



## GREAT LAKES COLLEGES ASSOCIATION NEW WRITERS AWARDS GUIDELINES

### THE NEW WRITERS AWARDS

For the 55th year, the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) announces its GLCA New Writers Award. Entries will now be accepted. An award is given each year to the best 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's 13 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 2023 or 2024. The award may be withheld in any category at the discretion of the judges.

**The deadline for submissions to this year's award is May 25, 2024.**

Entries that are postmarked after May 25<sup>th</sup> will not be accepted or returned.

### PROCESS TO SUBMIT MATERIALS

A publisher who submits a volume to the award must include the following information. ***Please note that we have included an on-line nomination form on the [GLCA website](#)***

#### To Nominate a Book:

- (1) Publisher fills out and submits Nomination Form
- (2) Authors fill out and submit Author Statement of Agreement, agreeing to the terms of the award. Forms can be submitted separately.
- (3) Mail four copies of the books to the address below (electronic copies of books are NOT accepted)

#### Send books to:

**GLCA New Writers Award  
535 W. William St., Suite 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 by January 2025. Public announcement of the awards will then be made.

### **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY**

Each publisher is limited to **one entry in each category**: poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. 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**. The works entered must be written primarily in English and published in the United States or Canada and all writers must live in the U.S. or Canada and be at least 18 years of age. 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 process expressing the author's agreement to this condition. The link to the statement can be found on the website. 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 will not 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. Children's books are not accepted.

### **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 2025 and concluding in spring 2026. At times, an author may need to drive between campuses.

## **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.

## **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. The 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 works.

## ***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)	

For questions, please email (preferred) or call Colleen Monahan Smith ([smith@glca.org](mailto:smith@glca.org)), 734-661-2350.