



## Wisconsin Regional Writers' Association

"A fellowship of amateur and professional writers who support and assist fellow writers with all phases, types, and categories of creative writing."

- Mission Statement



### **2010 WRWA Contest Rules**

#### ***Introduction***

Rules and instructions for the 2010 contests have been revised comprehensively. Please read carefully. Most of the instructions relate equally to all three contests\_Lindemann, Nelson, and Jade Ring\_so we have stated those common elements once, under the heading **General Instructions**. Specific detail that applies uniquely to one of the contests are presented under the heading for each contest. These instructions will be repeated on the new WRWA Web site ([www.wrwa.net](http://www.wrwa.net)) when it is operational and are being disseminated\_again\_to every member by e-mail and regular mail. We hope you find the new format helpful. If you have any questions, please address them to Dave Rank ([davejrank@ameritech.net](mailto:davejrank@ameritech.net)), Sarah White ([whitesarah@charter.net](mailto:whitesarah@charter.net)), or the specific contest manager (listed under each contest).

#### ***General Instructions (apply to all contests)***

##### ***Eligibility***

All WRWA members in good standing.

A First Prize winner in any contest/category is not eligible to enter that same contest/category for the following three years.

No one shall win First Prize in any contest/category more than twice.

If you wish to become a member at the same time you enter a contest, please submit dues separately with your membership application to the Membership Recorder. Do not send a membership application with your contest entry and do not include membership dues with your check for entry fees. But, if you are signing up for membership at the same time you are entering a contest, please make a note of that on the contest entry cover sheet. The Contest Manager always checks eligibility against the current membership roster and checks for late sign-ups.

##### ***Entries***

One entry per member per contest/category, except Jade Ring Poetry (see under Jade Ring). All entries must be original and not previously published in any form or any medium (including the Internet). Subsequent to award of prizes, winners are free to submit elsewhere. A rewrite of a published article does not qualify (sorry!).

No prize-winning entry may subsequently be resubmitted to the same contest. Thus, a third place winner may not be submitted in a later year to the same contest hoping for a better result. Write new material. You are free, however, to rework and resubmit material that didn't place.

Simultaneous entries of the same material to both the Nelson and Lindemann contests are not permitted. Simultaneous entries of the same material to different categories of the Jade Ring Contest are not permitted.

Your submission to any WRWA contest grants WRWA permission to publish First Place winners in the *Wisconsin Writers\_ Journal* and on the WRWA Web site, where it will remain for up to one year.

Finalists in each category are strongly encouraged to be present at the awards ceremonies to accept their prize and read their entry. Should a finalist be unable to attend, a proxy may be appointed by the finalist to read the entry and accept the prize. Please take care of this before the conference. In such a case, you are free to let the designee know that you have won something.

The Contest Manager will retain a copy of First and Second Place entries and will designate someone to read them if necessary and will pass the winning entry on to the Journal Editor for publication.

Authors are free to exercise their continuing rights to publish elsewhere any time after the winner is announced. Authors retain copyright.

Please do not send SASE. Include a SAS postcard if you wish to have receipt of your manuscript acknowledged. Entries will not be returned to authors. They will, however, be brought to the awards ceremony and placed on a table for authors (or a friend) to retrieve. All manuscripts not collected then will be destroyed.

WRWA, Inc. is not responsible for lost manuscripts. Postage-due manuscripts will be refused. Please do not send entries via Certified Mail.

### ***Minimum Number of Entries***

Each contest/category must have a minimum of twenty (20) entries. If the minimum requirement is not met, this contest will not be held; entry fees will be

returned. For 2010 only, as the new First Chapters categories in the Jade Ring Contest are getting started, we will continue the contest in those categories if the category gets at least 10 entries. However, unless the number of entries is 20 or more, we will award only a first prize of \$150 cash and certificate\_no jade ring or additional prizes.

### ***Entry Fee***

\$10 per entry, except Jade Ring Poetry (see under Jade Ring). Checks must be made out to WRWA, Inc. and included with submission. If you enter several categories (Jade Ring Contests only) you may write one check to cover all entry fees.

Please do not send membership application/renewal or related checks for dues with your entries. Send those separately to the Membership Recorder. (See any Journal for the address).

### ***Prizes***

All contests now have the same cash prizes. In addition, each winner will receive a certificate of achievement. First Place winners in each category of the Jade Ring Contests will also receive a jade ring. Only one jade ring will be awarded to a person. WRWA, Inc. will not replace lost or destroyed rings. Additional First Place wins by a person who has already won a jade ring will include certificate and cash only.

First Place: \$ 150

Second Place: \$ 100

Third Place: \$ 80

Honorable Mention: \$ 15

No more than two honorable mentions will be awarded per contest/category, at the discretion of the judge. If a judge insists on declaring more, the Contest Manager will make the final determination of which two to award.

WRWA, Inc. and the judges reserve the right not to award prizes when quality work is not presented.

### ***Manuscript Preparation and Submission***

Not meeting these requirements will result in disqualification of the manuscript and return of the manuscript and entry fee.

All submissions must be by mail and must be postmarked not later than the closing date of the contest (see below for each contest). We are considering e-mail submission procedures and will publish those later if we decide to use that process. Please do not staple pages together. If you are submitting multiple entries in a single envelope, please use paperclips to separate entries. You may make out a single check for the full amount to cover all entries.

### **Cover Sheet**

Each entry must contain its own cover sheet. (See the WRWA Web site for a sample.) The cover sheet must include the Contest name/category of your entry, title of the entry, word count (total number of lines for poetry), blank line, your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, blank line, ring size (Jade Ring Contests only), blank line, the name and postal and e-mail addresses of your local newspaper. (This will be used by the Contest Manager following the awards ceremony to send a press release announcing your achievement.) The Contest Manager will keep the cover sheet, assign a number to your entry, add the number to your entry, then bundle entries and sent them to the judge.

If you are becoming a member at or just before you submit your entries, please add a line to that effect on the cover sheet. That will alert the Contest Manager to check for a new membership.

### **Submission Manuscript**

Entries must be typed, double-spaced, on one side only of white paper. Leave margins of at least 1 inch. (See the WRWA Web site for a sample.) Use a readable font and size (e.g., Times New Roman, 12). Only ribbon copies, printed copies (no dot matrix), or good photocopies accepted; no carbons. Each number, and, a, I, an, the, etc. counts as a word. Hyphenated words count as one.

The first page of text must include the title and word count of your entry. Do not include your name. Your name should appear only on the cover sheet.

Subsequent pages should include only the title and page number, no name.

### ***Florence Lindemann Humor Contest***

**Topic:** A nonfiction essay or article with a humorous theme and/or incorporating humorous elements. **Contest Dates:** Opens January 1. Entries must be postmarked not later than March 30 when contest closes.

**Maximum Length:** 800 words (3 \_ 4 typed, double-spaced pages at 250 words/page).

**Awards:** Prizes (see above) will be awarded at the Spring Conference. In addition, a traveling trophy will be awarded with the winner\_s name engraved. This will be yours to display for a year and must be returned to the Contest Manager by the end of the following March so the next winner\_s name can be engraved. Winners will be notified prior to the conference, but will not be told how they placed. They are requested not to divulge that information before the awards ceremony, except as noted for reading.

**Send Entries to:**

Olive Giese, Contest Manager 1008 E. Fairy Chasm Road Milwaukee, WI  
53217-1819

***Al P. Nelson Feature Article Contest***

**Topic:** A feature article (non-fiction) pertaining to people/places in Wisconsin, or at least a link to Wisconsin. Reminiscences have dominated previous contests, but profiles, essays, how-tos, travel, humor, and round-up articles have made their mark, too.

**Contest Dates:** Opens January 1. Entries must be postmarked not later than March 30 when contest closes.

**Maximum Length:** 400 to 1,200 words (2 \_ 5 typed, double-spaced pages at 250 words/page).

**Awards:** Prizes (see above) will be awarded at the Spring Conference. In addition, a traveling trophy will be awarded with the winner\_s name engraved. This will be yours to display for a year and must be returned to the Contest Manager by the end of the following March so the next winner\_s name can be engraved. Winners will be notified prior to the conference, but will not be told how they placed. They are requested not to divulge that information before the awards ceremony, except as noted for reading.

**Send Entries to:**

Bill Nelson, Contest Manager 2365 Mary Beth Court Brookfield, Wis. 53005-4968

**Judge for 2010:** Kelly James-Enger of northern Illinois, a prolific writer, author, marketing whiz, and contributing editor at *The Writer* magazine. [Her books include *Six-Figure Freelancing: The Writer\_s Guide to Making More Money* and *Ready, Aim, Specialize! Create Your Own Writing Specialty and Make More Money.*]

