

# Announcing the JE ME SOUVIENS WRITERS CONTEST

by Dennis M. Boudreau

## It's been done before

Before posting the rules and other items concerning this contest from our editorial staff, here is the background on this proposed annual event. As a former editor of *Le Réveil Acadien* (Acadian Cultural Society, Fitchburg, Mass.) for the past ten years, I noticed in one of our exchange periodicals, the Société de Généalogie de Québec's publication *L'Ancêtre*, a wealth of articles in their publication's every issue. I approached their president, Mariette Parent, and asked her how they received so many well-researched and written pieces, she told me that they conduct a contest every year, offering cash prizes for the best researched, best documented, and well-written articles submitted.

I tried it and the results were fantastic! Our dwindling "stash" of articles was replenished with new and original writings that we offered to our membership. The response by the readers was very positive. At the same time, we expanded our offerings from the merely historical and genealogical in nature, to poetry and historical fiction. I propose a similar contest for the members of AFGS and the general readership of *Je Me Souviens*. We will offer an incentive to write articles, and gain something in the process.

First, there will be cash prizes for the three best articles, which will be awarded during our annual Volunteer Recognition Event. The AFGS board of directors will determine the amounts to be awarded. Suggested are

prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 and/or certificates of Honorable Mention.

Second, we will recruit an independent panel of judges from our membership, who we will read and evaluate each article in *Je Me Souviens*. Winners will be announced in the spring.

Third, prizes will be mailed to winning recipients.

Fourth, the winning articles also will be posted on of our Society's website.

We have devised the following contest rules for creating and submitting articles for consideration.

### **Contest Rules**

1.) All manuscripts submitted **MUST CONTAIN**: Well-researched (i.e. documented) and well-written original material (i.e., previously unpublished by you!) on French-Canadian or Acadian history, genealogy, culture or folklore, but not necessarily limited to these areas. However, there **MUST** be a French-Canadian connection to what you write and/or submit.

Previously published articles cannot be considered for this contest. It would not be fair to the entire membership, and the process of getting reprinting permissions would be an unnecessary burden on the editorial staff.

If an author simultaneously enters another contest which results in the prior publication of their work elsewhere, their submission may be disqualified from the AFGS contest. This gives everyone an equal opportunity to win. The AFGS editorial staff will be monitoring the contents of other publications to see that this does not happen.

2.) Authors/researchers may submit manuscripts as often as they wish for publication in either the spring or

autumn issues. The contest will held each spring. Publication deadlines are March 1st and October 1st of each year. Articles received after a deadline will be held over to the next issue.

3.) All manuscripts submitted MUST be no longer than 12 double-spaced pages, or 6 single-spaced pages. This does not include notes.

4.) For those submitting “substantial portions” of secondary sources in their manuscripts, or who are submitting artwork or photography which is NOT their own with the article, the author/researcher MUST secure all permissions in writing to reproduce these items in *Je Me Souviens*. This includes: letters of permission from either the publishers or living authors, photographers or artists whose works are still on the market; or for deceased authors, a letter from their publishers granting permission to reproduce any large excerpts from their work. This is absolutely necessary to spare us from lawsuits or copyright infringement, as well as to protect the intellectual property of those from whom you “borrow.” DO NOT ASSUME that AFGS will do this legwork for you! You must do it yourself, and if need be, have the proof available should you be required to produce such by us. Since we are asking for original articles, we assume that authors will go beyond the content of what they quote, by adding fresh research or insights to their material. If we feel that there is too much original material of another author in what you submit, we will return your article for a rewrite.

5.) Your article can be submitted electronically to the Society's web or postal address, or by mail. It will be reviewed by the editors. All articles will be read and judged by an independent panel of judges, selected or appointed specifically for the purpose of awarding the top three prizes. The AFGS board of directors will appoint this special committee. AFGS board members may submit articles for publication. However, they will not be

eligible to enter this contest. This contest was created to generate membership interest in our united endeavor to publish a journal of quality and merit.

6.) *Je Me Souviens* is copyrighted and all articles published are protected under federal law, especially if the authors of such have not applied for some form of personal copyright protection for their creation. Authors retain FULL RIGHTS to reprint their submissions in other publications after the annual contest has closed. We ask authors to kindly mention our publication when reprinting an article submitted to another journal. We assume no responsibility for the accuracy of content provided by the researchers/authors of any article submitted to us, so please use the foremost research sources available when drafting manuscript(s). While we go to great lengths to assure the accuracy of items for publication, we cannot perform the in-depth research that should be done by the authors themselves in advance of submitting material for our consideration. Should there be any editorial changes or suggestions, the editors will contact you for approval prior to publication. These suggested items would contain anything that might enhance your work; they are not meant to be critiques.

The contest will include articles printed our spring issue, and, of course, will include those submitted for inclusion in the autumn issue of *Je Me Souviens*. Good luck to all the entrants!

