

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH *,* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

INVITES YOU TO ENTER THE SENIORS **55+** LITERARY EVENT

**LIKE TO WRITE??? EXERCISE Y0UR IMAGINATION !!!**

**WRITE A POEM, ESSAY, SHORT STORY, MEMOIR**

**ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ONLY – NO HARD COPIES ACCEPTED**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES *– insert convenient date for your branch***

1. Open to all seniors aged 55+ & resident of Ontario under jurisdiction of ON Command
2. Must complete and attach official registration form
3. Must be original, written by the contestant and be unpublished
4. Must be submitted in English or French
5. Must not exceed the line or word limits specified
6. Must be **ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION** **(due to Covid-19)** with normal spacing
7. Contestants may submit only one entry in any/each category
8. **Each submission** must include a cover page stating the title, author's name and entry word count

9. Biographies that are submitted must include written consent of the subject, if living.

10. Submissions must be received **by p.m**on**convenient date for branch**

**Entry forms are available upon request from:**

**Branch** [**seniorsliterary@gmail.com**](mailto:seniorsliterary@gmail.com)

**(Insert proper Branch number after opening a Gmail account with above address)**

**Subject clearly marked “Branch Literary Event for Seniors” NO EXCEPTIONS.**

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO winners in each category at a date to be determined later

POETRY — maximum 32 lines

SHORT STORY - word count maximum 4,000

ESSAY — word count maximum 1,000

MEMOIR — includes biographies, autobiographies, and travel writing - word count max. 5000

2022 11 11 Guidelines Revised



**SENIORS LITERARY EVENT GUIDELINES**

**DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES WILL BE FINAL**

**SUGGESTIONS FOR CHAIR:**

1. **We strongly suggest that a dedicated Gmail account be opened (see previous page)**

**for confidentiality and privacy reasons.**

**2. Follow the procedure for the Youth Education Literary Program.**

**2. Have the Program under the jurisdiction of the Seniors Chairman.**

**3. Have judging done by members of another Branch or Zone or non-members.**

**4. Have system of identification for judges that does not divulge names.**

**5. Scoring – refer to Judging Sheets provided.**

**6. It is preferred that Awards be presented during June which is Seniors Month in Ontario however, they could be presented at annual H & A. DO NOT hold during Youth Ed Poster/Literary period in the fall.**

**7. The program should be relatively cost-neutral if a Branch has a Lottery Licence listing activities for Seniors. Even if such is not the case, the event need not be a costly affair. A Luncheon or an Afternoon Tea and bouquets of flowers, plants, or better still, support those who support your branch, by awarding Gift Cards to the winners.**

**8. If you have Long-Term Care and/or Veterans Facilities in your area ensure their Recreation Specialists are aware of the Program. Their residents have much to offer.**

**9. For more information please contact Comrade\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with any questions.**

**Note: The Scoring sheets were proofed by a member of the Cedric Literary Awards and suggestions were followed.**

**Item #8 is on hold until after the Pandemic as it cannot be conducted safely with hard copies.**

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**JUDGING SCORE SHEETS**

**POETRY CATEGORY SCORE SHEET (Maximum 32 lines)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Maximum Possible** |  | **Score** |
|  | **Is it too long? If so entry ineligible** | **n/a** |
| Theme  40% | Does it show original thinking?  Is the theme presented in an engaging manner?  Is the theme sustained throughout the poem? |  |
| Effect  15% | Does the author succeed in maintaining any special effects? (i.e. staccato rhythm, explosive phrases or imagery) |  |
| Clarity  15% | Is the message clear? |  |
| Pace  15% | Is the pace consistent?  Is it dull? |  |
| Rhythm  15% | Appropriate?  Is it natural?  Does it engage the reader? |  |
|  | **ENTRY TOTAL SCORE** |  |

**Note: Judges are not to change/alter any text on entry**

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**JUDGING SCORE SHEETS**

**SHORT STORY CATEGORY SCORE SHEET (Maximum 4,000 words)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Maximum Possible** |  | **Score** |
|  | **Is it too long? If so entry ineligible** | **n/a** |
| **Original**  **Thought**  **40%** | Is it a strong narrative? |  |
| **Effectiveness**  **Of Presentation**  **30%** | Is the material presented dramatically?  Does it sustain interest? |  |
| **Clarity of**  **Language**  **15%** | Is the language simple, direct?  Is it expressed logically? |  |
| **Composition**  **15%** | Are the basic rules of syntax observed? (ways in which [words](https://www.thoughtco.com/word-english-language-1692612) combine to form [phrases](https://www.thoughtco.com/phrase-grammar-1691625), [clauses](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-clause-grammar-1689850), and [sentences](https://www.thoughtco.com/sentence-grammar-1692087))  Are the basic rules of punctuation observed?  Is the spelling correct? |  |
|  | **ENTRY TOTAL SCORE** |  |

**Note: Judges are not to change/alter any text on entry**

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**JUDGING SCORE SHEETS**

**ESSAY CATEGORY SCORE SHEET (Maximum 1,000 words)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Maximum Possible** |  | **Score** |
|  | **Is it too long? If so entry ineligible** | **n/a** |
| **Original**  **Thought**  **40%** | Is the material fresh?  Does it have a sincere ring?  Does it reflect writer’s views**?** |  |
| **Effectiveness**  **Of Presentation**  **30%** | Is the material presented dramatically?  Does it sustain interest?  Does it make a point? |  |
| **Clarity of**  **Language**  **15%** | Is the language simple, direct?  Is it expressed logically? |  |
| **Composition**  **15%** | Are the basic rules of syntax observed? (ways in which [words](https://www.thoughtco.com/word-english-language-1692612) combine to form [phrases](https://www.thoughtco.com/phrase-grammar-1691625), [clauses](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-clause-grammar-1689850), and [sentences](https://www.thoughtco.com/sentence-grammar-1692087))  Are the basic rules of punctuation observed?  Is the spelling correct? |  |
|  | **ENTRY TOTAL SCORE** |  |

**Note: Judges are not to change/alter any text on entry**

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**JUDGING SCORE SHEETS**

**MEMOIR CATEGORY SCORE SHEET (Maximum 5,000 words)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Maximum Possible** |  | **Score** |
|  | **Is it too long? If so entry ineligible** | **n/a** |
|  | If the subject of the biography is living and has not provided consent entry is ineligible | **n/a** |
| **Original**  **Thought**  **40%** | Is subject’s life well defined from birth to death?  Well detailed with facts?  A good mix of personal and professional information? |  |
| **Effectiveness**  **Of Presentation**  **30%** | Do you get a good sense of the subject?  Do you get a good sense of the subject’s journey through life?  Pictures included?  Does it sustain interest? |  |
| **Clarity of**  **Language**  **15%** | Is the language simple, direct?  Is it expressed logically? |  |
| **Composition**  **15%** | Are the basic rules of syntax observed? (ways in which [words](https://www.thoughtco.com/word-english-language-1692612) combine to form [phrases](https://www.thoughtco.com/phrase-grammar-1691625), [clauses](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-clause-grammar-1689850), and [sentences](https://www.thoughtco.com/sentence-grammar-1692087))  Are the basic rules of punctuation observed?  Is the spelling correct? |  |
|  | **ENTRY TOTAL SCORE** |  |

**Note: Judges are not to change/alter any text on entry**

2022 11 11 Guidelines Revised



# SENIORS’ LITERARY EVENT

# ENTRY FORM

# LITERARY CATEGORY: Please check Check Mark

( )Poetry (maximum 32 lines)

( ) Short Story (word count maximum 4,000)

( ) Essay (word count maximum 1,000)

( ) Memoir (includes biographies, autobiographies and travel writing (word count maximum 5000)

**PERSONAL INFORMATION: Please print in block letters**

**First and Last Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Mailing Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**City Province Postal Code**

**Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Electronic submissions ONLY accepted**

**AUTHOR CONSENT AND DECLARATION:**

I give The Royal Canadian Legion permission to reproduce my entry for the sole purpose of promoting this program and the Legion for the current contest year. The Royal Canadian Legion does not rent or sell names of applicants to any organization or advertiser, and any personal information collected is strictly for the purposes of the event.

**I declare that I have read and understand the Event Rules, I am 55 years of age or better, am a resident of Ontario (under the jurisdiction of Ontario Command) and my work has been written by me and is previously unpublished.**

**Author’s SignatureX*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***SEE REVERSE FOR RULES AND FURTHER INFORMATION***

2022 11 11 Guidelines Revised



**EVENT RULES AND INFORMATION**

**RULES FOR THE EVENT:**

**1.** This event is open to all seniors under the jurisdiction of Ontario Command who are **aged 55 and over**.

**2.** Contestants must complete an official Registration Form and attach it to each of their contest entries. *Only one submission per category.*

**3.** Entries must be original, written by the contestant, and be unpublished.

**4.** Entries must be submitted in either English or French.

**5**.Entries must not exceed the line or word limits specified.

**6.** Entries must be *ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ONLY*

**7.** Contestants may enter work in more than one category but may only submit one entry in each category.

**8.** Entries must include a cover page which includes the title, the author’s name, and the word count of the entry. *Do not include any identifying names in/on the entry.*

**9**.Biographies that are submitted must include written consent of the subject, if living.

**Note: By submitting your entry, you are agreeing to all contest rules.**

**JUDGING:**

* All entries will be judged on the basis of originality of thought, expression, presentation, grammar and spelling.
* Judging will be done by volunteers and take place at the community level.
* The decision made by the judges will be final.

**PRIZES:**

* At the discretion of the judges, prizes will be awarded to 1st place winners and runners-up in each category.

**Questions - Please contact:****RCL Branch , Community**

**Seniors Chair \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email** [***branch seniorsliterary@***](mailto:branch%20%20%20%20%20seniorsliterary@)***gmail.com***

**Branch phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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 **SENIORS LITERARY EVENT**

Seniors have amassed considerable knowledge in their journeys through life and have a lot of experience under their belts. Having survived Covid, all have stories to tell.

There is an enormous amount of untapped talent out there. This is an opportunity for seniors to showcase their skills, share their experiences, imaginations and knowledge.

The Event would be open to seniors aged 55 years and over. There are four (4) Categories Poetry, Short Story, Essay, and Memoir (includes biographies, autobiographies and travel writing), a little something to please everyone.

Some seniors might wish to enter the contest though have difficulty with the physical act of writing, in which case perhaps a Branch could provide a volunteer to take their dictation. Not all seniors have access to computers; a Branch could approach the local high school for student volunteers requiring community hours to assist with transcribing.

To access Lottery Funds, the Event must be open to all seniors, not simply Legion members who are seniors. It is hoped that seniors in Long-Term-Care Facilities and particularly those facilities in which Veterans reside, will participate in the Program. **\***

Prizes are not eligible for Lottery Funds; however, paper, pens, technology, etc. are eligible if required for residents of LTC to participate. The judging would be the last week of May. An award ceremony held in June ‘Seniors Month’ in Ontario, with a light Luncheon or Tea for Seniors, reasonable cost could be covered by Lottery Funds. Prizes could be flowers for ladies and gift cards for men, along with bragging rights, rather than a monetary prize or one that requires dusting. Even better would be to support those who support us by presenting Home Hardware Gift Cards as prizes.

It is hoped this effort will bring seniors into Branches and new members into the organization. There are a great many seniors more interested in the arts than in sports.

If your Branch is interested in hosting a Seniors Literary Event, Registration Forms and Judges’ Score Sheets are available from the email address below.

This is an opportunity for seniors to flex creative muscles, unleash imaginations, tickle funny bones, share talents, meet other seniors, and. perhaps, join our organization if not already Legion members.

**\* Due to Covid-19 it is not advisable to have those in LTC or Veterans’ facilities participate at this time.**

In comradeship,

District \_\_\_\_ Seniors’ Chair\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_email

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**SENIORS LITERARY EVENT**

**All Seniors 55 and over are Welcome**

**Legion Membership is not a requirement!**

**Has Covid Got You Feeling Caged?**

**Short Stories**



**Memoirs**

**BE**

**CREATIVE!**

**Poems**

**Let Your Imagination Run Free**

**ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ONLY, NO HARD COPIES**

**Contact your local Legion Branch at**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**for further information**

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VOLUNTEERS:

Recruit Volunteers for scribing and typing. Approach local high school for students looking for community hours, but wait to see if they are required. **This suggestion pertains only to POST-Pandemic and LTC and Veterans’ facilities.**

Recruit volunteers for judging – ask another Branch who is participating, to judge your entries while you judge theirs; approach teachers; librarians or others in the community. Set up a system whereby there is a “code” system when judging entries – similar to that of the Youth Education Literary Competition.

**ADVERTISING:**

Require a “zippy” poster. Distribute around town, branch website, branch facebook. Directly contact Community Care, Seniors Club, Curling Club, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Supermarkets, Community Bulletin Boards, etc. – anywhere notices are allowed. Make sure seniors are aware **Legion membership** **IS NOT required**.

Compose a Press Release for local news media and keep them up-dated on progress.

Perhaps the winning entries could be on display at the Library.

Advise Bar Stewards regarding distribution of application forms and receipt of entries (with date and time noted).



***Flex your creative muscles, use your imagination, tickle our funny bone and share your talent.***