

2025 High Desert California Writers Club Anthology Guidelines

1. You must be a current HDCWC member to submit work for possible publication in the 2025 anthology. You must also be a current HDCWC member at time of publication for your work to be included in the anthology.
2. Branch members may submit up to **THREE** pieces of work (short stories, memoirs, non-fiction, excerpts from longer works, or poetry) for consideration.
3. Work may be submitted beginning on February 15, 2025.
4. **Deadline for all submissions, bios, fees, and authorizations to publish is June 15, 2025.**
5. There is a **\$15** fee for each submission; payment is due at time of submission(s).
6. Branch members are not guaranteed inclusion in the anthology. **If a submission is not accepted for publication, the fee for that work will not be returned.**
7. The anthology committee may reject any submission for any reason.
8. There is no theme for the 2025 anthology; however, political or religious pieces meant to educate or persuade a reader to the author's viewpoint will not be included in the anthology. The 2025 anthology will be geared toward the general reading audience; therefore, work containing excessive violence or overt sexual situations/language will not be included.
9. Work shall be as error free as possible and formatted as follows:
 - Maximum of 5,000 words per submission. (Title and author's name/title are not included in the word count.)
 - Use 12-point Times New Roman font.
 - No page numbers, please!
 - Submissions must be in Microsoft Word format as an email attachment. **Do Not Use Google Docs.** (Poetry submissions must be in **both** Word and PDF formats. Electronic submissions via email only; hard copy submissions will not be accepted.
 - See further specific genre-related guidelines below.

PROSE WRITERS:

- Center title, double space, center the word "by," double space, then center author's name *exactly* as it should appear in the book. Include any titles with your name. For example, John Smith, MD.
- Indicate the word count of the piece after your name.
- Double space the body of work.

- Do not indent the first paragraph of the work (prose) or the first paragraph after any scene break. (Scene breaks should be indicated by three stars *** with a blank line before and after.)
- No spacing between paragraphs. Do not use block format with forced spacing between paragraphs.
- Use of template provided with guidelines is optional for prose submissions. Or manually set margins at 0.5" all around, 0.3" gutter (mirror margins), 0.5" header and footer areas, 0.35" paragraph indentation except as noted above.
- **Work will be returned to author if guidelines are not followed.**

POETS:

- Poets must use the template provided with these guidelines or manually create a template using the exact specifications as follows: 6" X 9" page size, 0.5" margins all around, 0.3" gutter [mirror margins].
- Center your title, double space, center the word "by," double space, then center your name *exactly* as you want it printed. Include any titles you want with your name. For example, John Smith, MD.
- Indicate the word count of the piece after your name.
- Poets may use whatever line spacing they prefer. However, if using other than single spacing, please make sure stanza breaks are very obvious. Please insert a PAGE BREAK if manually setting where the page breaks.
- You may use whatever formatting on the page that you prefer; i.e., left justified, centered, stepped lines, etc. Editor will make every effort to present work in the anthology exactly as it is submitted.
- Poets must submit their work in **both** Word and PDF formats.

ALL WRITERS:

- **Work will be not be accepted if it is too long, formatted incorrectly, or contains too many errors.** If time permits, author will have a chance to correct or rewrite any returned submission and may resubmit the work for no additional fee. (So submit your work as early as possible.)
 - Author is responsible for keeping a copy of the submission. HDCWC will not be responsible for keeping any copies of work submitted.
9. Works previously published in any HDCWC anthology or other CWC (statewide) publication will not be accepted. Additionally, simultaneous submissions are not acceptable (i.e., work must not be something that is currently being considered by another publisher.)
 10. Author must sign a release form that acknowledges:

- By submitting an entry, author represents and warrants that entry: (a) is author's original creation; (b) does not violate or infringe any copyright, trademark, privacy or publicity rights, or other proprietary or intellectual property rights of any person or entity; (c) is not defamatory, libelous, obscene, overtly proselytizing, or illegal for any reason; and, (d) is author's sole and exclusive property. Author further represents and warrants to have complete, worldwide distribution rights.
 - Author understands that he/she retains the rights to his/her work, but any royalties and/or profits from the sale of the 2025 anthology will go to HDCWC.
11. Submissions are to be sent as an attachment to an email addressed to Michael Raff at mpseven@aol.com. Include "ANTHOLOGY SUBMISSION" in the subject line of the email.
 12. Include a short biography of yourself (150 +/- words) **in a separate document** with the submission(s). This biography may be edited by the anthology editor. Author may also submit one headshot for inclusion with biography. Photo file must be **no smaller than 2" X 2"** with a **minimum of 300 dpi** in JPG or GIF format.
 13. Author's Release Form(s), with an original signature, must accompany payment for submission(s). A signed Release Form is required for each submission.
 14. **Make check payable to HDCWC.** In the memo line on the check, write: 2025 Anthology Submission. Mail payment and release form/s to:

17645 Fisher St.
Victorville, CA 92395
 15. Using a panel of independent judges, submissions will be judged in one of two categories—poetry or prose. The top four submissions in **each** category will be awarded cash prizes as follows:

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|------------------------|-------|
| 1 st PLACE: | \$200 |
| 2 nd PLACE: | \$150 |
| 3 rd PLACE: | \$100 |
| 4 th PLACE: | \$ 50 |

Cash prizes and award certificates will be awarded at the November 2025 branch meeting with the launch of the anthology.
 16. If you have questions, contact Jenny Margotta at jennymargotta@mail.com or Michael Raff at mpseven@aol.com.