



SUMMER MAIN OFFICE

P.O. Box 2352 P.O. Box. 1416
 Olympic Valley, CA 96146 Nevada City, CA 95959
 (530) 583-5200 (530) 470-8440

info@communityofwriters.org

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Sands Hall	
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RETURNING POET LOTTERY PROCEDURES:

Dear Alumni Poets,

Our great good luck through the years in supporting poets and poetry has led to a much-needed change in our returning poet lottery policy for returning poets. As you know, this Poetry program depends on its small size and the additions of new voices every year. In the past, poets were asked sit out one session before entering the lottery. And, if their name wasn't selected in the lottery, admittance was guaranteed the following year. This policy worked out well for years and years, but is no longer sustainable.

We need a policy to preserve the size, spirit, and integrity of the program. If you would like to attend the workshops again, we are instigating these procedures

1. If you would like to attend again, please enter the returning poet lottery. Do not try to avoid this process by applying ; we won't be able to consider your application.
2. Please wait out three sessions before entering the lottery; we'd love to have you back, but we are experiencing a greater volume of returning poets.
3. There is no need to submit a writing sample.
4. If we have more folks than can be accommodated, we will foreground each year those who were not admitted the previous year, or those who have not returned in over a decade. That said, there can be no guarantees.

**If you are an alum of our most recent Poetry Workshop in the Virtual Valley, you only need to wait out two years to enter the lottery. After you attend again, the three-year rule takes effect.*

The important thing about the community is that it is a community. We know that the friendships that are begun in the program, and the workshops and reading groups formed out of these friendships, are a very important part of the ethos of the Community of Writers, so we hope we can make an every-third-year system work, and that you bear with us while we try it out.

If you would like to enter the lottery for this coming summer, please complete the online Application Form, indicate you are a returnee and send in your deposit* by the application deadline. The deposit goes toward the tuition and would reduce the amount due by that amount, if selected.

- Online deposit payments are subject to a 3.25% service charge, and will be immediately deposited into our account. If you are not selected, your online payment will be refunded, including fees.
- If you decided to mail in a check for your deposit, your check will be deposited only if you are selected. (We will notify you before depositing it.) Please send to the Nevada City address, above. Make check out to Community of Writers and put "Poet Lottery" on the memo line of the check.
- If you are not selected, your payment will be refunded or your check will be shredded.

Thanks so much for your understanding and patience as we put these rules into practice. We hate to turn anyone away, but circumstances are forcing our hand.

Sincerely,

Brenda Hillman
 Poetry Program Director

Brett Hall Jones
 Executive Director