



Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

For Immediate Release:

April 1, 2005

For More Information Contact:

Pat McGuckin

Randy Nehrt

White Announces First Annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition

SPRINGFIELD—Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois Center for the Book are pleased to announce the first annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition to promote writing and creativity and create a unique opportunity and outlet for recognizing new talent.

White said this year's category is poetry, with three cash prizes available. Winning poems will be submitted for possible publication in *Ninth Letter Magazine*, *Another Chicago Magazine* and *Rhino Magazine*. The competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over and runs through June 30th. Entry forms, rules and other information can be found at the Illinois State Library's website at http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/library/whats_new/home.html.

"From Hemingway and Brooks to Sinclair and Sandburg, Illinois has a long and rich history of producing outstanding writers," White said. "Their works inspire us and enrich our lives, and we need to encourage new authors to develop and share their talents. I hope this annual event will uncover exciting new authors who shine a spotlight on the remarkable talent we have in this state, and produce works that add to Illinois' magnificent literary heritage."

All entries must be original and unpublished. There is a \$20 per submission charge from which prizes will be awarded.

The Illinois Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, is a non-profit organization promoting books, book arts, libraries and reading in Illinois. White serves as Honorary Chairman of the organization. Established in 1985, the organization's mission is to celebrate the printed word and to create in Illinois an environment that promotes reading, the book arts and an appreciation of the state's rich literary heritage.

###