

Blue Nib Writers' Competition – All members come together.

All entries must be received by email by midnight June 30, 2020. Submissions should be sent to the John Nicolay (nicolay0211@gmail.com), with "Blue Nib Contest Entry" in the subject line. Submissions will be acknowledged by e-mail.

1. Entries will be accepted on any subject the author or poet chooses in the categories of fiction, nonfiction and poetry.
 2. Manuscripts must be the original, unpublished work of the entrant, and must not have won a prize at any level in any other competition. However, since the VWC State competition now allows entries published in personal blogs, the BRW will accept those types of entries. Writing published in blogs other than your own or on social network sites or in an online publication is ineligible and should not be submitted.
 3. All entrants must be current dues-paying members of BRW. If you are not a member, download and complete our membership application and email it to nicolay0211@gmail.com before submitting your entry.
 4. Entrants may submit in all categories (fiction, nonfiction and poetry) but only win in one.
 5. Fiction and nonfiction entries are limited to 3,500 words. Poetry entries are limited to 50 lines. Flash fiction, haiku and writing that does not pass the word/line limits can be clustered under a single title with multiple entries beneath that title. For instance, a "diary" approach could have multiple "stand alone" pieces.
 6. Format:
 - a. A separate cover sheet in a separate Word Document file to include author's name, address, telephone number, email address, title of work, number of words (fiction and nonfiction) or lines (poetry) and category (fiction, nonfiction, poetry).
 - b. All other pages must show contest category, title and page number in the header. If the author's name appears on any page of the manuscript other than the cover sheet, the entry will be returned for correction.
 - c. All entries must be submitted as a Word doc. Documents must be formatted in Times New Roman, 12-point to 12-point font size, page setup for 8 x 11-inch paper. Prose entries must be double-spaced, with one-inch margins top, bottom and left, and a ragged right margin. Poetry entries may be single-spaced without margin restrictions.
- BRW will announce winners in each category by August. Only first place winners on the regional BRW level are submitted to the VWC statewide competition in September. VWC winning entries in each category will be published in PDF format on the VWC Web site. All other rights remain the property of the author.
7. Submissions to Blue Nib will be published in the BRW journal. They will be reviewed for grammar and syntax. Minors corrections to prose narrative will be undertaken by reviewers. Writers need be mindful that content should conform to BRW standards of appropriateness. Seems vague, and it is. Avoid sexually explicit actions, profanity laced, ethnic or racially offensive language. Writers can finesse these textual behaviors.

8. Entries will be judged by a panel of BRW members, three in each category, blinded. Authors will not judge their own work.

9. We ask for your assistance. We are all volunteers. If we share the work, the project will be honest, and helpful. This is a contest. Feedback on writing is best handled by participation in the critique. Critiques are managed in several formats, including email, telephonic, and video (Zoom). Because of this, participation is much easier.