

**2009 AFMS BULLETIN CONTEST GUIDELINES**  
**(2008 Bulletins & Articles)**  
**ORIGINAL ADULT POETRY**  
***SPECIFIC GUIDELINES***

1. **Authors of poems** submitted for AFMS competition **must be members of the club submitting the entry.**
2. **Only one poem** may be submitted for AFMS competition from each author in a club. **In case of multiple club/region memberships**, the same poem will not be accepted in AFMS competition from more than one source to avoid duplications of AFMS trophies. In case one such poem is received from different sources, the judge may accept the first published date as the entry and disqualify the others. If the published dates are the same, they should be disqualified.
3. The poem submitted is supposed to be an original poem by the author, **written for and printed in the club bulletin during 2008, and appearing in print for the first time.** The editor is the first judge of this status. BEACs and judges should be alert to possible violations.
4. There should be **no copyright violations.**
5. The BEAC or the judge will need to circle choices on the score sheet for:
  - A. Appeal/Interest
    1. General Audience
    2. Specialized Audience
  - B. Meter Rhythm
    1. Open Verse (unrhymed)
    2. Rhyming
  - C. Clarity and Appropriateness
    1. Serious Topic or Purpose
    2. "Just for Fun"
  - D. Suitability of Verse Style for Subject
    1. Hai-ku  
Limerick  
Short Stanza  
Acrostic Poem
    2. Long Stanza

**Additional help from knowledgeable people:**

1. Simonne Wood, **The Poetry Handbook** highly recommended for complete instructions on writing various types of poetry.
2. June Zeitner... "Poetry is very exact writing. Too few judges are able to scan rhythm. In lyric poems, the meter should be near perfect in one of the common patterns (iambic, dactylic, etc.)  
x/x/x/x/A  
x/x/x/B  
x/x/x/x/A  
x/x/x/B
3. Ellen Schultz: "The word METER is used to define rhythm or flow of the lines. You can actually make a 'beat' out of the flow of the words. The exception would be the free verse. The judge must decide if the flow is smooth or uneven.
4. Ceil Duluk, who has been a poetry judge for several years, states: "One of the things that makes poetry special: **imagery and the use of language.** While reading entries all through the first time, about fifteen immediately struck me as very good poetry – not because of form (rhythm, etc.) but because of the **images and ideas in them**, and because they were **NOT** filled with the same **OLD CLICHES.** Also, **ORIGINALITY OF THEME**, and/or **PRESENTATION**... This is another place where poetry differs from prose, as the use of language in a special manner makes it poetry."