



NFPW IN CINCINNATI

2023 NFPW CONFERENCE
JUNE 22-24, 2023
CINCINNATI, OHIO

* GRADUATE HOTEL *

- SPONSORS -





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WELCOME TO CINCINNATI!

I'm delighted you're here, and I can't wait for you to see the wonderful lineup of sessions we have. This year's conference is a little different from ones we typically hold in that it was planned and put together by the NFPW board, the NFPW conference committee and our executive team.

We had fun picking the hotel, which I think you'll agree is one of the more unconventional places we've stayed. We also were able to tap into the incredible talent among our members as we put together the conference sessions. Here's a summary.

Kicking things off Friday morning will be keynote speaker Jill Miller of Kansas, headmistress of the Finishing School for Modern Women, who will talk about how to embrace change, take charge of your career, develop your personal brand and put your business in the spotlight.

Then, at Friday's lunch, keynote speakers Sherri Burr of New Mexico and Linda Hass of Michigan will discuss the Underground Railroad. Sherri will talk about her ancestor, John Pierre Burr, who participated in the Underground Railroad, as well as others who took part, including the family of Wild Bill Hickock. Linda will discuss Jackson County, Michigan's connections to the Underground Railroad through the stories of local abolitionists and freedom seekers who either passed through Jackson or remained there.

Other speakers Friday will include Cris Blackstone of New Hampshire, who will talk about how to use photos to share more information and reinforce or augment your stories, and Liz Carter, a former reporter and now president and CEO of the Scripps Howard Fund, who will discuss the fund's journalism education and childhood literacy efforts.

Later Friday, Sande Snead of Virginia will discuss the challenges of managing multiple marketing and advertising campaigns for a county health department during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Nicole Bumbaugh (Delaware), Theresa Medoff (Delaware) and Stacy Tillilie (Delaware) will explain how print and digital teams can work together.

Saturday morning will feature the President's Roundtable Discussion on ChatGPT. The speakers will be Dr. Gretchen Hoak and Dr. David Silva, both of Kent State University, and NFPW secretary Meredith Cummings of Pennsylvania. They will discuss what ChatGPT/AI is and how it works, its impact on the media and how the technology is being used now.

Saturday's speakers also will include Gwen Larson of Kansas and Kristin Netterstrom Higgins of Arkansas, who will talk about how to be an advocate for a cause or project, authors Katrina Kittle and Abby Vandiver, who will discuss their writing experiences and the different publishing routes they chose, and Ruth Thaler-Carter of Missouri, who will explain why there is much more to editing than working for newspapers or publishers.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NFPW IN CINCINNATI

And don't forget the Silent Auction. Remember our mantra—Bid High, Bid Often. It's for a good cause, as I hope you all know. The money goes to the Education Fund, which

provides grants for first-time conference attendees and for members pursuing professional development opportunities. This year, 16 conference attendees were awarded first-timer grants. In addition, the Ed Fund sponsors the High School Communications Contest. The Ed Fund does a lot of good work, so please be as generous as you can when you bid.

Before the conference sessions start, however, I hope you'll join us at the General Membership Meeting Thursday afternoon to remember the NFPW members we've lost in the past year, recognize those members celebrating milestones and cast your ballot for the officers who will lead NFPW for the next two years. Then, everyone is invited to the Thursday night reception at Rhinegeist Brewery, where you can try out some of the local brews, test your knowledge of NFPW and other subjects with a trivia contest, and catch up with friends old and new.

On Friday night, we'll honor this year's nine Communicator of Achievement nominees and name the 2023 Communicator of Achievement. Then, Saturday morning, we'll announce where the 2024 conference will be held. At Saturday's lunch, we'll recognize the winners of the 2023 High School Communications Contest, and Saturday night, we'll announce the awards for the 2023 Communications Contest.

As you can see, it's a jam-packed conference with—we hope—something for everyone. So, sit back and enjoy—we're at NFPW in Cincinnati.

KAREN ROWLEY

NFPW President 2021-2023



CODE OF ETHICS

As a professional communicator, I recognize my responsibility to the public which has placed its trust and confidence in my work, and will endeavor to do nothing to abuse this obligation.

With truth as my ultimate goal, I will adhere to the highest standards of professional communication, never consciously misleading reader, viewer, or listener; and will avoid any compromise of my objectivity or fairness.

Because I believe that professional communicators must be obligated only to the people's right to know, I affirm that freedom of the press is to be guarded as an inalienable right of the citizens of a free society.

I pledge to use this freedom wisely and to uphold the right of communicators to express unpopular opinions as well as the right to agree with the majority.

VISION STATEMENT

We cultivate and support diverse communication professionals who adhere to the highest ethical standards and work to ensure the public's right to know in a free and democratic society.

MISSION STATEMENT

NFPW promotes professional and ethical practices in communication by providing members tools and pathways to strengthen their skills and to advocate for the First Amendment to create an informed public.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2013

All Day	Silent Auction Set Up WGRP Room
9am-12pm	NFPW Board Meeting Neil Armstrong Room
1pm-4pm	NFPW Membership Meeting, Milestones and Memorials Ballroom
4pm-5pm	Contest Directors Meeting
4pm-5pm	POPPS Meeting
6pm-9pm	Welcome Reception Rhinegeist Tap House 1910 Elm Street, Cincinnati, OH



FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

All Day	Silent Auction WGRP Room
8am-9am	Breakfast & Welcome Ballroom
9am-11:15am	Keynote Speaker: <i>Jill Miller</i> Adventures in Accidental Entrepreneurship Ballroom
11:15am-11:30am	BREAK
11:30am-1pm	LUNCH w/Keynote Speakers: <i>Sherri Burr and Linda Hass</i> Underground Railroad
1:15pm-2:15pm	WORKSHOPS 1. A Picture Can Be Worth MORE than 1,000 Words - <i>Cris Blackstone</i> Cornhole Room 2. Creating a Better-Informed World Through Journalism and Literacy - <i>Liz Carter</i> Amphitheater
2:30pm-3:30pm	WORKSHOPS 1. How I managed \$2.6 Million in Marketing and Advertising From 3,000 Miles Away During COVID - <i>Sande Snead</i> Amphitheater 2. The Team Approach to Content and Publications - <i>Theresa Medoff, Nicole Bumbaugh and Stacy Tillilie</i> Cornhole Room
3:45pm-4:30pm	Authors Alley
3:45pm-4:30pm	NFPW Education Fund Meeting Neil Armstrong Room
3:45pm-4:30pm	Membership Meeting Cornhole Room
4:30pm-5pm	COA Rehearsal Ballroom
5:30pm-8pm	Reception and COA Award Banquet Ballroom

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023

- 8am-12pm Silent Auction
WKRP Room
- 8:30am-9:30am Breakfast and Invitation to the
2024 NFPW Conference
Ballroom
- 9:30am-10:45am NFPW President's Round Table Discussion
ChatGPT
Ballroom
- 10:45am-11:15am NFPW Strategic Plan Presentation
Ballroom
- 11:15am-11:30am **BREAK**
- 11:30am-1pm National High School Contest Awards
and Lunch
Ballroom
- 1:15pm-2:15pm **WORKSHOPS**
1. Advocacy 101
—Gwen Larson and Kristin Higgins
Cornhole Room
 2. Panel Discussion – Different Approaches
to Writing and Publishing
—Katrina Kittle and Abby Vandiver
Amphitheater
- 2:30pm-3:30pm **WORKSHOP**
- Basics of Editing and Proofreading
—Ruth Thaler-Carter
Cornhole Room
- 3:45pm-4:30pm Authors Alley
- 3:45pm-4:45pm Newly Elected Board Members Meeting
- 5:30pm-8:30pm Communications Contest Awards Banquet
and Installation of Officers
Ballroom

SPEAKERS



Jill D. Miller

KEYNOTE

Adventures in Accidental Entrepreneurship

When newsrooms started laying off reporters and corporations cut communications staff, many writers became accidental entrepreneurs. After years of honing writing skills, these former employees had to learn new abilities to manage their solo careers in a changed business landscape.

Whether considered freelance, gig work or independent contracting, success requires knowing how to market your services, get paid and manage a business.

This fun, interactive workshop offers practical advice on how to embrace change, take control of your destiny, develop a personal brand and market your services. Learn secret tips to negotiate with confidence, and build a plan to guide your journey.

Jill D. Miller is passionate about helping people grow – professionally and personally. Her consulting company, Creative Solutions, has helped fledgling and seasoned entrepreneurs launch and grow since 1998. Jill found her gift for teaching as a corporate trainer and loves influencing young minds as an adjunct professor at Wichita State University.

Active in the Wichita community, Jill leads cultural and women's organizations and is a zealous volunteer. She is past president of Wichita Professional Communicators, an NFPW affiliate, and served on NFPW's board as Director of Fun. In her spare time, she enjoys cultural events and relaxing with her miniature rescue poodle, Jack.



Sherri Burr

The Underground Railroad: A Family Researcher's Perspective

Sherri Burr will discuss the creation of the Underground Railroad, its achievements in helping self-liberating enslaved people such as Harriet Tubman, and the role of Conductors such as her ancestor John Pierre Burr.

Professor Sherri Burr's academic credentials include a B.A. degree from Mount Holyoke College, an M.P.A. from Princeton University, and a J.D. from Yale Law School. Professor Burr, who retired from the University of New Mexico Law School in 2017, is the author or co-author of 31 books. In 2015, she became a Monticello fellow at the International Center for Jefferson Studies in Virginia to work on *Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia, 1619-1865*. Carolina Academic Press published the book, her 27th, in August 2019, and it was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in History. Her current public service includes the following: President of New Mexico Press Women, Vice-President of the Aaron Burr Association, Authors Guild Foundation Board Member, and Board of Trustees Member for the Albuquerque Museum. In 2021, she was selected for the New Mexico Press Women and NFPW Communicator of Achievement.

SPEAKERS



Linda Hass

**Michigan's Crossroads to Freedom:
The Underground Railroad in Jackson County, Michigan**

Linda will discuss Jackson County, Michigan's connections to the Underground Railroad through the stories of local abolitionists and freedom seekers who either passed through Jackson or remained there.

Linda Hass is a fervent fan of local history. The Jackson native has published two books documenting Jackson's role in the Underground Railroad: *Michigan's Crossroads to Freedom* (2017) and *Hidden in Plain Sight* (2018). Her third book, *The Hidden History of Jackson County Michigan* (2020), explores overlooked but noteworthy aspects of local history in general. Hass, who has written for various newspapers and magazines, has a master's degree in journalism with a subspecialty in history (MSU). She also serves as President of the Jackson County Michigan Historical Society, and has successfully applied for several state and national historical designations. In 2022, the City of Jackson named her City Historian.



Cris Blackstone

A Picture is Worth MORE Than 1,000 Words

We'll compare the ways photos deliver messages of emotion, sentiment, or contextual details. We'll discuss ways photos submitted to editors can share information to reinforce, augment, or tantalize readers to learn more about the subject we've written about.

During this session, we'll learn tips about how a photo is meant to convey emotion, sentiments or data. Participants will leave with ideas to implement right away in their own work.

Cris Blackstone has freelance writing experience ranging from national professional journals related to public school administration, art and literature reviews for a Chicago-based art magazine, and horticulture or landscape-themed articles for several horticulture societies and landscape associations. She's had a community radio program, interviewing guests on ecology, nature and horticulture topics. Photography has always been the basis of her main hobby—travel and tourism. She was proud to have two photos in the Boston Flower Show's juried photography exhibit—a "first" according to the judges, before the show closed due to the Covid pandemic in March 2019.

SPEAKERS



Liz Carter

Creating a Better-Informed World Through Journalism and Literacy

The Scripps Howard Fund, which is the public charity of The E.W. Scripps Company, focuses on helping to create a fully informed world through its journalism education, childhood literacy and community philanthropic efforts. Key to this work are its endowment, programs and major donations. In 2022, the Scripps Howard Fund and the Scripps Howard Foundation gave more than \$8.1 million in charitable gifts.

Liz Carter is president and CEO of the Scripps Howard Fund and the Scripps Howard Foundation. She is a champion of journalistic excellence and oversees the Fund and Foundation's investment in local nonprofits across the country. Before becoming CEO in 2015, she served as the chief executive for a nonprofit. From 1995 to 1999, she worked as a reporter, and she has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Louisville.



Different Approaches to Writing and Publishing (Panel)

Katrina Kittle

Katrina Kittle is the author of four adult books—*Traveling Light*, *Two Truths and a Lie*, *The Kindness of Strangers*, and *The Blessings of the Animals*— and one tween novel, *Reasons to Be Happy*. Her new novel *Morning in This Broken World* releases September 1, 2023. She teaches creative writing at the University of Dayton and through Word's Worth Writing Connections. Katrina lives south of Dayton with her fella, her anxious cat, her sweet beagle and her out-of-control garden. She is always at work on another novel. Find out more at www.katrinakittle.com

SPEAKERS



Sande Snead

Managing \$2.6 Million in Marketing and Advertising from 3,000 Miles Away During COVID

Managing multiple marketing and advertising campaigns for the OC Health Care Agency while they were going through the worst public health crisis in modern-day world history was the greatest honor of my professional career. I'll share highlights of the campaigns I led, including strategies and tactics used to communicate about COVID-19, protecting yourself and others, and the importance of getting the flu and COVID shots. You'll also see some of the 600+ entries received from our student mask message contest, and how we used influencers to help

change human behavior.

Sande Snead is a seasoned marketing and communications consultant, having worked for state agencies, nonprofits, associations, a Fortune 500 company and an advertising agency. She has a bachelor's and a master's degree in mass communications and has won more than 75 state and national writing, marketing and public relations awards.

Sande was named the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Virginia Woman of the Year in 2012. She is the 2022-23 president of Virginia Professional Communicators.

Sande's work has appeared in books, magazines and newspapers, and she has pitched stories that have appeared on "Good Morning America," and "CBS Evening News" and in The Washington Post.



Ruth E. Thaler-Carter

The Basics of Editing and Proofreading

Being a "penwoman" involves more than writing; editing and proofreading are valued and profitable services. Becoming an editor or proofreader involves more than noticing typos in a book. This session provides an overview of what it takes to be part of the profession and how to apply skills to ways of working beyond traditional publishing. Even experienced colleagues may benefit from the session's tips to expand their business in new directions.

Award-winning freelancer Ruth E. Thaler-Carter provides editing to magazines, newspapers, newsletters, websites, authors and more. She regularly reminds colleagues that editing skills can take a career in a fascinating range of directions, because those skills are transferable to almost any topic, industry or profession.

Thaler-Carter writes for multiple blogs and publications, and is a popular speaker at conferences. In 2006, she created Communication Central and its "Be a Better Freelancer" conference.

Her awards include EFFies for editing, newsletters and writing; APEX for feature writing; IABC/DC Communicator of the Year and Silver Inkwells for magazine editing and feature writing; and the Writers and Books Big Pencil as "a teacher of adults who has inspired the creation and appreciation of literature".

SPEAKERS

What's Your Print + Digital Content Strategy?

How print and digital teams can work together to create a successful integrated multimedia content strategy

Print editors Theresa Gawlas Medoff and Stacy Tillilie and digital content director Nicole Bumbaugh will present a panel discussion about how AAA Club Alliance uses print and digital content to engage our members and to reinforce our brand by keeping AAA top of mind and demonstrating the value of AAA membership. We'll talk about how we work together to get maximum value from content and to cross-promote AAA publications, our content hub and our website. We'll share how we measure success and improve our publications using reader feedback, including focus groups and frequent surveys. We'll also discuss how we work with advertising representatives and freelancers to optimize revenue and resources.



Nicole Bumbaugh is the Print & Digital Content Manager for AAA Club Alliance. She is the content director of AAA Club Alliance's content hub, The Extra Mile. Nicole is responsible for executing and overseeing the digital content strategy and The Extra Mile's weekly email newsletter. Nicole has spent more than 20 years in digital marketing and is a multi-time NFPW award winner. She is a member of both the Delaware Press Association and National Federation of Press Women.



Theresa Gawlas Medoff is the lead editor of two AAA magazines: the bimonthly AAA World, sent to 2.6 million AAA member households, and the award-winning quarterly AAA Traveler Worldwide, a glossy high-end travel publication mailed to 150,000 frequent travelers. Before joining AAA in 2014, she worked for some 20 years as a freelance writer and editor, writing for newspapers, magazines and corporations. She is a past president of Delaware Press Association (DPA) and a long-time member of DPA and NFPW.



Stacy Tillilie has been writing and editing for AAA World since its inception in 1999. She is now an editor of the bimonthly member magazine as well as an editor of AAA Traveler Worldwide, the award-winning travel title of AAA Club Alliance. As a freelance writer and editor, she has produced work for national travel and real estate publications and authored a book on AAA's 100-year history. She is a member of both the Delaware Press Association and National Federation of Press Women.

SPEAKERS

Advocacy 101

Open records. Closed meetings. Banned books. Local and state ballot questions. Whatever topic ignites your passion, learn how to research and advocate for sound policy without being drawn into politics. Your takeaways include a usable guide to key legislative contacts in your state and at the national level.



Kristin Netterstrom Higgins

Kristin Netterstrom Higgins is the lead staff member for the Public Policy Center at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture in Little Rock, researching and educating the public about emerging policy issues.



Gwendolynne Larson

Gwen Larson's journalism degree has taken her down a number of paths in the field of communication — from an internship with the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press to editing and producing journals and magazines to reporting and editing at The Emporia Gazette, and, finally, to handling media relations and internal communication for a regional university.

A member of National Federation of Press Women and Kansas Professional Communicators since 2004 and past president of both organizations, Gwen has advocated for First Amendment issues at the state and national level. She is currently finishing a two-year term as chair of the NFPW Education Fund.

PRESIDENT'S ROUND TABLE

CHATGPT: USEFUL TOOL,
THE DEMISE OF THE MEDIA
OR SOMETHING IN BETWEEN?

The panelists will discuss what ChatGPT/AI is and how it works, the evolving technology of AI and its impact on the media and how the technology is being used now.



Meredith Cummings

Meredith Cummings, MJE, is secretary of NFPW and an assistant teaching professor of journalism at Lehigh University, where she teaches data journalism, media law, visual communication, writing and editing. She is an award-winning freelance multimedia journalist who coordinates #press4education for the Society of Professional Journalists and is a member of SPJ's Journalism Education Committee. Her true love is opinion and essay writing, and, in service of that craft, she serves as vice president of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists and writes book reviews for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.



Gretchen Hoak

Gretchen Hoak, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of journalism in the School of Media and Journalism at Kent State University. Before entering academia, she spent 10 years as a local television news reporter and anchor. She is an adviser to the student-run campus television station, TV2, and teaches both beginning and upper-level reporting and news broadcasting courses. Her research agenda focuses on the psychological and emotional effects that covering traumatic news stories can have on journalists, such as post-traumatic stress, compassion fatigue, depression and emotional labor. She regularly presents her work at Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and International Communication Association conferences, and her research has been published in several academic journals.



David Silva

David E. Silva, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the School of Communication Studies and the School of Emerging Media and Technology at Kent State University. His research focuses on digital discussion, social media and how online spaces can improve (or get in the way) of conversations that benefit democracy. Using both experimental and data-centric methods, he tries to keep track of what is happening online and how perceptions of what seems normal are a product of both other people's behaviors and the presentation of digital trace data. He draws heavily on theories from the fields of social and cognitive psychology, as well as deliberative dialogue.

COMMUNICATOR OF ACHIEVEMENT

Nine longtime members of the National Federation of Press Women have been nominated by their state affiliates for the coveted title of Communicator of Achievement, the highest honor bestowed by the organization to recognize outstanding service to NFPW, to profession and to community.

Congratulations to all of these accomplished NFPW professionals. Read on to learn more about each of our COA nominees. Their stories will inspire you.



Alabama Media Professionals

Carolanne Griffith Roberts

During her career, Carolanne Griffith Roberts has written profiles of colorful people — from fiddlers on porches up the hollows to business leaders, entertainment luminaries, sports figures and top chefs. As a senior editor at Southern Living magazine, she traveled the region for 26 years, gathering stories on sites, lodging, food trends and cultural events. As travel editor, features editor and livings editor, she shaped Southern Living's editorial direction and innovation.

Earlier in her career, Roberts was entertainment critic for the Fort Lauderdale News and public relations manager for the West Virginia Department of Culture and History.

Today, Roberts is an active freelance writer. She continues to write for Southern Living, and has moved into new territory, including business and pro bono community writing (historic preservation, an international business organization and more). Her mantra: What's next?



Arkansas Press Women

Mary Hightower

Mary Hightower is chief communications officer for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. She has spent 16 years with the Division of Agriculture, starting as an extension communications specialist and eventually rising to her current position.

Previously, Hightower spent nearly a decade with The Associated Press in New York City and Little Rock, and worked for newspapers and radio in three states. She also spent seven years at a Florida public relations firm serving regional, national and international accounts as

an account supervisor and vice president.

Hightower holds a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in medieval studies from Boston College and the University College London, as well as a master's degree in journalism from the University of Arkansas Little Rock.



Colorado Press Women
Marilyn Saltzman

Marilyn Saltzman was a seasoned Jefferson County Schools communications manager in April 1999, when two Columbine High School students shot and killed 12 classmates and a teacher, and wounded 26 others. Saltzman was swept into “the center of the storm,” as her then boss put it, dealing with news media from around the world, devastated families and a traumatized community. Her life has never been the same.

Saltzman’s stellar career has also encompassed newspaper reporting and editing, founding a consulting firm focused on crisis communications, working with state lawmakers to pass a media literacy curriculum and resource bank, helping assure better access to health care and food for the needy, authoring or co-authoring many books and articles, and opposing racism.

Along with holding every elected position in Colorado Press Women except treasurer, Saltzman has served NFPW in several capacities. She is, in the words of CPW President Sandy Nance, “the magnificent Marilyn.”



Illinois Woman’s Press Association
Marlene Cook

Marlene Cook has been a member of IWPA since 1973 and is a lifetime member. She has held every office except treasurer. She was president from 1983 to 1987 and was director of the NFPW Chicago conference in 1985. Cook also served as president and historian of POPPS and has attended 46 conferences.

Cook went back to school at the age of 30 and landed a job as a gossip columnist at a local newspaper, then went on to become entertainment writer. She was community relations director for the

Village of Dolton and director of the Dolton Chamber of Commerce. Cook has written three historical books, “Dolton Tattler,” “Portals in Time” and “History and Mystery in First Church Graveyard.”

Today, at age 89, Cook is writing history features for the Lansing Journal, a newsletter for her 1952 class of Fenger High School and a column, “Marlene’s Musings,” for the IWPA newsletter.





Nebraska Press Women

Barb Bierman Batie

Barb Bierman Batie is an award-winning journalist who specializes in writing about agriculture. And why not? She's a farmer. She knows agriculture from the ground up. She can write a technical story for producers and break that down for the average person to understand. Plus, she's a sought-after source of information for other news media. It's a bit of a tightrope, but Batie seizes every opportunity to tell agriculture's story, and she tells it well – with beautiful photos.

A 41-year member of both Nebraska Press Women and NFPW, Batie has held nearly every NPW office and board position, continually moving the organization forward. She is active on local, state and national boards and "bleeds green" as a leader and volunteer in the 4-H program.

Always on the go, Batie is constantly interacting with others, building trust, representing the rural lifestyle and working to develop a better understanding of agriculture and what farmers are doing to responsibly grow our food and assure its safety.



New Mexico Press Women

Léonie Rosenstiel

Léonie Rosenstiel survived being born into an abusive family and graduated from Barnard College, starting out as an award-winning classical musician, then graduated from the Ph.D. program at Columbia University. She later earned degrees in counselling ministry (The New Seminary), Oriental medicine (Tri-State College) and public health (Walden University).

Rosenstiel received grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies and produced a TV show for six years. She wrote, translated, edited and contributed chapters to more than a dozen books, in addition to writing numerous articles and short stories, many of which won awards.

After being appointed to the NMPW board as PR chair in 2019, Rosenstiel was unanimously elected vice president in 2022 and served as NMPW's Zia Award chair. She also assumed editorship of its newsletter, The Broadsheet. Her book, "Protecting Mama," won first place in the 2022 New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards.



North Carolina Press Club

Kathy M. Newbern

Kathy M. Newbern of Raleigh, North Carolina, has been a professional writer for 50 years — ever since her first newspaper job right out of high school. She accomplished much in her 11 years in journalism as a staff writer/photographer, news editor, wire editor, city editor and managing editor — plus bureau chief and tabloid editor with three newspapers including The Charlotte Observer.

Newbern also worked for 13 years promoting public schools in communications positions, including at the state level and at

Duke University. She remained working part of the time after finally starting her own boutique publishing company, YourNovel.com, 31 years ago with her co-writer/co-founder husband. In 2001, she finally left her day job to expand that endeavor.

Since 1994, Newbern has loved her job as an award-winning, part-time freelance travel writer, also along with her husband. As she says, it's a life she could never have imagined.



North Dakota Professional Communicators

Tracy Frank

Tracy Frank is an award-winning professional copywriter and storyteller with more than 20 years' experience in a variety of communications platforms, including print and broadcast journalism, advertising, marketing, internal communications, social media and PR. As the senior multimedia storyteller in the marketing department at Bell Bank in Fargo, North Dakota, she writes everything from newsletters and advertising to web copy, internal communications, feature articles and testimonials.

Frank has written and self-published a novel, and she wrote the story and a majority of lyrics for the musical "Weather the Storm," which she also produced. She is heavily involved in community service for a variety of theater groups, animal rescue organizations and human services.

A member of North Dakota Professional Communicators and NFPW since 2018, Frank has received numerous communications contest awards, including NFPW's 2022 sweepstakes award and 2020 sweepstakes runner-up.



Virginia Professional Communicators

Kimberly Loehr

After a successful writing, marketing and public relations career, Kimberly Loehr joined the Loehr Lightning Protection Company based in Richmond, Virginia, started by her father, and has become nationally known as a lightning protection and communications specialist.

Loehr is a longtime member of the National Fire Protection Association and its Building Fire Safety Systems section. She is a board member of the Lightning Safety Alliance and a registered

course provider for the LSA's national AIA Continuing Education Service.

She serves as a member of the Electrical Safety Foundation International Communications Committee and the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes-FLASH Technical Advisory Council.

A member of NFPW and Virginia Professional Communicators, Loehr serves as president of the Virginia Press Women Foundation and its student scholarship committee.

Her articles, press releases, publications and public service campaigns about lightning protection and safety have received numerous state and national communications awards.



**Congratulations to Virginia's
Communicator of Achievement!**

Kimberly Loehr

Co-owner of Loehr Lightning Protection Company



**Colorado Press Women
congratulates our 2023 COA
Marilyn Saltzman
The best of the best!**

CONGRATULATIONS

to Alabama Media Professionals' 2022 Communicator of Achievement

ALABAMA
MEDIA
PROFESSIONALS



Carolanne
Roberts

NORTH CAROLINA PRESS CLUB



CONGRATULATES

KATHY
NEWBERN

2023 COMMUNICATOR OF ACHIEVEMENT

North Carolina is proud to have you
represent our Tar Heel state.



North Dakota Professional Communicators

Congratulates

Tracy Frank

our

2023 Communicator of Achievement



50 years as a member of IWPA & NFPW!
Congratulations on your success!

2022 PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

FIRST PLACE

Tracy Frank

Tracy Frank of North Dakota was honored June 25, 2022, at the NFPW contest awards dinner and ceremony in Fargo. She won \$250 cash and a plaque for her first-place finish. Frank joined Bell Bank in 2016 as a marketing content writer after more than a decade as a respected local journalist. She successfully made the transition to corporate marketing and communications, bringing her love of a good story to her role at Bell, where she is now a senior multimedia storyteller, creating content for marketing campaigns, newsletters, articles, videos and more. Frank earned a degree in journalism from the University of Maryland, where she studied abroad and interned at ABC's "20/20" news show in Washington, D.C. Returning to North Dakota, she was a reporter for 10 years at The Forum newspaper in Fargo before serving as a news reporter, fill-in anchor and producer at WDAY-TV. A member of North Dakota Professional Communicators and NFPW since 2018, Frank has won numerous communications contest awards including second-place in NFPW's national contest in 2020. Congratulations to both Tracy and North Dakota Professional Communicators.



SECOND AND THIRD PLACE (TIE)

Mary Jane Skala

A writer and columnist for the Kearney Hub, Kearney, Nebraska, Mary Jane Skala tied for second place in the sweepstakes competition, Mary Jane writes features and covers health issues for the newspaper. She also writes a weekly column about moving to the sometimes-quirky corn and cattle country after 40 years as a newspaper editor in Cleveland. She was the NFPW sweepstakes winner in 2020 and 1996. Mary Jane is an accomplished writer and consistently finishes in the top three in the national contest. She has been a member of NFPW since 1974.

Lynda Abegg

A longtime journalist and writer, Media Women of South Carolina member Lynda Abegg uses her talent with words to make readers laugh, cry, ponder and imagine. Through newspaper columns, articles, books or even skit material for the Daughters of the American Revolution conferences that she's penned, Lynda has mastered the art of making a point without "being preachy or anything." She has been a member of NFPW since 1995. Her belief in the power of the written word and her ability to inform without showing partiality draws a reader into the story regardless of the subject matter and gives Lynda's work authenticity in an ever-changing world.

FIRST PLACE AFFILIATE AWARD

For the ninth consecutive year, Delaware Press Association captured the first-place affiliate award. Delaware also won the top affiliate award in 2007 and 2011.

NFPW COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST PAST SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

1969 - Bobbie McCallum, WA
1970 - Sel Yackley, IL
1971 - Betty Penson, ID
1972 - Dorothee Polson, AZ
1973 - Marcia Donnan, SD
1974 - Hazel Geissler, FL
1975 - Barbara Page, NM
1976 - Verneeta Gowens, IL
1977 - Joan LaLiberte, ID
1978 - Marilyn Newton, NV
1979 - Lyn Alweis, CO
1980 - Karen Worley, MO
1981 - Andree Brooks, CT
1982 - Jane Flink, MO
1983 - Marjie Lundstrom, CO
1984 - Cathy Mauk, ND
1985 - Cathy Mauk, ND
1986 - Carol Renner, MN

1987 - Carol Ankney, MI & Sharon Nesbit, OR
1988 - Carol Ankney, MI
1989 - Brenda Blagg, AR
1990 - Sharon Nesbit, OR
1991 - Valerie Wiener, NV
1992 - Carol Osman Brown, AZ
1993 - Denis Law, WA
1994 - Louise Wood, TX
1995 - Dan Abernathy, WY
1996 - Mary Jane Skala, OH
1997 - Elizabeth Spence, LA
1998 - Jane Lee, KS
1999 - Suzanne Martinson, PA
2000 - Karen Feld, WA, D.C.
2001 - Tracy Bryant, DE
2002 - Sara Virzi, SC
2003 - Jimmy Tomlin, NC

2004 - Barbara Micek, NE
2005 - Mindie Paget, KS
2006 - Marilyn Newton, NV
2007 - Julie Grimm, NM
2008 - Lori Potter, NE
2009 - Martin Fredricks, ND
2010 - Debbie Miller, AR
2011 - Tammy Keith, AR
2012 - Lori Potter, NE
2013 - Karen Stensrud, ND
2014 - Lori Potter, NE
2015 - Lini Kadaba, PA
2016 - Pamela Knudson, ND
2017 - Tammy Keith, AR
2018 - Lori Potter, NE
2019 - Karen Stensrud, ND
2020 - Mary Jane Skala, NE
2021 - Judith Zaffirini, TX

Congratulations!

Cynthia Kern Obrien (author)
and **Jeff Yesh** (illustrator)

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Cate Langley
2023 Conference
Committee, Cincinnati, Ohio

For more than 80 years, NFPW has provided professional development and networking in the field of communications. The organization is led by an elected board. The following is a list of NFPW past presidents:

NFPW PAST PRESIDENTS

- | | | | |
|---------|--|---------|--|
| 1937 | Helen Miller Malloch, founder and first president (deceased), Illinois | 1975-77 | Jean Wiley Huyler, Washington |
| 1938-39 | Octavia Goodbar (deceased), New York | 1977-79 | Charlotte Schexnayder (deceased), Arkansas |
| 1940-41 | Bertha Bless (deceased), Missouri | 1979-81 | Martha S. Reed (deceased), Texas |
| 1942 | Helen Miller Malloch (deceased), Illinois | 1981-83 | D. J. Cline (deceased), South Dakota |
| 1943-45 | Gertrude Puelicher (deceased), Wisconsin | 1983-85 | Jo Cart (deceased), Louisiana |
| 1945-47 | Marie Abels (deceased), Kansas | 1985-87 | Lois Jacobs (deceased), Iowa |
| 1947-49 | Catherine Dines Prosser (deceased) | 1987-89 | Mary Lou Webb (deceased), Mississippi |
| 1949-51 | Irene R. Bedard (deceased), Minnesota | 1989-91 | Rosemary Carroll, New Jersey |
| 1951-53 | Mattie M. Dykes (deceased), Missouri | 1991-93 | Marj Carpenter (deceased), Kentucky |
| 1953-55 | Helen Ankeny (deceased), Kansas | 1993-95 | Gwen White, North Carolina |
| 1955-57 | Velma Price (deceased), Nebraska | 1995-97 | Ruth Anna, Colorado |
| 1957-59 | Mabel Temby (deceased), Wisconsin | 1997-99 | Linn Rounds (deceased), Wyoming |
| 1959-61 | Helen Vanderburg (deceased), Iowa | 1999-20 | Vivian Sadowski (deceased), Kansas |
| 1961-62 | Roberta Martin (resigned April 1962) (deceased), Arkansas | 2001-03 | Ella Wright (deceased), Alaska |
| 1962 | Dr. Gertrude M. Hall (acting), (deceased), Illinois | 2003-05 | Donna Penticuff, Indiana |
| 1962-65 | Hortense P. Myers (deceased), Indiana | 2005-07 | Meg Hunt, South Carolina |
| 1965-67 | Margaret (Maggie) Magee (deceased), Oregon | 2007-09 | Marsha Shuler, Louisiana |
| 1967-69 | Ulrich Troubetzkoy (deceased), Virginia | 2009-11 | Cynthia Price, Virginia |
| 1969-71 | Mildred Planthold Michie (deceased), Missouri | 2011-13 | Lori Potter, Nebraska |
| 1971-73 | Louise Shaddock (deceased), Idaho | 2013-15 | Teri Ehresman, Idaho |
| 1973-75 | Naomi A. Whitesell (deceased), Indiana | 2015-17 | Marsha Hoffman, Iowa |
| | | 2017-19 | Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas, Illinois |
| | | 2019-21 | Gwendolynne Larson, Kansas |

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Arizona Press Women

Cheri Cross-Bushnell grew up in Waterloo, Iowa, where she began her newspaper career. She first joined NFPW in 1963 in Shreveport, Louisiana, and later became the founding president of Nevada Press Women and president of Arizona Press Women. In Tucson, Cheri was a reporter for a large daily, editor of a small daily business newspaper and its weekly business tabloid, and editor and publisher of her own weekly community newspaper, along with being an adjunct journalism instructor at the University of Arizona and appearing weekly on a PBS program featuring area top journalists. At one point, she was elected to the Tucson City Council, spending two years of her term as vice mayor. Her husband, Asa Bushnell, died in 2011, and she now lives in an All Seasons retirement complex in Oro Valley, north of Tucson, where she enjoys writing her memoirs for her offspring, playing bridge, reading and brushing up on her art skills.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Colorado Press Women

Ann Lockhart taught high school English and journalism, then wrote for and edited weekly suburban newspapers. She served as public relations director for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and did community relations for a scientific study at the department. She was the first president of the National Public Health Information Coalition. After retirement, Ann started Eagle Eye Editing and began serious volunteering, including teaching English to refugees for the past 20 years. She's a past NFPW parliamentarian and Colorado Press Women president and was recently elected CPW co-president.

Illinois Woman's Press Association

Marlene Cook began writing as a gossip columnist, progressing to entertainment. She interviewed celebrities, including presidents and the queen of the Netherlands. Encouraged and mentored by members of the Illinois Woman's Press Association and NFPW, Marlene wrote two books and won hundreds of awards. She has served as IWPA president, NFPW historian and POPPS president. At age 89, she continues to research and write historical features for a local digital newspaper.


Woman's Press Club of Indiana

For **Julie Slaymaker**, her proudest achievement has been her key role in founding Woman's Press Club of Indiana's prison writing contest for inmates. The former WPCI president and Communicator of Achievement is a freelance writer and serves on several boards, including the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame and the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers. As a freelance trial reporter for WTLC Radio, she won UPI awards for her coverage of a drug ring and the Mike Tyson rape trial. WPCI and the Indiana Society for Professional Journalists have both established scholarships in honor of Julie and her husband, Gene, upon their retirement for their work in journalism.

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS

Alaska Professional Communicators

Pat Richardson retired 10 years ago from a 46-year career in communications. She started in private industry on the production side of the publishing business, eventually transferring to the editorial side. In 1977, Pat moved to Anchorage as associate editor of Alaska Construction & Oil magazine, and, in 1981, she began her 31½-year career as a public affairs specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District. Her passion is preserving Alaska Professional Communicators' history as historian and archivist. In retirement, she focuses on



maintaining a foster home for the many dogs rescued and put up for adoption by Kitty and K-9 Connection, a nonprofit organization in Anchorage.

Arkansas Press Women

Helen Sheffield Plotkin retired in 2017 as vice president of marketing communications for Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, after working in higher education public relations for 28 years. She worked at newspapers in Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana for 13 years after earning a journalism degree from Henderson State University in Arkansas. Helen has twice served Arkansas Press Women as president and has served on the board of both APW and Louisiana Press Women. She has been APW's contest director for five years and is currently assistant director of NFPW's professional communications contest.

Colorado Press Women

Sue Deans spent 30 years as a newspaper editor and reporter. She valued local news that built community. Beginning as a reporter for the Daily Camera in Boulder, where she joined Colorado Press Women and NFPW, she later became editor of The Sun News in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. At Denver's Rocky Mountain News, she worked on two Pulitzer-winning projects, then returned to the Daily Camera as editor. Now retired, she focuses on volunteering and family.

A journalism graduate of the University of Colorado-Boulder, **Sandy Michel Nance** started her career working for United Press International, followed by the Casper (Wyoming) Star Tribune. She worked 25 years in public relations for Mountain Bell/US West, and, with a master's degree, taught PR at Regis University and Metro State College. Sandy retired in 2011 as managing editor-publications at American Water Works Association after six years. She was named NFPW's Communicator of Achievement in 2020 after twice being named Colorado's COA and served as Colorado Press Women president for a total of 10 years.

North Carolina Press Club

Gwen A. White is a journalist and motivational speaker who entertains and

challenges audiences with her homespun humor. Having spent approximately 30 years as a journalist, Gwen also conducts workshops on volunteerism, media relations and crisis communications. She served as NFPW president from 1993 to 1995, received the NFPW President's Award and coordinated the national communications contest entries for 25 years. A former North Carolina Press Club Communicator of Achievement, she serves as the NCPC treasurer. Gwen is a past international director for Lions Clubs International and has received the Lions' highest award, the Ambassador of Good Will award. She directs the North Carolina Lions' annual fishing tournament for those with visually impairments.

Oregon Press Women

Anne Koppel Conway, turning 77, is still writing. She has faced big numbers this year: 50th college class reunion (University of Washington, Seattle); 44th anniversary with husband, Judd; 50th wedding anniversaries of friends and cousins; and being a 45-year member of NFPW. Anne and Judd have four wonderful daughters and two amazing grandsons. She says, "Life in Eugene, Oregon, is good. I like to walk from bridge to bridge that cross the Willamette River, about a 4½-mile round trip. Judd and I are about to tackle pickleball."

Press Women of Texas

Throughout her 45-year career, **H. Janet Sacarello** has applied her writing, editing and design skills in various capacities, including at the Dallas Times Herald and the Mobil Research and Development Corporation's Dallas Research Laboratory, before starting her own company in 1995. A highlight was being an editor of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II newsletter. After earning certification, she was an adapted life skills teacher in Denton High School from 2005 to 2011. At 81, she is still creating cards, bookmarks and brochures and also publishes a blog, takeitorleaveit.blog. A multiple NFPW award winner over the years, she was PWT's 2002 Communicator of Achievement.



Angela Smith is executive director emeritus of the Writers' League of Texas. She is an award-winning freelance writer/editor, communications consultant, and author of several books, including "Women Drummers: A History from Rock and Jazz to Blues and Country, Steel Drums and Steelbands: a History" and a math book for kids. A former Associated Press reporter, she is also a working musician (piano, cello, steel drum and hammered dulcimer) and avid amateur astronomer. She is a past president of Press Women of Texas and co-chair of NFPW's First Amendment Network.

Virginia Professional Communicators

Gail Kent is the president of The Buzz Factoree LLC, a public relations and marketing firm in Newport News, Virginia. A former journalist, she spent much of her career doing communications in health care and higher education. She has won more than 350 awards for her work, many of them from Virginia Press Women and NFPW. Gail has served many years on the VPW board and was the affiliate's 1989 Communicator of Achievement.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

California Press Women

Maria Budzynski spent the World War II years in Berlin and met her American husband in 1951 when he was with the U.S. Army in Frankfurt. "It was not love at first sight," she recalled. He was seeking escaped German war criminals and didn't believe Maria when she insisted her father had been a soldier killed on the Russian front. Flowers and an apology followed. In December 1983, her story "Real-Life Drama: My First Encounter with a U.S. Soldier" appeared in Good Housekeeping. It won an NFPW first-place award.

Woman's Press Club of Indiana

Jean Flora Glick won NFPW awards as sales publications editor for Cummins Engine Co., as columnist for The Republic and Hope Star Journal newspapers, and as author of "Holy Smokes, Inspirational Help for Kicking the Habit," published by Kregel. Now retired, Jean taught school, freelanced for 20 magazines and was educational director of the President

Benjamin Harrison Home & Museum. She has three children, seven grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Kansas Professional Communicators

Becky Funke recently retired from a career as a reporter, editor, publisher and public relations professional that began as a reporter on her high school newspaper. Her career took her from weekly community newspapers and a stint at a small daily newspaper, to a 60,000-circulation regional publication and finally to working in public relations at Wichita Art Museum. During her newspaper years, she consistently won awards in the KPC and NFPW contests. She has served KPC in various appointed and elected roles. She was the KPC Communicator of Achievement in 2002 and 2014 and received the NFPW COA award in 2014. She continues to use her communication skills for the Lions Clubs in Kansas.

Missouri Professional Communicators

Since retiring from hospital public relations in 2004, **Pat Treacy** has written two books, one of which is expected to be published this year by History Press. "A Diva of the Diamond" is the biography of Erma Bergmann, a St. Louis pitcher who played baseball in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League during World War II and then blazed a trail when she became a St. Louis policewoman for 25 years. Pat also founded the Queens of Swing, an all-girl band reminiscent of the 1940s. The group performs at retirement homes and private parties.

Nebraska Press Women

Sherry Thompson is a communications consultant working with nonprofits and small businesses and works extensively with Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue. During her career, she has worked as a communications manager, freelance writer, reporter and editor in diverse corporate, newspaper and nonprofit environments. She currently is the high school communications contest director for Nebraska Press Women and previously served as president, vice president and treasurer. Sherry has also been a member of Louisiana Press Women and Illinois Woman's Press

Association. Her community involvement includes serving as vice president for the Omaha Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary board and marketing chair/secretary for Heartland Women's Network.

Pennsylvania Press Club

Melissa Piper Nelson began her journalism career in college recounting the devastation in her home state of Pennsylvania following Hurricane Agnes in 1972. She has written for publications in the Great Plains and on the East Coast. Melissa won a Pennsylvania Newspaper Association Keystone Award for team news coverage as a Bloomsburg Press Enterprise reporter. Her column, "Today's Marketing Objective," appears in Country Folks Grower. She has won multiple awards in the NFPW communications contest. She retired from full-time work in 2021.

Press Women of Texas

Winner of many awards and a former Press Women of Texas president, **Bonnie Arnold** of Kerrville had 40 years' experience writing for newspapers until she retired in December 2021. Bonnie covered community news in smaller towns almost all her career, knowing readers expect to see individual successes and tragedies, community needs, births, weddings, death and social events, as well as hard news. Since retiring, Bonnie was named to the Kerr County Historical Commission and serves as its secretary.

Virginia Professional Communicators

Louise C. Seals joined the Richmond Times-Dispatch in 1968. She was managing editor in 1996-2006, led major changes such as the use of computers, and was active in state and national journalism organizations. The Times-Dispatch won the Virginia Press Association's top public service award four times while she was managing editor. She is in the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame. Since discovering Richmond Tree Stewards in 2008, she has helped lead environmental initiatives from hands-on tree care to planting hundreds of trees.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

Alabama Media Professionals

Mary Wimberley retired in 2016 after a 42-year career at Samford University, where she was news and feature writer, media relations officer and associate editor of Seasons, the university's alumni magazine. Previously, she worked at several Alabama daily newspapers. She was president of Alabama Media Professionals from 2017 to 2019, during which AMP hosted the 2017 NFPW conference in Birmingham. Through the years, she won numerous AMP and NFPW writing awards. She is also an active member of Rotary International and other organizations.

Woman's Press Club of Indiana


When **Gena Asher** joined Woman's Press Club of Indiana and NFPW, she was in the midst of a long newspaper reporting career. With the rise of the web, she saw that content was taking a backseat to technology's bells and whistles. So, she turned her attention to website content development, both as a freelancer and as web editor for the Indiana University School of Journalism, where she also taught journalism classes. She is now retired.

Missouri Professional Communicators

Allison Stein has been a professional communicator in technology companies large and small for more than 35 years and currently works for a Fortune 500 software company. Allison's service to NFPW includes parliamentarian, technology adviser, webmaster and web director, as well as president of the Missouri and South Carolina affiliates. She was named Missouri Professional Communicators' 1997 Communicator of Achievement. In her spare time, she manages web and social media for a science fiction convention and is an author, artist, photographer, TV addict, geek princess and cat servant —not necessarily in that order.

Virginia Professional Communicators

Pamela Stallsmith of Richmond has worked as a reporter, editor and strategic communicator. She worked twice for the Richmond Times-Dispatch, first covering politics and state news for nearly 20 years. After 12 years in corporate communications



and higher education, she returned to the newspaper as Opinions editor. She now owns PScommunications LLC, a writing and editing firm. She is co-president of Virginia Press Women and serves on the board of the VPW Foundation. Pamela has won 108 communications awards.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

North Dakota Professional Communicators

Karen Stensrud is vice president of brand and executive communications at Bell Bank, one of the nation's largest family-owned banks. A three-term affiliate president and two-time NFPW contest sweepstakes winner, Karen is serving her sixth NFPW president as an appointed board member and is national COA director. Karen was NFPW's Communicator of Achievement in 2010, and in 2021 was named Woman of the Year in Communications by the YWCA of Cass-Clay.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Alabama Media Professionals

Sandra Bearden began her 25-year membership after a career in writing and journalism when she joined the organization after retiring from what was then BellSouth Corp. She wanted to pursue a part-time career as a freelance writer and did so until she was 72. Despite a lengthy previous career as a newspaper reporter, college teacher and member of the BellSouth staff, she says NFPW programs and contacts helped her immeasurably.

Delaware Press Association

Mary Leah Christmas is a freelance writer-editor whose background includes blogging, biographical research and volunteerism. Most of her projects have related in some way to her longtime interests in nature/wildlife, literary history, architecture and geography. She has received awards and recognitions from Delaware Press Association and NFPW, as well as from other organizations. She has served twice on DPA's board of directors. Over the years, she has also assisted DPA through various supporting roles.

A new arrival to Delaware in 1998 from Johannesburg, South Africa, **Bridget Paverd** met Katherine Ward, then president of the Delaware Press Association at a conference and joined DPA & NFPW. She says Ward and both organizations helped her grow her strategic communications company, GillespieHall, which she founded in 2000 and sold in January 2023 to Philadelphia-based SLICE Communications. She continues to teach at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and actively consults as a crisis communications specialist. Paverd has participated in more than 20 NFPW communication contests and has served as a contest judge for other states.

Missouri Professional Communicators

Janice Denham finished decades of writing and editing where she started: St. Louis Suburban Journals. Jumping in after high school with the new Jefferson County Journal, she gained credits for a journalism degree at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. She was mainly the weekly free newspapers' food editor and later planned, wrote and fluffed dresses for photos with its bridal magazine for 10 years. Starting as liaison with the Missouri Professional Communicators' local partner, she also serves on the St. Louis Artists' Guild's executive board. Janice, now co-president of MPC, has been a mainstay for NFPW in Missouri.

Nebraska Press Women

Stephanie Geery-Zink was a reporter/photographer at The Daily Reporter in Derby, Kansas, from 1991 to 1995, a staff writer/photographer for The Daily Sun in Beatrice, Nebraska, from 1995 to 2002, and a freelance journalist from 2002 to 2009. She then worked in public relations, communications and fundraising for an advertising firm and several nonprofit organizations. She is currently the grants director for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. Stephanie has been a longtime board member of Nebraska Press Women and was the NPW Communicator of Achievement in 2011.

Virginia Professional Communicators

Twenty-five years ago **Carol Pierce** and Tonda Rush created American PressWorks to provide management services for associations. NFPW became APW's first client and Carol served as NFPW's executive director for about 15 years. Carol and APW consultants produced Press Woman magazine/newsletter throughout the engagement of APW with NFPW and became involved in numerous First Amendment advocacy projects. NFPW's First Amendment Network was created, and a new logo was designed during this period.

20 YEARS

Alaska Professional Communicators:

Bill Laurel

Arizona Press Women: Jan Cleere

Colorado Press Women: Gay Porter DeNileon

Delaware Press Association: Maria Keane

Illinois Woman's Press Association:

Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas

Missouri Professional Communicators:

Roberta Duyff

Virginia Professional Communicators:

Michael Kaplan

At-large: Jan Lisa Huttner

15 YEARS

Arkansas Press Women:

Maryanne Meyerriecks

Colorado Press Women: Carol Anderson

Illinois Woman's Press Association:

Bonnie McGrath

Missouri Professional Communicators:

Deborah Reinhardt

Nebraska Press Women: LuAnn Schindler

North Dakota Professional Communicators:

Jeanine Larson

Virginia Professional Communicators:

Frances Crutchfield, Marty van Duyn

Woman's Press Club of Indiana:

Mary Anne Barothy, Julie Goldsmith, Angie Priest, Tara Puckey

At-large: Melissa Wanner

10 YEARS

Alaska Professional Communicators:

Bonnye Matthews

Arizona Professional Writers: Maria Fasano

Arkansas Press Women: Richard Plotkin

Delaware Press Association: Karen Jessee

Kansas Professional Communicators:

Monica Springer

New Mexico Press Women: Leora Zeitlin

North Dakota Professional Communicators:

Heather Syverson

Pennsylvania Press Club:

Meredith Cummings, Lini Kadaba

Virginia Professional Communicators: Sue

Bland, Ilsa Loeser

At-large: Melanie Cupp

5 YEARS

Alabama Media Professionals:

Donna Francavilla

Alaska Professional Communicators:

Suzanne Marcy, Elizabeth O'Connell

Arkansas Press Women: Mary Hightower

Colorado Press Women: Kate Ruder

Connecticut Press Club: Julie Jason

Delaware Press Association: Nicole

Bumbaugh, Cynthia Dolan, Adam Kamras

Woman's Press Club of Indiana:

Jessica Shrout, Amy Smelser

Nebraska Press Women:

Ruth Brown, Irene North

New Mexico Press Women: Thelma Giomi

North Dakota Professional Communicators:

Tracy Frank, Ellen Rossow

Oregon Press Women: Kimmie Fadem Donlon

Virginia Professional Communicators:

Diane Thieke, Meghan van Joosten

At-large: Hope Salyer, Judy Sweet Williams

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering NFPW and affiliate members who've died or whose death notices were received since the June 2022 NFPW conference.

Arkansas Press Women

Brenda Blagg, 75, a former APW president and NFPW sweepstakes winner, died Dec. 14. Blagg was a longtime political correspondent, a staunch advocate for the Freedom of Information Act and author of "Political Magic: The Travels, Trials and Triumphs of the Clintons' Arkansas Travelers," a book about Arkansans' roles in the 1992 presidential campaign. An avid Arkansas Razorbacks fan, Blagg had been a journalist for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and an editor with the Arkansas Traveler. Tributes lauded her as someone who was fair, thorough and acting from a place of integrity, and a mentor to young journalists.

Ouida Hutto Cox, 98, died Oct. 13, 2021. She retired in 2012 as editor of Arkansas Electric Cooperatives publications, after having edited 800 issues of Arkansas Living Magazine. She joined APW in 1976 and was a frequent entrant and winner in APW's communications contest. She also served on the affiliate's board for many years and contributed to NFPW's 1989 conference in Arkansas. Cox was known for her writing, editing and photography skills and for her sparkling eyes, stylish clothes and laughter. Debbie Miller, a past president of APW, said, "She was an icon in journalism circles — the living embodiment of what it was to be a journalist and a professional woman."

Colorado Press Women

Joan Vandiver Frisch, 85, died Feb. 10 in Boulder, Colorado. Frisch, who graduated from the University of Washington in 1961 with a degree in nutrition and journalism, had been a 55-year member of NFPW during her award-winning career in journalism and writing. She had worked for three years as the food editor for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and then as a science writer after moving to Boulder in 1970. From 1981 through 1995, Frisch was manager of media relations with the National Center for Atmospheric Research. She served on the NFPW national conference committees when CPW hosted in 1983 and 2006. In addition to belonging to quilting groups, Frisch had a long association with the University of Colorado's host family program for international students.

Media Network Idaho

Annie Vivian Davis Rydalch, 86, died July 19. A former president of the Media Network of Idaho, she had been an award-winning high school journalism teacher and later had a lengthy career with the Idaho National Lab, retiring in 2010. She had also been a civic leader, serving in the Idaho Legislature for nearly a dozen years, in various Republican Party activities and as a presidential-appointed board adviser to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Her work with the Fort Peck Indian Reservation led her to be inducted as an honorary member of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribe of Montana.

Woman's Press Club of Indiana

Marion Garmel, 86, died Oct. 22. Born and raised in El Paso, Texas, Garmel started her career as a journalist and editor with her high school newspaper, *The Tatler*. She graduated with honors from the University of Texas in 1958 and began a career as the public relations liaison for the National Student Association. After a brief stint living in Paris, she returned to the U.S. to work for the *Wall Street Journal*. In 1961, she became an arts reporter and theater critic — and the first female staff writer — for *The National Observer*, a Dow-Jones newspaper, in the Washington, D.C., area. She moved to Indianapolis in 1970, when her husband, Raymond, took an urban planning job there. She continued her work as an award-winning newspaper reporter, critic and community volunteer.

Joline Nelson Moore Ohmart, 94, of Indianapolis, died Oct. 30 following complications from a fall. After graduating with a journalism degree from Kansas State University, Ohmart spent five years in radio, first at a station in her hometown of Hutchinson, Kansas, and then in Dallas. She engaged in various business ventures and moved to Indianapolis in 1967, where she became a bank executive. She eventually became involved in real estate. She held several patents and was an aspiring author, with two books close to being published. One was on parenting and the other was based on her life and experiences of the glass ceiling in business.

Kansas Professional Communicators

Debbi Elmore, 70, of Wichita, died Sept. 15. After earning a public relations and journalism degree from Wichita State University, Elmore spent her entire career telling other people's stories. She met her husband, Jim, of 44 years at a small newspaper in Independence, Kansas, where she worked as a reporter and he was a photographer. Over the course of her career, she won several awards, including a 2022 honorable mention from NFPW for her story about the expanding curbside food donation

boxes effort started by a young Wichita boy. Elmore also worked in health care and senior services.

Missouri Professional Communicators

Susan Fadem, 73, died Sept. 3 after a yearlong battle with stage four melanoma. An award-winning author, veteran journalist, movie facilitator and jewelry designer with a smile likened to Mary Tyler Moore, Fadem was often described as being curious and colorful and having a vibrant energy. In 2021, Fadem presented a program about "Her Self," a book she co-authored, and its accompanying exhibit of 57 portraits of women ages 63 to 105 at the St. Louis Artists' Guild. She'd been a reporter for the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* and the *St. Louis Sun* and editor for *Ladue News* and *St. Louis Homes & Lifestyles*. She met her first husband, Rod Fadem, when she interviewed him for a story. After his death, she married Richard Andersen, who also preceded her in death. Her daughter, Kimmie Fadem Donlon, is a member of Oregon Press Women.

North Dakota Professional Communicators

Ellen L. Crawford, 67, died Feb. 27. Crawford's love of writing spanned an entire lifetime, starting with fiction writing in grade school. After earning degrees in mass communication and journalism from Minot State University and Minnesota State University-Moorhead, Crawford worked for 26½ years as a reporter, copy editor and page designer for *The Forum* in Fargo and 17 years as an information specialist for North Dakota State University Agriculture Communication before retiring in 2022. Crawford's work was recognized with numerous state and national awards from the North Dakota Newspaper Association, NDPC and NFPW. In 1997 and 2012, she was named NDPC's Communicator of Achievement. She had also served on the NFPW board as treasurer and second vice president.



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