

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 404

Relating to the Establishment of the Office of State Poet Laureate and the
Governor's Poet Laureate Nomination Commission

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin is a recognized leader in culture and arts;
and

WHEREAS, it is important that Wisconsin maintain its strong tradition of
excellence in the arts; and

WHEREAS, poetry serves as a tool for the enrichment of all people and serves
as a herald for the deep emotions and pride felt by the citizens of this great state; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to have an individual who promotes and develops
an interest in poetry;


NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMMY G. THOMPSON, Governor of the State of
Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this state,
and specifically by section 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes do hereby:

1. Create the Governor's Poet Laureate Nomination Commission
(hereinafter, "Commission"); and
2. Provide that the Commission shall be composed of seven (7) members
appointed by the Governor to serve a term of four (4) years; and
3. Provide that the Governor shall designate one (1) member on the
Commission as its chair to serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the
Governor; and
4. Provide that the following organizations shall each recommend to the
Governor one (1) individual for membership on the Commission:
 - a. The Council for Wisconsin Writers; and
 - b. The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets; and
 - c. The Wisconsin Regional Writer's Association, Inc.; and
 - d. The Wisconsin Humanities Council; and
 - e. The Wisconsin Arts Board; and
5. Provide that the Poet Laureate shall be appointed by the Governor to serve
a four (4) year term; and
6. Provide that the Poet Laureate shall have the following purpose and
mission:

- a. Contribute to the growth of poetry in the State by organizing and leading one project of the Poet Laureate's choosing, subject to review by the Commission; and
 - b. Plan and attend at least four (4) statewide literary events per year; and
 - c. Perform in at least four (4) government, state and civil events as requested by the Governor's Office, school systems, and/or literary organizations; and
7. Provide that the Commission shall have the following purpose and mission:
- a. Recommend three (3) candidates for Poet Laureate to the Governor; and
 - b. Assign responsibilities to the Poet Laureate; and
 - c. Assist the Poet Laureate in performing official duties; and
8. Provide that the Commission shall nominate a Poet Laureate based on the following:
- a. That the Poet Laureate be 18 years of age or older; and
 - b. That the Poet Laureate have demonstrated excellence in promoting awareness and enjoyment of poetry in Wisconsin; and
 - c. That the Poet Laureate have an admirable and proven history of having published individual poems and/or books; and
 - d. That the Poet Laureate be a resident of Wisconsin for at least one year prior to the nomination deadline; and
9. Direct the Secretary of the Department of Administration to provide the Commission and Poet Laureate with administrative and support services and with such sums of money that are necessary for travel and operating expenses in accordance with section 20.505(3)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes; and
10. Direct the Commission to make an annual report to the Governor on the activities of the Poet Laureate.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this Thirty-first day of July in the year two thousand.


TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State