



Great Lakes Colleges Association  
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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103  
U.S.A.  
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www.glca.org

January 17, 2019

Dear Writer/Publicist:

I invite you to enter the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) New Writers Awards (NWA) 2020 competition for **poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction**. In each category, the submitted work must be an author's **first published volume**. For this year's competition the GLCA will accept entries that bear a publication imprint of 2018 or 2019. Winning writers are announced in January 2020.

For the 50<sup>th</sup> year this group of thirteen independent Midwestern colleges will confer recognition on a volume of writing in each of three literary genres: poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. Publishers submit works on behalf of their authors; the key criterion for this award is that any work submitted must be an author's **first-published volume in the genre**. All entries must be written in English and published in the United States or Canada. Judges of the New Writers Award are professors of literature and creative writing at GLCA member colleges.

The winning authors tour several of GLCA's member colleges from which they receive invitations, giving readings, lecturing, visiting classes, conducting workshops, and publicizing their books. Because of this provision of the award, all **writers must live in the U.S. or Canada**. Each writer receives an honorarium of at least \$500 from each college visited, as well as travel expenses, hotel accommodations, and hospitality. **By accepting the award the winner is committed to visit member colleges that extend invitations**. GLCA works to identify dates that accord with campus calendars and a writer's availability. The GLCA also encourages our colleges that are in geographical proximity to schedule writer visits on consecutive days, so that a winning author could possibly visit two or even three colleges during a single trip to the Midwest.

Following this letter, you will find a copy of the rules for the 2020 award, including answers to frequently asked questions. Note that the award is for a **first-published volume in its genre** by the writer. A single publisher may choose to submit an entry to more than one category of writing (i.e., one for poetry, one for fiction, and one for non-fiction). It is important to note, however, that **each publisher may enter only one work in each genre**, and that **four copies** of each entry must be submitted. If a publisher submits more than one entry per category, it will be asked to choose which entry goes forward. **The GLCA cannot return volumes that do not qualify or are withdrawn**. Entries will be accepted beginning February 1, 2019. To be considered for this year's award, **all entries must be postmarked no later than June 25, 2019**.

Please include the following information with your submission:

1. Publisher information, including the contact person's name, title, **e-mail address**, phone number and extension, and mailing address of the publishing company (note that because our correspondence with publishers is predominantly through e-mail, it is important that submissions include an accurate and current e-mail address);
2. Letter or note indicating the category (poetry, fiction, or creative non-fiction) in which the publisher wishes to nominate the volume and a statement verifying that this is the author's first published volume in the genre;
3. Signed author's statement agreeing to the terms of the campus visits and affirming that this is the author's first published volume in the genre (this author's statement of agreement can be found on the final page of the contest guidelines accompanying this letter);
4. Author biography and publicity material;
5. **Four copies** of the book.

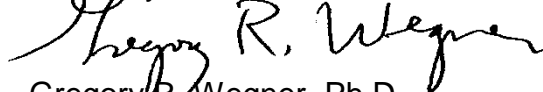
Please send this information to:

Gregory R. Wegner  
Director of Program Development  
New Writers Award  
Great Lakes Colleges Association  
535 W. William, Suite 301  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me or my GLCA colleague, Colleen Monahan Smith, who is the New Writers Award program associate, at 734-661-2350; by e-mail at [wegner@glca.org](mailto:wegner@glca.org), or [smith@glca.org](mailto:smith@glca.org) or by fax at 734-661-2349.

We look forward to your participation in the GLCA New Writers Award. Additional information about the award can be found on the GLCA Web site: [GLCA New Writers Award](#)

Sincerely,



Gregory R. Wegner, Ph.D.  
Director of Program Development  
Great Lakes Colleges Association's New Writers Award

Enclosure: New Writers Award Guidelines





January 17, 2019

## GREAT LAKES COLLEGES ASSOCIATION 50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NEW WRITERS AWARDS GUIDELINES

### THE NEW WRITERS AWARDS

For the 50<sup>th</sup> year, the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) announces its GLCA New Writers Award. An award is given each year to the best entry in each of the following literary genres from works **submitted by publishers**:

1. **first** book of *poetry*,
2. **first** book of *fiction* and
3. **first** book of *creative non-fiction*

New Writers Award judges are professors of literature and creative writing at GLCA member colleges. No cash prize accompanies the award, but honoraria and material recognition are described below.

The competition is held annually, and winners are announced in January of each calendar year. For this year's competition GLCA will accept entries that bear a publication imprint of 2018 or 2019. There are separate awards for poetry, fiction (i.e., a novel or collection of short stories), and creative non-fiction. The award may be withheld in any category at the discretion of the judges.

**The deadline for submissions to this year's award is June 25, 2019.**

### VISITS TO THE COLLEGES

Beginning in the fall semester, the winning authors from that year's competition will receive invitations to visit several GLCA member colleges, where they will read from their works and engage with students and faculty members in a variety of contexts, such as discussions, lectures, colloquia, workshops, and interviews. Because of this provision of the award, all **writers must live in the U.S. or Canada**. The GLCA will work with a winning writer and the colleges that extend an invitation for a campus visit to identify a date that works well for each. GLCA will also help coordinate a writer's travel to colleges. The winner of this award would receive invitations to visit GLCA member colleges during the academic year beginning in fall 2020 and concluding in spring 2021.

## FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Winning authors will receive an honorarium of \$500 from each of the colleges they visit. In addition, writers are reimbursed for all travel, lodging, and food costs they might incur in visits to GLCA member colleges.

## PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

Each publisher is limited to **one entry in each category**: poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. The works entered must be written primarily in English and published in the United States or Canada. An entry to any category must be **a writer's first published volume in that genre**. Winning authors commit themselves to visit GLCA member colleges from which they receive invitations. Publishers **must** include a statement as part of the submission materials expressing the author's agreement to this condition (see final page of this document). Note that the award in each category emphasizes literary excellence; a publisher should submit appropriately. If a publisher submits more than one entry per category, it will be asked to choose which entry goes forward. **The GLCA cannot return volumes that do not qualify or are withdrawn.**

As in the poetry and fiction categories, the creative non-fiction award emphasizes literary excellence. Published volumes in this category should address a general readership; they should be works in which a considerable interest derives from the writer's command of language and exploration of the boundaries of expression in a non-fiction genre. The creative non-fiction award will not consider works of an explicitly practical purpose (e.g., straight journalism, self-help, or how-to books), and it will not consider scholarly works written primarily for faculty and students with scholarly interests within or across particular academic disciplines. **Because the readership of volumes selected for this award will be students and faculty members of liberal arts colleges, publishers of children's literature are discouraged from submitting.**

## MECHANICS AND TIMETABLE

GLCA will accept entries for this year's New Writers Award beginning February 1, 2019.

**The publisher's submission letter should indicate clearly the category (poetry, fiction, or creative non-fiction) to which the volume is being submitted as well as a statement verifying that is the author's first published work in that genre.** A single publisher may choose to submit an entry for more than one category of writing (i.e., one for poetry, one for fiction, and one for non-fiction). It is important to note, however, that **each publisher may enter ONLY ONE WORK in each genre.** A work submitted in any given genre should represent a publisher's "best bet" for winning that award.

Please include the following information with your submission:

1. Publisher information, including the contact person's name, title, **e-mail address**, phone number and extension, and mailing address of the publishing company (note that because our correspondence with publishers is predominantly through e-mail, it is important that submissions include an accurate and current e-mail address);
2. Letter or note indicating the category (poetry, fiction, or creative non-fiction) in which the publisher wishes to nominate the volume and a statement verifying that it is the author's first published work in the genre;
3. Signed author's statement agreeing to the terms of the campus visits (this author's statement of agreement can be found on the final page of the contest guidelines, below);
4. Author biography and publicity material;
5. **Four copies** of the book.

**The deadline for entries in this year's New Writers Award is June 25, 2019.** Entries that are postmarked after June 25<sup>th</sup> will not be accepted.

Please send entries to:

Gregory R. Wegner  
Director of Program Development  
New Writers Award  
Great Lakes Colleges Association  
535 W. William, Ste. 301  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

The Director of the GLCA New Writers Award will notify the author and the publisher of the winning entries in each category in January 2020. Public announcement of the awards will then be made.

### **BENEFITS TO THE AUTHOR, PUBLISHER, AND GLCA MEMBER COLLEGES**

This award reflects outstanding literary achievement in the judgment of a committee of scholar-critic-writers who have professional and personal commitments to excellence in literature and the encouragement of creative writing. It is a mark of distinction that confers recognition to both author and publisher in promoting the book.

The winning authors' visits to the GLCA colleges, with the attendant local promotion and publicity, should serve to stimulate sales in this Midwestern area. Publishers may affix an "award winner" seal (provided by the GLCA, or affixed by the publisher with design approval by GLCA). Perhaps more important, these campus visits expose the authors and their works to large numbers of students through readings, question and answer sessions, and possibly workshop class sessions. The interest these students develop in winning writers

may well follow through the winning authors' literary careers. Collectively these 13 liberal arts colleges comprise more than 2,000 faculty members and more than 22,000 students.

GLCA's member colleges benefit from providing their students with opportunities to engage with newly published writers, who are likely to be comparatively close in age to undergraduates themselves. The Award also offers faculty members of GLCA colleges an opportunity to engage as a judge and educator with a significant body of recently published poetry or prose.

***GREAT LAKES COLLEGES ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:***

Albion College (Michigan)	Kalamazoo College (Michigan)
Allegheny College (Pennsylvania)	Kenyon College (Ohio)
Antioch College (Ohio)	Oberlin College (Ohio)
Denison University (Ohio)	Ohio Wesleyan University (Ohio)
DePauw University (Indiana)	Wabash College (Indiana)
Earlham College (Indiana)	The College of Wooster (Ohio)
Hope College (Michigan)	

## Frequently Asked Questions

***I published a chapbook of a dozen poems six years ago. Does that mean I can't claim my poetry collection published this year as a first publication in the genre?***

We conceive a chapbook of poetry as a volume that is less than 50 pages in length, privately printed with fewer than 100 copies produced. A previous chapbook of this description does not disqualify a poet who has subsequently published a first collection of poems by a literary press.

***Does the New Writers Award accept a self-published work?***

We do accept self-published work. In that case the submitter should serve both as publisher and author of the work; please refer to the submission guidelines above.

***What if the author of the book isn't on hand to sign the writer's statement of agreement? Can that statement be faxed or e-mailed separately?***

Yes. We enclose a form with a standard statement agreeing to a series of campus visits if an author should win the award. An author may choose instead to send that statement as an e-mail, fax, or a mailed note indicating the understanding that there will be some travel involved if he or she wins the award.

***Can the four copies of a submitted volume be sent under a separate cover from the publisher's submission materials?***

Yes. Send both books and submission materials to the same GLCA mailing address provided in the submission guidelines. Please indicate in the submission letter if materials are being sent separately.

***What happens if my entry arrives after the deadline date?***

June 25 is the date by which all entry materials and physical volumes must be postmarked. In some cases, these mailings may arrive at the GLCA several days after the postmarked date. We will accept the submission only if the postmark date is no later than June 25. Books that are postmarked for shipment after the June 25 deadline will not be accepted or returned.

***Our publishing company has more than one publicity agent, and I submitted a volume to one of the awards not realizing that my colleague had already submitted another work we've published this year in the same genre. What should we do?***

GLCA will contact a publishing company that has submitted more than one entry to a single category. We will ask the publisher to choose which of the volumes it wishes to withdraw and which it chooses to go forward for active consideration in the judging process.

***Does the New Writers Award accept submissions in manuscript?***

Typewritten, unbound entries regardless of the genre will not be accepted. A work that is in galley proof stage should be deferred until the next year's contest, when it can be submitted as a bound volume.





**GLCA NEW WRITERS AWARD  
Statement of Agreement and Certification**

As a recipient of the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award, I agree to participate in the New Writers series of visits to individual colleges by invitation. I understand that these campus visits are an integral part of the award, and that my acceptance of the award signifies my willingness to travel to no more than thirteen GLCA sites, where I will meet with students, offer readings of my work, and participate in discussions, lectures, colloquia, readings, workshops, seminars, and interviews as appropriate.

Each campus or off-campus site will provide me with an honorarium and cover all travel, food and lodging expenses, as stipulated in the official rules of the competition.

I also certify that the submitted work is my first published volume in the genre.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please print name