museletter's Poems by Our Membership*. The *Museletter* offered three delivery options: email, bulk mail, and first class. The fall conference took place in Ashland at Hotel Chequamegon. Speakers were Ellie Schoenfeld and Franco Pagnucci. Fellowship tee shirts, sweatshirts and mugs were offered for sale thanks to Peter Piaskowski. Denise Sweet was named as second Wisconsin Poet Laureate.

2005 DB Appleton's three year stint as WFOP treasurer ended and Nancy Rafal took over keeping the books. The spring conference was held in Racine. Denise Sweet and Roberta Fabiani were speakers. The "Five for Four" dues option was approved allowing members to pay \$100 for a five year membership. WFOP sponsored two Madison workshops by Minnesota prose poet Louis Jenkins. The Wisconsin Book Festival included the first annual Wisconsin Poetry Roundtable. The Inn at Woodlake in Kohler was the location for the fall conference. The main speaker was Kimberly Blaeser. In the winter *Museletter* Diana Randolph penned an informative article titled *Planning and Promoting a Poetry Reading*.

2006 The spring conference was held at the Landmark in Egg Harbor. Jan Weissmuller from the legendary Prairie Lights Bookstore in Iowa was presenter. The Wisconsin Poet Laureate Fund was established. The fund is held within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region. When the endowment reaches \$10,000 about \$500/year should be available to cover some expenses. Because of a generous gift from an anonymous member, WFOP offered a \$250 scholarship for School of the Arts at Rhinelander. The fall conference was held at the Downtown Ramada Inn and Conference Center in Eau Claire. Bill Wiese played Native American flute and Joyce Sutphen's presentation was entitled "Finding Your Poetry Center". Mike Krisel became WFOP's first conference coordinator.

2007 Jerry Hauser, Marilyn Taylor, Linda Aschbrenner, John Lehman, and artist Patti O'Rourke gave presentations at the spring conference at the Appleton Holiday Inn. The new president was chosen, Lester Smith, and Michael Belongie became vice president. Because of postal and production cost increases, the price of the 2008 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar was raised but members were given the option to purchase an unlimited number at a discounted price. Fran Rall spearheaded the effort at Olbrich Gardens Engraved Bricks path to have two bricks honoring Ellen Kort and the 15th Annual WFOP Invitational Poetry Marathon. The fall conference was held at the Marshfield Holiday Inn and featured William Clark and a panel of WFOP members: Joan Wiese Johannes, Sue Kileen, Mariann Ritzer and Richard Roe. Jeannie Bergmann wrote a two-part article on "How to Enter a Poetry Contest" for the *Museletter*. The Wisconsin Poet Laureate Fund reached \$9,300—just short of the \$10,000 required for the fund to become an endowment vehicle.

2008 The spring conference was held at the Radisson Hotel in Madison. A wide range of speakers including Vince Gotera, who enlightened and entertained around the topic of "The History of Poetry in America". The Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission received a \$2500 grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board. An anonymous member funded the second WFOP School of the Arts at Rhinelander scholarship. Brenda Hansen received the first \$250 scholarship. The Poet Laureate Fund with the Fox Valley Community Fund reached \$10,000 but needs to grow to \$25,000 to become a secure endowment. Gillian Nevers became membership chair. Bruce Taylor, Susan Pagnucci, and Shoshguna Shy gave presentations at the fall conference at Marshfield's Holiday Inn and Conference Center. Marilyn Taylor became editor of the *Museletter*'s Poetry Page. Wendy Vardaman had been editor for four years. Carolyn Vargo was the 2008 recipient of the \$250 scholarship for School of the Arts at Rhinelander. Marilyn Taylor succeeded Denise Sweet at Wisconsin Poet Laureate.

2009 The spring conference was held in Oconomowoc and featured presentations by Karl Elder and Richard Terrill. Marilyn Taylor was introduced as the newest state poet laureate. Michael Farmer, calendar business manager announced that the *2009 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* was sold out. Back issues of the *Museletter* became available on WFOP's website. *Free Verse* magazine passed from Linda Aschbrenner's capable hands to Sarah Busse and Wendy Vardaman. The fall conference took place at the Ramada Hotel in Stevens Point. Denise Duhamel was

presenter and additional talks were given by Marilyn Taylor, Sarah Busse and Wendy Vardaman, Lester Smith, Michael Kriesel, B.J. Best and Charles Nevsimal. The conference began on Friday afternoon and concluded around noon on Sunday. The first WFOP Chapbook Prize Contest was announced.

SEVENTH DECADE (2010-2015)

2010 B.J. Best became vice president and Richard Swanson was elected secretary. WFOP offered a \$250 scholarship to School of the Arts at Rhinelander for the third year. *Free Verse* magazine became *Verse Wisconsin* and expanded with an online presence. The spring conference was held at the Holiday Inn in Green Bay. Marilyn Taylor gave a feature-length reading and Rod Clark presented a talk entitled “Growing Big Voices in Small Spaces”. Eau Claire named its first Poet Laureate, Nadine St. Louis. Michael Belongie initiated the In House program with the aim of helping our long-standing members stay in touch with the Fellowship community. Heather Swan of Green Bay received the first WFOP Chapbook Prize. The fall conference featured Freya Manfred and Todd Boss. The conference took place in Stevens Point at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center.

2011 The Lodge at Geneva Ridge was the site for the spring conference. Matthea Harvey was the keynote speaker. Current Wisconsin Poet Laureate, Bruce Dethlefsen, gave a reading. Laurel Bastian’s talk was titled “Creative Writing Classes in Prisons”. Returning to Stevens Point’s Holiday Inn and Conference Center the fall conference featured Thomas R. Smith. Members also heard from Bruce Dethlefsen, Marilyn Taylor, Mark Zimmerman, Jeanie Tomasko, Lisa Vihos, Michael Kriesel, Richard Roe, John Bloner, and Jeffrey Johannes. In an effort to keep pace with rising conference costs the registration was increased to \$70. Jeanie Tomasko became editor of the *Museletter*.

2012 The spring conference was held at the Radisson Hotel in Madison. Apollo Poetry was the featured reader and Fabu, Poet Laureate of Madison, gave a reading. Elizabeth Tornes won the 2012 WFOP Chapbook Prize. The fall conference featured Antler and Jeff Poniewaz. Other presenters were Bruce Dethlefsen, Matthew Rothschild, Ed Werstein, Patrick T. Randolph, Richard Swanson, Chris Falk, Nancy Rafal, and Angela Rydell. The fourth annual Lorine Niedecker Wisconsin Poetry Festival took place in Fort Atkinson in October.

2013 Erik Richardson became conference coordinator and Colleen Frentzal was voted in as treasurer. The spring conference was held at Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc. Jason Smith, editor *Wisconsin People and Ideas*; Max Garland, current Wisconsin Poet Laureate; and B.J. Best presented. Lifelong memberships were bestowed on Lenore Coberly, Elayne Clipper Hanson, Jeri McCormick, and Fran Rall. Lewis Bosworth stepped up as WFOP archivist when

Richard Roe stepped down after a long tenure. Jane Osypowski stepped down as Muse Prize Co-Chair and Fred Kreutz stepped up.

Stevens Point's Holiday Inn and Conference Center was the location for the fall conference. Debbie Ketchum-Jercik gave a hands-on demonstration of paper making. Small group discussion on topics related to publishing comprised the main program. Ellen Kort, Nancy Rafal, Richard Roe, and Esther Tank were awarded lifetime memberships. Chris Falk ended her term at *Museletter* editor. Falk shepherded this vital publication since 1994. Lester Smith volunteered and assisted by his daughter, Kate, to keep the *Museletter* moving forward.

2014 Jude Genereaux became Northeast Regional Vice President as Jan Chorister became vice president of WFOP. It became possible for members and non-members to make tax-deductible contributions to the organization online at our website. Sister Irene Zimmerman and Sue DeKelper were awarded life memberships at the spring conference held in Green Bay. The editorship of the *Museletter* moved to F. J. Bergmann. The fall conference was again held in Stevens Point. Life memberships were conferred on Robin Chapman, Peter Piaskowski, Barb Cranford, and Phyllis Wax. Barb Cranford and Jim Pollock each received mini grants for poetry projects in their regions.

2015 The single conference this year was at Green Lake the first weekend in June. Estella Lauter and the Door County Poetry Collective received a mini grant for their Door County poetry anthology project. Michael Belongie spearheaded the effort which resulted in the 65th Anniversary Celebration. The keynote speaker was Dorianne Laux. A variety of sessions included paper making with Daniel Gosha, flute making with Michael Farmer, performance poetry with Kimberly Blanchette and anthology projects in Door County and Washburn. The group also heard from Ann Engelmann, president of The Friends of Lorine Niedecker.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WFOP ON CELEBRATING
THEIR 65TH ANNIVERSARY AT GREEN LAKE ON JUNE 5-7, 2015**

written by Mike Kriesel, WFOP President, March 2015

A lot has happened in the 15 years since WFOP's 50th Anniversary in 2000. Wisconsin poetry continued growing, and our group played a real in its two biggest stories: the birth of the Wisconsin Poet Laureate program and the publication of *Free Verse/Verse* Wisconsin magazine.

The position of Wisconsin Poet Laureate (established in 2000 under the leadership of WFOP member Cathryn Cofell) has thrived, with WFOP helping since the office's inception—especially providing funding to defray the PL's travel expenses. This became crucial in 2010 when Governor Walker withdrew the state's \$2,000 annual support. At that time we committed to making annual \$500

donations to the PL Commission and also helped the PL find a new home with the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters.

After Linda Aschbrenner retired from a decade of running the state's premier poetry journal, *Free Verse*, WFOP stepped up with a \$500 yearly sponsorship of the magazine's new incarnation, *Verse Wisconsin*, under the editorship of Sarah Busse and Wendy Vardaman. *VW* lasted five years and with its archived online presence continues to place a public face on our state's poetry community.

Wisconsin Poetry's growth has often overlapped with WFOP's, especially in the area of our twice-yearly conference which grew more ambitious with the creation of a Conference Coordinator position in 2004. Presenters included national-level poets Denise Duhamel, Todd Boss, Matthea Harvey, and Dorianne Laux—helping put Wisconsin on the literary map.

During the past 15 years we've moved into the computer age thanks to the efforts of *Museletter* editor Chris Falk and webmaster F. J. Bergmann. In 2000, the same year the state got its first Poet Laureate, WFOP got its first website. Now you can register for conferences and renew membership at our online store (created by then president, Lester Smith), which handles PayPal. Members also get semi-monthly notices of poetry events via email.

We developed a mini-grant process to promote poetry throughout the state. We initiated 5-year-memberships for the price of 4 years, dropped paid life memberships, and initiated board-selected honorary life memberships to recognize long serving members who've made contributions of time and energy to WFOP. We've added an annual contest to recognize the best chapbooks by Wisconsin poets. And we dropped from 8 regions to 7, combining the South Region with the East and South Central.

All this was fueled by an ever-growing membership that reached 491 in 2015.

WFOP has seen many changes since the millennium. Let's celebrate our growth . . . then grow some more!

OFFICERS BY YEAR

Note: Information on regional vice-presidents and board members was sometimes unavailable; and in some years some offices were inactive. If names are missing, we apologize and would appreciate having them provided so the records can be made more accurate. Information through 2000 came from the 50th Anniversary History booklet.

1950-52 President-Louise Leighton, Vice-president-Maude Dickinson, Secretary-Edna Meudt, Treasurer-Eleanor Totman, Historian-Eleanor Voswinkel, Regional vp: Northern-Dana Akers; Southern-Edith Sanders, Eastern-Ivy Riggs Shinn

1952-54 President-Edna Meudt, Vice-president-Winnie Saunders, Secretary-Helen Smith, Treasurer-Mayhew Mott, Historian and Membership Chair-Anne C. Rose, Regional vp: Central-Marian Paust

1954-56 President-Emily Sprague Wurl, Vice-president-Arthur L. Fischer, Historian and Credentials Chair-Maude Totten, Regional vp: South-Central-Edith Sanders, Northern-Dana Akers, Eastern-Ida Opperud (Lee Douglas, President 1955-56)

1956-58 President-Edith Sanders, Vice-president-Louise Leighton, Secretary-Maude Totten, Treasurer-Hazel La Tour, Historian-Marian Paust, Credentials Chair-Alice Phelps-Rider, Membership Chair-Emily Sprague Wurl, Regional vp: South-Central/Southwestern-Grace Woodard, Northern-Dana Akers, Eastern-Ida Opperud

1958-60 President-Edith Sanders, Vice-president-Rev. Henry Spear, Secretary-Maude Totten, Treasurer-Hazel La Tour, Historian-Marian Paust, Credentials and Membership Chair-Emily Sprague Wurl

1960-62 President-Edna Meudt, Vice-president-Rev. Henry Spear, Secretary-Marian Paust, Treasurer-Arthur I. Fischer, Historian-Marian Paust, Credentials and Membership Chair-Emily Sprague Wurl

1962-64 President-Jo Bartels Alderson, Vice-president-Myrtle Cook Jackson, Secretary-James Alderson, Treasurer-Oliver Sanders, Historian-Marian Paust, Credentials Chair-Star Powers and Mary Zimmerman(1963-64)

1964-66 President-Rev. Henry Spears, Vice-president-Myrtle Cook Jackson, Secretary-Theresa Bauer, Treasurer-Arthur I. Fischer, Historian-Marian Paust, Credential Chair-Star Powers.

1966-68 President-Joyce W. Webb, Vice-president-Dr. John Grinde, Secretary-Theresa Bauer, Treasurer-Esther Tank, Historian-Marian Paust, Credentials Chair-Inga Gilson Caldwell

1968-72 President-Russell Ferrall, Vice-president-Beryl Hoyt, Secretary-Marcie Leitzke, Treasurer-Esther Tank, Historian-Marian Paust, Credentials Chair-Inga Gilson Caldwell. Russell

Ferrall resigned to become president of NFSPS and James Alderson was appointed to fill his unexpired term.

1972-74 President-Frances May, Vice-president-Sara Rath, Secretary-Mardi Fries, Treasurer-Esther Tank, Historian-Marian Paust, Credentials Chair-Joyce W. Webb

1974-76 President-Anne Stubbe, Vice-president-Marj Nienstaedt, Secretary-Jeri McCormick, Treasurer-Mae Baber, Historian-Marian Paust, Credentials Chair-Dorothy Westring, Regional vp: Eastern-Florence Lindemann, Northern-Marcia Fischer, Northeastern-Nancy Rose, Southern-Marjorie Pettit

1976-78 President-Star Powers, Vice-president-Marj Nienstaedt, Secretary-Jeri McCormick, Treasurer-Elayne Clipper Hanson, Historian Marian Paust, Credentials Chair-Josef Zderad, Regional vp: Eastern-Florence Lindemann, Central-Majorie Pettit, Northeastern-Nancy Rose, Southwestern-Mardi Fries

1978-80 President-Marj Nienstaedt, Vice-president-Marion C. Stewart, Secretary-Jeri McCormick, Treasurer-Elayne Clipper Hanson, Historian-Marian Paust, Credentials Chair-Josef Zderad, Regional vp: Marjorie Pettit, Mardi Fries, Janet Loos, Gerti H. Sennett

1980-82 President-Marjorie Pettit, Vice-president-Gerti H. Sennett, Secretary-Phyllis Maples, Treasurer-Richard Roe, Historian-Marian Paust, Credentials Chair-Lenore Coberly, Regional vp: Western-Mardi Fries, Central-Anne Stubbe, Eastern-Gerald Wallace, Southwestern-Nancy Caviale

1982-84 President-Gerti H. Sennett (Anne Stubbe filled Sennett's unexpired term), Vice-president-Phyllis Maples, Secretary-Margaret Shimkus, Treasurer-Mardi Fries, Historian-Marian Paust, Credentials Chair-Lenore Coberly, Regional vp: Mary Ann Rassmussen, Dorothy Westring, Anne Stubbe, Phyllis Wax

1984-86 President-Lenore Coberly, Vice-president-Loretta Strehlow, Secretary-Margaret Shimkus, Treasurer-Lyne Patrick Smith, Historian-Marian Paust and Richard Roe, Credentials Chair-Gianfranco Pagnucci, Regional vp: Mardi Fries, Nancy Rose Sweetland, Helen Fahrback, Willaim Harrold, Jeri McCormick, Nancy Caviale

1986-88 President-Loretta Strehlow, Vice-president-Jeri McCormick, Secretary-Sue DeKelver, Treasurer-Frank Newgent, Historian-Richard Roe, Credentials Chair-Gianfranco Pagnucci/Arthur Madson, Regional vp: Southeastern-Setphanie Sargent, Southwester-Nancy Caviale, Central-Kay Saunders, Madison-Lynn Patrick Smith, Rib Lake-Star Powers, Northeastern-Tobin Rockey

1988-90 President-Russell Ferrall, Vice-president-Mardi Fries, Secretary-Michael Belongie, Treasurer-Woodrow W. Brothers, Historian-Richard Roe, Credentials Chair-Arthur Madson/Jo

Bartels Alderson, Regional vp: Tobin Rockey, Star Powers, Sandra Lindow, Stephanie Sargent, Nancy Caviale, Lynn Patrick Smith, Kay Saunders

1990-92 President-Jeri McCormick, Vice-president Arthur Madson, Secretary-Michael Belongie, Treasurer-Woodrow W. Brothers/Mrs. Lawrence Larmon/Steve Andrews, Historian-Richard Roe, Credentials Chair-Robin Chapman, Regional vp: Northwestern-Sandra Lindow, Northeast-Mary Jo Stitch, North Central-Kay Saunders, Southeastern-Peggy Shimkus, Southwestern-Nancy Caviale, Milwaukee-Elaine Cavanaugh, Madison-Iefke Goldberger

1992-95 President-Michael Belongie, Vice-president-Helen Fahrback, Secretary-Dorothy Schwenkner/Mary Ellen Schmidt, Treasurer-Steve Andrews, Historian-Richard Roe, Credentials Chair-Elayne Clipper Hanson/Cristine Prucha, Regional vp: Barbara Larsen, Josephine Zell, Sandra Lindow, Elaine Cavanaugh, Peggy Shimkus, and Tom Pelnar

1995-98 President-Mardi Fries, Vice-president-Josephine Zell, Secretary-Mary Ellen Schmidt, Treasurer-Sue DeKolver, Historian-Richard Roe, Credentials Chair-Cristine Prucha/Sr. Irene Zimmerman, Regional vp: Racine-Kenosha region-Peggy Shimkus, Northeast-Barbara Larsen, Madison-Susan Godwin, Milwaukee-Tom Pelnar, West-Central-Sandra Lindow, Central-Kay Saunders, Mid-Central-Jan Lattimer

1998-2001 President-Sheryl Slocum, Vice-president-Peter Sherrill, Secretary-Cathryn Cofell, Treasurer-Sue DeKolver, Historian-Richard Roe, Credentials Chair-Sr. Irene Zimmerman, Regional vp: Milwaukee-Elanie Cavanaugh, Northeast-Barbara Larsen, Central-Fox River Valley-Kay Saunders, South Central-Susan Godwin, Northwestern-Jan Chronister, Southern-Dorothy Schwenkner, West-Central-Sandra Lindow, Mid-Central-Jan Lattimer, Southeastern-Peggy Shimkus

2001- President-Sheryl Slocum, Vice-president-Peter Sherrill, Secretary-Roberta Fabiani, Treasurer-MT Rimmel Gehm, Historian-Richard Roe (began in 1985), Credentials Chair-Karla Huston, Regional vp: Central-Fox-Kay Saunders; East-Helen M. Padway; Mid-Central-Joan Johannes; Northeast-Barbara Larsen; Northwest-Jan Chronister; South-Dorothy Schwenkner; South-Central-Kathy Dodd Miner; West-Central-Sandra Lindow

2002-03 President-Peter Sherrill, Vice-president-Cathryn Cofell, Secretary-Roberta Fabiani, Treasurer-D.B. Appleton, Historian-Richard Roe, Credentials Chair-Karla Huston, Regional Vice-presidents: Central-Fox-Mike Koehler, East-Helen M. Padway, Mid-Central-Joan Johannes, Northeast-Nancy Rafal, Northwest-Jan Chronister, South-Dorothy Schwenkner, South-Central-Kathy Dodd Miner, West-Central-Sandra Lindow

2004- President-Peter Sherrill, Vice-president-Roberta Fabiani, Secretary-Bruce Dethlefsen, Treasurer-D.B. Appleton, Historian-Richard Roe, Membership Chair-Peter Piaskowski, Regional vp: Central-Fox-Karla Huston, East-Helen M. Padway, Mid-Central-Joan Johannes, Northeast-Nancy Rafal, Northwest-Jan Chronister, South-Dorothy Schwenkner, South-Central-Kathy Dodd Miner, West-Central-Sandra Lindow

2005- President-Peter Sherrill, Vice-president-Roberta Fabiani, Secretary-Bruce Dethlefsen, Treasurer-Nancy Rafal, Historian-Richard Roe, Membership Chair-Peter Piaskowski, Regional vp: Central-Fox-Ia Bolz, East-Cary Fellman, Mid-Central-Joan Johannes, Northeast-June Nirschl & Judy Roy, Northwest-Jan Chronister, South-Frank Konieska, South-Central-Kathy Dodd Miner, West-Central-Sandra Lindow

2006- President-Peter Sherrill, Vice-president-Roberta Fabiani, Secretary-Bruce Dethlefsen, Treasurer-Nancy Rafal, Historian-Richard Roe, Membership Chair-Peter Piaskowski, Conference Coordinator-Mike Kriesel, Regional vp: Central-Fox-Carol Pemrich Hauser & Georgina Meulemans, East-Cary Fellman, Mid-Central-Joan Johannes, Northeast-Carol Pemrich Hauser & Georgina Meulemans, Northwest-Jan Chronister, South-Frank Konieska, South-Central-James P. Roberts, West-Central-Sandra Lindow

2007- President-Lester Smith, Vice-president-Michael Belongie, Secretary-Bruce Dethlefsen, Treasurer-Nancy Rafal, Historian-Richard Roe, Membership Chair-Peter Piaskowski, Conference Coordinator-Mike Kriesel, Regional vp: Central-Fox-Carol Pemrich Hauser & Georgina Meulemans, East-Cary Fellman, Mid-Central-Joan Johannes, Northeast-Carol Pemrich Hauser & Georgina Meulemans, Northwest-Jan Chronister, South-Frank Konieska, South-Central-James P. Roberts, West-Central-Sandra Lindow

2008- President-Lester Smith, Vice-president-Michael Belongie, Secretary-Bruce Dethlefsen, Treasurer-Nancy Rafal, Historian-Richard Roe, Membership Chair-Peter Piaskowski, Conference Coordinator-Mike Kriesel, Regional vp: Central-Fox-Bill Gillard, East-Annie Parcels & Shelly Hall, Mid-Central-Joan Johannes, Northeast-Sarah Rose Thomas, Northwest-Jan Chronister, South-Frank Konieska, South-Central-James P. Roberts, West-Central-Sandra Lindow

2009-10 President-Lester Smith, Vice-president-Michael Belongie, Secretary-Bruce Dethlefsen, Treasurer-Nancy Rafal, Historian-Richard Roe, Membership Chair-Gillian Nevers, Conference Coordinator-Mike Kriesel, Regional Vice-vp: Central-Fox-Bill Gillard, East-Carolyn Vargo & Janet Leahy, Mid-Central-Joan Johannes, Northeast-Sarah Rose Thomas, Northwest-Jan Chronister, South-Frank Konieska, South-Central-James P. Roberts, West-Central-Sandra Lindow

2011-12 President-Lester Smith, Vice-president-B.J. Best, Secretary-Richard Swanson, Treasurer-Nancy Rafal, Historian-Richard Roe, Membership Chair-Gillian Nevers, Conference Coordinator-Mike Kriesel, Regional vp: Central-Fox-Sarah Gilbert, East-Carolyn Vargo & Janet

Leahy, Mid-Central-Jim Pollock, Northeast-Sarah Rose Thomas, Northwest-Jan Chronister, South-Frank Konieska, South-Central-James P. Roberts, West-Central-Sandra Lindow
Michael Kriesel stepped down as Conference Coordinator after six years(2006-2012) and Erik Richardson stepped up. Richard Roe stepped down as Historian after 27 years (1985-2012) and Lewis Bosworth stepped up.

2013- President-Michael Kriesel, Vice-president-Jan Chronister, Secretary-Richard Swanson, Treasurer-Colleen Frentzel, Historian/Archivist-Lewis Bosworth, Membership Chair-Gillian Nevers, Conference Coordinator-Erik Richardson, Regional vp: Central-Fox-Sarah Gilbert, East-Carolyn Vargo & Janet Leahy, Mid-Central-Jim Pollock, Northeast-Tori Grant Welhouse, Northwest-Hope McLeod, South-Frank Konieska, South-Central-James P. Roberts, West-Central-Sandra Lindow

Chris Falk stepped down as *Museletter* editor after 20 years. Lester Smith and daughter, Kate, stepped up.

2014-15 President-Michael Kriesel, Vice-president-Jan Chronister, Secretary-Richard Swanson, Treasurer-Colleen Frentzel, Historian/Archivist-Lewis Bosworth, Membership Chair-Gillian Nevers, Conference Coordinator-Erik Richardson, Regional vp: Central-Fox-Sarah Gilbert, East-Ed Werstein, Mid-Central-Jim Pollock, Northeast-Tori Grant Welhouse, Northwest-Jude Generaux, South-Frank Konieska, South-Central-James P. Roberts, West-Central-Sandra Lindow

Lester Smith and daughter, Kate, stepped down as *Museletter* editors. F.J. Bergmann stepped up.

FELLOWSHIP PUBLICATIONS

Anthologies

Northern Spring—Ruth Morehouse, editor 1956

Poems Out of Wisconsin II—Maude Totten, editor 1961

Poems Out of Wisconsin III—Jo Bartels Alderson and J. Michael Alderson, editors 1967

New Poetry Out of Wisconsin—August Derleth, editor 1969

Poetry Out of Wisconsin—Mardi Fries and Jeri McCormick, editors 1980

Magazine

Hawk & Whippoorwill Recalled (in honor of August Derleth)

—Joyce W. Webb, editor 1973-75

Vol. 1 #1, Vol.2 #1, Vol. 2 #2 may have been the only issues

Museletter newsletter

Some of the most important people in WFOP are *Museletter* editors. Unfortunately the complete list of editors cannot be determined with any degree of accuracy in the early years. Presidents usually edited, produced and mailed the newsletters, but not always. For a while, newsletters were assigned to the vice-presidents, but again, not always. Various people helped by editing one or more issues. Eventually, non-members became the *Museletter* editors.

The names of those producing the *Museletter* over the years do not always appear in their publications. Also, sometimes one person compiled the manuscript, and someone else did the typing and/or mailing. With the information being so elusive, a profound “Thank You” is in order to all those known and unknown who did any of the vital work of producing and distributing the *Museletter*. It is the lifeblood of the organization.

A special *Thank You* goes to Chris Falk who was the *Museletter* editor from 1994-2014. Falk gave the publication a polished look and patiently called for regional news from the regional vice-presidents four times a year. In addition to editing, arranging for printing and mailing the *Museletter*, Falk, in about 2010, began sending out a weekly calendar of poetry events to all members who’d supplied email addresses. Falk also maintained the WFOP member list which could be mailed or emailed to members who requested it. She also handled special mailings and emailings for the organization.

Wisconsin Poets' Calendar

1982-84 Tom and Mary Montag-before WFOP

1985-86 no *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* produced

<i>editor</i>	<i>business manager</i>
1987 Betsy Strand	Nancy Caviale
1988 Robin S. Chapman	Nancy Caviale
1989 Mardi Fries	Mary Ellen Schmidt
1990 Arthur Madson	Mary Ellen Schmidt
1991 Helen Fahrback	Tobin Rockey
1992 Ellen Kort	Tobin Rockey
1993 Lenore McComas Coberly	Tobin Rockey
1994 Iefke Goldberger	Janice Puta
1995 Laurel Mills	Janice Puta
1996 Angela Peckenpaugh	Janice Puta
1997 Jeri McCormick	Patty Schenk/Claire Box
1998 Cristine Prucha	Patti Swanson
1999 Yvette Viets Flaten	Patti Swanson
2000 Elaine Cavanaugh	Lou Roach
2001 Mardi Fries	Lou Roach
2002 Mara Ptacek and Phyllis Wax	Lou Roach
2003 Dorothy Schwenker and Julie Cousin	Lou Roach
2004 Alice D'Alessio and Jackie Langetieg	Lou Roach
2005 Michael Koehler and Gary Busha	Michael Farmer
2006 Ron Czerwien and C.X. Dillhunt	Michael Farmer
2007 Michael Belongie and Josephine Zell	Michael Farmer
2008 F.J. Bergmann and Richard Roe	Michael Farmer
2009 Kathy Dodd Miner and Nancy Rafal	Michael Farmer
2010 B.J. Best and Charles Nevsimal	Michael Farmer
2011 Sandra Lindow and Peg Lauber	Michael Farmer
2012 Jeffrey Johannes and Joan Wiese Johannes	Michael Farmer
2013 Sarah Busse and Wendy Vardaman	Michael Farmer
2014 Paula Anderson and Judy Kolasso	Michael Farmer
2015 Jeanie Tomasko and Steve Tomasko	Michael Farmer
2016 Brenda Lempp and Coral Bishop	Michael Farmer

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE CALENDAR

The first *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* was published in 1982 by Tom and Mary Montag and was published by Midwestern Writers' Publishing House. They continued for two more years and in 1984 when Tom was a speaker at the fall WFOP conference, he indicated that he and Mary would no longer be publishing the calendar and asked if the Fellowship would be interested in taking on the project. The first calendar produced by WFOP was the 1987 edition.

1987-2007 and 2009-2010 printer was Inkwell Press in Dodgeville.

1997 and 2001 Mardi Fries was the only two time editor

1997 first time junior and senior high school student contest winners were included

2000 first inclusion of ISBNs

2002 first full color cover

2007 first color seasonal pages

2008 first year submissions accepted via email

2011-2015 printer was Documation, LLC in Eau Claire

2012 theme-Valleys and Alleys

2013 first plastic binding

2013 theme-Community

2016 theme-Shadows and Reflections

2005-2016 Michael Farmer has served as Calendar Business Manager longer than anyone else

WISCONSIN EVERMORE

Official Song

Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets

Tune: "America, the Beautiful"

The eagle seeks the mountain crag,
The seagull loves the sea;
Our homing hearts from alien scenes,
Wisconsin, speed to thee!
We love the meadows, hills, and vales
Where peaceful flocks are seen,
The rivers shining broad and fair,
The woodlands cool and green.

We love the tall cathedral aisles
Where heaven waits to bless,
The fairy lands of jeweled free,
And lanes of loveliness,
Give east and west their mountain pride
And boast of ocean shore,
In winsome beauty, sliver-set,
Wisconsin Evermore!

O wooded streams and silver lakes,
Beloved by moon and star,
For us how much of life and love
And youth and home you are!
O love that touched our morning skies,
Make gold our evening's gray!
God grant each homing heart abide
Beneath your sunset ray.

H. Elizabeth Moot, Appleton

Published in *Wisconsin History in Poetry*, Henry C. Spear, editor, Badger Poetry House, Beaver Dam, WI 1969.

Adopted by WFOP as the organization's official song in 1956.

65th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Michael Belongie-Chair

Jan Chronister-Chair

Michael Kriesel-Chair

Bruce Dethlefsen

Colleen Frentzel

Sandra Lindow-Quilt Poetry Project

Joan Wiese Johannes

Jeffrey Johannes

Bobbie Lovell-Program booklet

Nancy Rafal-History booklet

Francha Barnard-proofreader

Phyllis Wax-registration table

Tori Wellhouse

65th Anniversary Celebration—HISTORY SPONSORS

Little Eagle Press, Door County, WI

Mary Jo Balistreri

Michael and Jane Belongie

Doris Bezio

Friends of Loraine Niedecker, 209 Merchant Street, Ft. Atkinson, WI 53538

Janet Leahy

Marsh River Editions, Marshfield, WI

Robert Nordstrom

Pearl Street Books, 323 Pearl Street, La Crosse, WI 54601, 808-782-3424

Poet's Ink, critique group, Milwaukee, WI

Poet Laureate Commission, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters

Nancy Rafal and Michael Farmer

Rainbow Editing, 2829 Barlow Street, Madison, WI 53705, 608-238-3648,
lewisabosworth@gmail.com

Shoshauna Shy of Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf, Woodrow Hall Editions
Madison, WI PoetryJumpsOfftheShelf.com

Marilyn Taylor

Word Women, critique group, Door County, WI

Thank You All

IN A NUTSHELL
SHORT HISTORY of
WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS

- 2015 Kimberly Blaeser named sixth Wisconsin Poet Laureate; the 65th Anniversary conference in Green Lake
- 2013 Max Garland named fifth Wisconsin Poet Laureate
- 2011 Bruce Dethlefsen named fourth Wisconsin Poet Laureate
- 2009 Wisconsin Poetry Chapbook award initiated
- 2008 Marilyn Taylor named third Wisconsin Poet Laureate
- 2004 Denise Sweet named second Wisconsin Poet Laureate: WFOP ends membership with NFSPS because of increased costs and decreased benefits
- 2000 50th Anniversary conference at Green Lake; Muse Prize is the first poetry award made by the WFOP Literary Fund; Ellen Kort named first Wisconsin Poet Laureate; WFOP gets website
- 1999 Wisconsin Poet Laureate project initiated
- 1997 Grant from the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Commission for the Sesquicentennial poetry contest; Poetry Page added to *Museletter*
- 1986 WFOP assumes publication of the *Wisconsin Poets Calendar*
- 1985 WFOP receives from the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts and Letters its highest award, the Citation.
- 1980 A grant is awarded by the Wisconsin Arts Board for *Poems Out of Wisconsin V*
- 1975 WFOP becomes tax-exempt
- 1972 Silver Anniversary conference in Wausau; pilot poetry programs in schools and prisons are in place
- 1972 WFOP receives a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board and the NEA to publish its magazine, *Hawk and Whippoorwill Recalled*
- 1969 August Derleth edits the anthology, *New Poetry Out of Wisconsin*
- 1967 WFOP is awarded a grant by the Wisconsin Arts Foundation and Council to publish a five-year anthology, *Poems Out of Wisconsin III*
- 1961 The second anthology, *Poems Out of Wisconsin II*, is published
- 1960 WFOP becomes a charter member of the National Fellowship of State Poetry Societies and contributed several national officers to NFSPS
- 1956 *Northern Spring*, the first WFOP anthology, is published
- 1953 WFOP begins promoting student poetry contests
- 1950 The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets meets for the first time at the Memorial Union in Madison on April 23; the first newsletter, edited by Louise Leighton and Edna Meudt is called *The Bulletin of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets*; in June the name is changed to *The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets Muse Letter*