

POET LAUREATE OF THE PEE DEE

Francis Marion and Coker Universities have partnered to create the position of Poet Laureate of the Pee Dee, whose responsibilities will include visiting schools, libraries or other venues to cultivate an interest in poetry among students and residents; creating ways to engage the general public in an appreciation of poetry; composing and pursuing opportunities for reading/performing his/her original poetry at local ceremonies and occasions and other events; continuing to produce and pursue publication of his/her poetry; representing the art form and the region responsibly; championing the work of other, particularly regional poets; submitting each December a narrative summation of his/her impressions as PL during the previous year, itemizing activities and expenses incurred, and presenting it to the chair of the PL Committee along with appropriate recommendations for improving the position.

The first PL's term will begin February 1, 2020, with a commemorative ceremony, and conclude January 31, 2024. The appointment is renewable for a second term. The PL will serve at the pleasure of the PL Committee and may be replaced if the Committee finds the PL derelict in his/her duties or if he/she, acting in his/her official capacity of Poet Laureate, promotes ideas disrespectful of citizens of the Pee Dee or irresponsibly partisan. This provision will not apply to any publications/readings by the PL acting outside of his/her official capacities.

The PL will receive an annual stipend of \$250 and have available an annual budget of \$750, to be used for reimbursing mileage, materials, etc. Reimbursement requests will be made through the PL Committee. The PL will also enjoy faculty privileges at both Francis Marion University and at Coker University, to include parking passes, library and Cottage access, and an email address, if requested.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested parties will complete the attached form below and submit it, prior to **November 1, 2019**, to address indicated and include:

- A C.V. evincing a large body of work, published or unpublished;
- Evidence of a history of advocacy for poetry or the written word;
- Evidence of public speaking proficiency;
- Selections from their works, not to exceed ten typed pages;
- One letter of personal or professional reference;
- A brief statement of interest, indicating why the applicant seeks and is qualified for the position, as well as assuring his/her availability for the four-year term;
- proof of residency in one of the following counties: Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Marion, Darlington, Florence, Lee, and Williamsburg.

APPLICATION

*Completion and submission of this application indicates that the applicant agrees to the terms stipulated on the opposite side. Send applications and supporting materials prior to **November 1, 2019**, to:*

LIBBY WIERSEMA
CHAIR, POET LAUREATE COMMITTEE
752 S DUNES DRIVE
FLORENCE, SC 29501

OR TO:
LIBBYWIERSEMA@GMAIL.COM

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS including town and zip code:

Email _____

Phone _____

Website (if applicable) _____