

# AGENDA

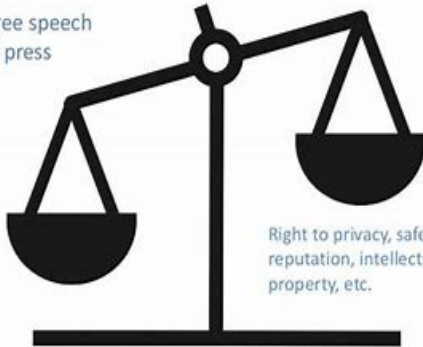


Quarterly Newsletter

National Federation of Press Women

## But First Amendment has limits

Free speech  
& press



Right to privacy, safety,  
reputation, intellectual  
property, etc.



## Celebrating the First Amendment...



Graphics from Google free printables.



## *President's Message: How I found a career*

**By Julie Campbell  
NFPW President**

Reading about this past fall's layoffs at Condé Nast zipped me back to 1981, New York City and the personnel office of that legendary magazine publisher.

In my rear-view mirror at the time were a recent B.A. in history and three semesters of grad school, all at Arizona State University. I had wearied of academia and needed a new direction away from my part-time jobs as file clerk, research assistant and riding instructor.

I stepped my parents, Don and Shirley. Dad's career as a stockbroker had led him to Wall Street, so my folks moved me into the shoebox-sized spare bedroom in their Brooklyn Heights apartment and popped for tuition to the Entrée Program at Katharine Gibbs School.

If you're of a certain age, you know that Gibbs (no longer in existence, RIP) turned out expert professional secretaries after a two-year course of study. In the early '80s, it also offered a short version for recent college grads in need of practical skills like typing, shorthand and business English. The goal: An entry-level job as a secretary in a desired profession, and then a move up.

I relished life as a New Yorker, taking the subway to school in the Pan Am Building above Grand Central Station. After completing the course, I considered staying in New York and set out on job interviews the school arranged. I knew that I wanted to write but was unsure exactly what kind of career would encompass that skill.

In that personnel office at Condé Nast, I learned that many of their employees started as secretaries and then moved into editorial posts at a magazine. I was pleased when they offered me a spot. But the salary was so low, and the New York cost of living was so high. Instead, I moved to Denver, where I had kinfolk, and where a beginner's salary would stretch further.

The Gibbs plan worked. I landed a secretarial gig at a property management firm, volunteered to write for the company newsletter and soon transferred into the marketing department.

Next came a secretarial post at a lifestyle magazine. I answered phones, hung out with the editors and proofread. Three years out of Gibbs, I moved to trade magazines as an actual editor. Then came 15 years in which I put my B.A. to use as an editor of two historical publications and another 15 in higher-education communications. Thanks to Katharine Gibbs School — and to Mom and Dad.

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Needless to say, my membership in NFPW is as valuable to me as my Gibbs education. Through our organization, I've gained a new understanding of — and devotion to — the First Amendment and to our First Amendment Network (FAN).

As we all know, supporters of the First Amendment are constantly fighting off threats. It's the perfect time to examine this vital concern in AGENDA.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

**— The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**

# First Amendment under fire!



**By Angela Smith**  
**FAN Co-Chair**

Pick up a newspaper today – if you can find one — or turn on the news, and there's bound to be some story about another attack on First Amendment rights.

After a period of relative stability, the First Amendment is suddenly under fire, being attacked from all sides.

In truth, this is nothing new. This nation's history is filled with instances of efforts to censor and curtail access to certain books. In the past those efforts ultimately failed, and First Amendment rights were preserved. Unfortunately, that's not so much the case today. Across the U.S., rights of free speech and a free press are being jeopardized by disinformation, hate speech and vendettas against journalists.

The extent to which these freedoms are being held hostage is far-reaching and chilling. An Associated Press article published in 2023 cited an Idaho art exhibit that was censored and teens told they couldn't testify in legislative hearings. In Washington state, a lawmaker proposed a hotline so the government could track offensively biased statements. In Florida, bloggers were fighting a bill that would force them to register in the state if they wrote posts criticizing public officials. Bans on books and drag shows are increasingly common.



**Angela Smith**

[PEN America](#) (a human rights organization that defends and promotes the right to read and write in the United States and worldwide) reports that just this year 303 bills, essentially educational gag orders, have been filed in 44 states. These government restrictions forbid teaching of specific curricula or ban certain concepts being taught in classrooms.

Even the words "diversity," "equity" and "inclusion" have been banned in public school districts and college campuses, thanks to bills passed by conservative legislatures and actions by state boards of education.

PEN documents 2,500 instances of individual books being banned in the past school year. Those bans affected over 4 million children in 32 states. National and local groups purportedly representing parents' "best interests" are overwhelmingly targeting books with LGBTQ characters or primary characters who are persons of color. If every book is culled that has content someone takes objection to, soon librarians will have no books to shelve.

Threats and even violence caused by book bans have forced many librarians to quit over concerns for their safety. Others have suffered anxiety, stress and depression over the emotional cost of the current culture wars. Amanda Jones, the 2021 school librarian of the year, an-

nounced on Facebook that she was taking a "medical sabbatical." Jones received death threats after speaking up at a public library board meeting defending access to LGBTQIA+ books.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 300,000 teachers and other school staff, including librarians, left their jobs between February 2020 and May 2022.

The anti-media, anti-press rhetoric inspired by some politicians and social media has also jeopardized the seemingly once-healthy climate of a responsible, free press. It's no surprise that the work of organizations such as National Federation of Press Women and Society of Professional Journalists has taken on a much needed fight-back stance. Our advocacy of First Amendment rights has never been more crucial. With its call for upholding truth, objectivity, fairness and freedom of the press, our NFPW Code of Ethics has never been more relevant.

As co-chair of NFPW's First Amendment Network (FAN), I want to encourage everyone in this organization to become a FAN member and to encourage members of your affiliates to join us. There's a good reason the First Amendment is first. It gives life to our Constitution and makes clear the meaning of other rights we have because of that document. Never take the First Amendment for granted. It's a good thing. And be proud you're part of an organization that values and defends those rights.



# Media under attack!



**By Marsha Shuler**  
**FAN Co-Chair**

The media are increasingly under attack as they pursue their mission of ensuring an informed public.

Reporters, newspapers, publishers have all been hit with assaults on First Amendment rights on which the United States of America relies.

Every week it seems another case hits the news — a raid on a Kansas newspaper office and employees' homes; warrants for the arrest of reporters and editors; citations for violating local laws, threats of court sanctions and fines.

The cases keep piling up as First Amendment advocates decry what's happening because those in the media are doing their jobs.

These are indeed troubling times. Consider recent events.

The Marion County Record raid was so egregious it attracted international headlines and was condemned as a violation of state and federal laws that protect the media from government intrusion. Law enforcement swept in and absconded with computers, servers, cell phones and files. The search warrants were issued as part of a probe into identity theft and "unlawful acts concerning computers."

Marion's newly hired police chief said he thought a reporter had unlawfully obtained the driving records of a local restaurant owner. In the

weeks before the raid, a Record reporter had confronted the police chief about a news tip she had received that he had left the Kansas City police department under threat of demotion. Nothing was published. But then came the raid.

The police chief later told the Washington Post he was not motivated to investigate the Record by its probe of him but by a citizen's request.

What's happened since?

The newspaper and its employees got their possessions returned, the judge who signed off on the raid is facing a complaint about her decision, the police chief resigned and is facing a federal lawsuit, the local prosecutor found insufficient evidence to justify the search and more lawsuits are expected to be filed.

In Alabama there was no raid but as API reported, "another small town paper hit in 'open season' on free press."

The Atmore News reported on a criminal investigation into the alleged misuse of federal funds by the local school board. Then came arrest warrants for the reporter and the newspaper's publisher for disclosing confidential grand jury information.

Then came the outcry from lawyers and media groups. Put bluntly, they said the action was a clear First Amendment violation and misreading of the law that bans the leaking of grand jury information but not a newspaper from publishing it. A sto-

ry published in the wake of the incident quoted locals saying "personal animosity of the local district attorney towards the paper's publisher is at play."

The Chicago Tribune reported Calumet City officials issued municipal citations against a Daily Southtown reporter who they alleged violated local ordinances by seeking comment from public employees. The reporter was cited for "interference/hampering of city employees." Reporter Hank Sanders was writing about major flood issues. He had reported that consultants had told city officials their stormwater facilities were in poor condition prior to historic rains that brought flooding.

Freedom of Information Act requests were fulfilled, but Sanders tried to contact city departments and city employees for comment and to provide context to the consultants' report.

The Tribune's executive editor, Mitch Pugh, called the action by Calumet officials "outrageous. This represents a continued assault on journalists who, like Hank, are guilty of nothing more than engaging in the practice of journalism. From places like Alabama to Kansas to Illinois, it appears public officials have become emboldened to take actions that our society once viewed as un-American."

There are more instances of reporters being targeted for simply doing their jobs. These are just some of the latest examples of govern-



**Marsha Shuler**

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# Student newspaper wins FOI lawsuit, National Press Law Center accolade



**By Betty Packard**  
**California Press Women**

The national Student Press Law Center has announced that the staff of the Citizen — the student newspaper of the four-college Peralta California district — has won the organizations' first Student Freedom of Information Award for "extraordinary persistence in using public records to investigate their community college district's campus safety program" and other issues. The award comes with a \$2,000 prize.

The Peralta college district oversees four schools: Laney College and Merritt College in Oakland, Berkeley City College and College of Alameda.

Three years ago, the district replaced sheriff's deputies, who oversaw security at the colleges, with four unarmed security patrols and mental health workers, a decision that district spokesperson Mark

Johnson defended at the time as a "solution to campus safety" and responsive to the concerns of students, faculty and the community.



**Betty Packard**

But two companies, Community Ready Corps and Zulu Community Protection, lacked the state-issued licenses required to operate, journalists David Rowe and Pamela Rudd reported at the time.

Perhaps the biggest challenge for the Citizen journalists investigating the contracts was that district officials "frequently delayed or (gave) incomplete responses" to their requests for documents, the Student Press Law Center noted.

The California Public Records Act requires public agencies, including colleges, to produce records in a timely way to anyone who asks.

In January, the newspaper sued the district and won, promising

"more reporting soon on records it obtained."

"As a news publication, we understand that transparency is paramount for a functioning society, and for keeping those in power accountable to the people they represent," former Citizen Editor-in-Chief Shiloh Johnston told the SPLC.

Johnston said receiving the award was "truly gratifying, and I could not be more proud to have been a part of such a great team."

The district spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

*Betty has been an NFPW member since 1967, joining first as a member of Women's Press Club of Indiana. She moved to California in 1979 where she immediately became newsletter editor and then through the chairs to president. Betty now is CPW's executive director and shepherds all FOI and First Amendment issues for CPW, primarily through working with the California First Amendment Coalition and the Student Press Association. Read more about Betty on page 19.*

## Media . . .

*(Continued from page 4)*

ment officials' attempts to stop the media from informing the public about people and events that can impact their daily lives.

As we enter 2024, it is more important than ever we continue to stand strong and remain vocal and vigilant on First Amendment rights. It is no time for complacency.



# A look at widespread censorship: *State-sponsored thought policing*



**Buffy Gilfoil**

**Colorado Press Women**

*To begin with, you cannot have a state-sponsored system targeting 'disinformation' without striking at the essence of the right to free speech.—Matt Taibbi*

When the National Federation of Press Women solicited submissions in November 2023 to an upcoming newsletter, I immediately started thinking about mine. The newsletter's theme would be "First Amendment Under Fire! Attacks on the First Amendment greater than ever." Lately, I've been writing some about the Censorship Industrial Complex and I wanted to make sure others in the organization were aware of this major infringement on free speech.

I thought of how my story would go: It would tell what independent journalists found when Elon Musk granted them access to the Twitter Files. They were shocked to discover a censorship complex that worked something like a money laundering scheme: Government officials would decide what voices and messages should be silenced, and then the Election Integrity Partnership would scour the Internet for objectionable material and encourage or even pressure media companies to flag, suppress, or remove the material.

My submission would tell how



**Buffy Gilfoil**

the story had legs. Two of the Twitter Files journalists appeared before a congressional subcommittee in March, and in June they hosted an event in London that led to the signing of a declaration in the fall by 138 "artists, authors, activists, technologists, and academics." The declaration takes an international view of censorship and states that press freedom is "the vital 'first liberty' from which all other liberties follow."

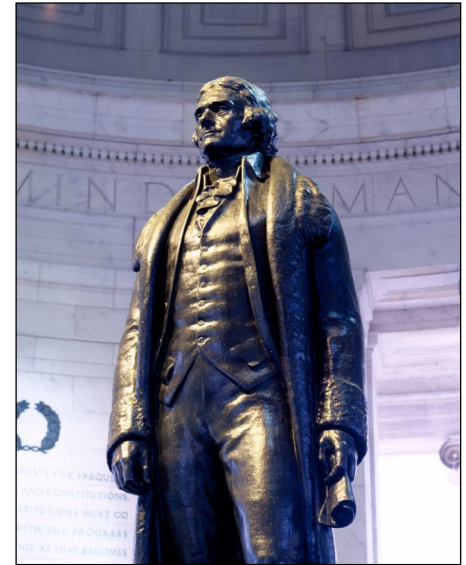
My submission would tell how three of the Twitter Files journalists accepted a \$100,000 prize for Excellence in Investigative Journalism.

My story would mention the 103-page report from the March congressional hearing and it would tell about a lawsuit that's headed for the Supreme Court. The lawsuit charges that the government is guilty of censorship and much of the evidence comes from the Twitter Files.

As I researched my story, something that stood out was the way some journalists partnered with the censors. In his written testimony for the congressional hearing, Matt Taibbi wrote, "Wittingly or not, news media became an arm of a state-sponsored thought policing system."

He continued, "Some will say, 'So what.' Why shouldn't we eliminate disinformation?"

"To begin with, you cannot have a state-sponsored system targeting



**Champion of the First Amendment**  
Thomas Jefferson said, "were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate for a moment to prefer the latter." *NPS Photo*

'disinformation' without striking at the essence of the right to free speech," Taibbi wrote. "The two ideas are in direct conflict."

Those who cherish the First Amendment and those who identify as journalists are overlapping groups, but they're not the same. In some cases, journalists and journalism organizations may need to ask themselves which they prefer: Should journalists parrot the messages of the powerful, telling people what to think and do? Or, should they follow their curiosity, investigate issues, share findings — and analyses — and let people make their own decisions?

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# CPW studies banned books, issues, laws



**By Sharon Almirall**  
**Colorado Press Women**  
**Membership VP**

"So many people are coming in from outside to try banning books," Colorado Sen. Lisa Cutter noted at Colorado Press Women's "Book banning and information suppression: What the media needs to know" event Oct. 7 at the Columbine Library in Littleton.

"My perspective is these people are trying to suppress information," Cutter said at the program, attended in-person and on Zoom in recognition of Banned Books Week.

This year, Cutter began working on a study for a bill on information suppression in Colorado she plans to introduce at the 2024 session.

"Our bill is still in process. It's a long ramp-up until January when the bill can be introduced. We have a huge stakeholder list for this bill including Colorado Press Women," Cutter said.

She named other states includ-

ing California, Illinois and New York that have adopted laws to address book banning.

Cutter cited the American Library Association's website that



**Sharon Almirall**

shows 3,923 bans were requested throughout the United States in the first eight months of 2023. In Colorado, 136 unique book titles were named in requests for consideration to ban.

Alison McCombe, collection services supervisor with the Jefferson County Public Library, said the library supports freedom of information for all.

"The selection of an item in the library's collection doesn't imply that JCPL is an endorsement of the viewpoints expressed in books," she said.

"Materials should not be removed due to partisan or doctrinal disapproval," McCombe added in reference to requests for bans.

McCombe articulated policies from the American Library Association's library Bill of Rights developed

in 1939 and available on ALA's website. The Freedom to Read, written in 1953, is also available on ALA's [website](#).

McCombe said in noting the many diverse communities in Jefferson County, "we serve the entire Jefferson County community and everyone is welcome. People should feel the library represents them."

When Jefferson County librarians are asked by patrons why the library has a specific book in its collection, librarians answer that the selection of an item in a collection doesn't imply endorsement of the viewpoint expressed in the material.

"The decision you make for your own family doesn't mean others need to consume that book. One seeking a ban cannot make blanket statements. You make decisions for yourself, not for other people," McCombe said.

Jefferson County libraries consider requests only for reconsideration of material from people who live in Jefferson County. More information about library's policies can be found at <https://jeffcolibrary.org>.

"A book challenge is a demand to remove a book from a library's collection so that no one else can read it. Overwhelmingly, we're seeing these challenges come from organized censorship groups that target local library board meetings to demand removal of a long list of books they share on social media," said

## A look at . . .

*(Continued from page 6)*

As I continued working on my submission, it became clear I couldn't come close to fitting everything into the 400 to 500 words allowed. But you can read the whole story in my Substack newsletter, [The Curious Watchdog](#).

*A long-time member of Colorado Press Women, Buffy began her career as city-beat reporter for The Durango Herald in Southwest Colorado. Travel and health care are topics she covered as a freelancer, and she was an external affairs reservist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

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# FAN urges members to take part in Sunshine Week

By Marsha Shuler  
FAN Co-Chair

The National Federation of Press Women encourages its affiliates and individual members to participate in Sunshine Week, which is March 10-16 in 2024.

The week-long observance aims at drawing attention to the importance of openness and transparency in the operations of government at all levels. It coincides with National Freedom of Information Day on March 16, the birthday of James Madison, who drafted the First Amendment.

Many libraries, schools, civic groups and media organizations hold special events to help build civic engagement. There are many ways we can participate in Sunshine Week:

- Affiliates can host meetings focusing on access to

public records and the importance of an informed citizenry.

- Individuals can write letters to the editor.
- Communicators can write editorials, stories and columns pointing out the importance of openness to a community and its citizens.

According to a much quoted philosophy, "Information, knowledge, is power. If you can control information, you can control people." There is a great danger in excessive and unnecessary government secrecy.

That's exactly why the free flow of information is so important to our democracy. Information is powerful in the hands of the people as they go about their daily lives and demand accountability from their govern-

ment and government officials.

Let the sun shine in.



**"Ironically, the fierce criticism against the news media is directed at the very core of why the press exists in the first place — to serve as a watchdog on government."**

— Robert D. Richards, professor of First Amendment studies at Penn State University and founding director of the Pennsylvania Center for the First Amendment.

## CPW studies . . .

(Continued from page 7)

Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Their aim is to suppress the voices of those traditionally excluded from our nation's conversations, such as people in the \*LGBTQIA+ community or people of color, Caldwell-Stone explained.

*\*The "+" in the LGBTQIA+ acronym is used to symbolize and explain a number of different gender identities and sexual orientations that are not already present in the lettered acronym.*

Rachel Johnson, attorney with Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (RCFP), presented an overview of the case in Crested Butte (Brookhart v. Reaman) where the editor of the Crested Butte News asked for the name(s) of people who requested books be pulled from the local library. She also addressed information suppression and its effect on the media.

The RCFP provides information and assistance to journalists on First Amendment, Freedom of Information and other legal issues.

Johnson noted that under Color-

ado Library Law (CRS 24-90-119), a public library may not disclose patron records or information about library use unless:

- needed for library operations;
- the user consents;
- required through subpoena or court order;
- a custodial parent/guardian has access to a minor's library card or authorization number.

The three panelists — McCombe, Cutter and Johnson — took questions from audience members.

You can watch the full panel discussion on [You Tube](#).



# Sad day for democracy, First Amendment



**By Meredith Cummings**  
**Pennsylvania Press Women**

When my daughter, Isabel, was 8, she gripped my hand as we walked to the car after school.

"Mommy," she said, "I volunteered you to teach journalism at my school."

Among the things I felt — excitement, opportunity, flattery — was fear.



**Meredith Cummings**

It felt like a heavy request. Across the country K-12 school journalism is important. It is elementary schools where students first form an inkling of the word "media," so often used as a catch-all for everything from a local radio station to a national advertisement for a corporation.

That early request from my daughter led me down an unexpected path. I began to direct the National Elementary Schools Press Association, which has a membership of about 800 schools representing 48 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the American Virgin Islands. (I left a year ago to take another position.)

Elementary schoolers and journalism — not to be confused with media literacy, which is an overused, and often misused, educational buzzword — are woefully understudied while high school and college journalism educators know plenty of stats about those groups.

When my daughter volunteered

me to teach her class, it was 2010 and the media landscape was different than it is today. What is the same is fear. I am a Gen X parent, and we were the first to raise a generation with AI and cell phones in their hands from an early age. We had no play-book or guideposts.

I, too, was a scared parent.

It was not a surprise, then, when more recently I heard from elementary school teachers who wanted to teach journalism in the classroom but were unable to because of fear from parents and administrators that journalism would be "indoctrinating" particular political bias in classrooms. Yet these students are on the front lines of democracy and are not-too-distant future voters.

It is a sad day for our democracy and the First Amendment when teachers, even those of elementary schoolers, must fear teaching students how to be good citizens of the world, how to ask valid questions and seek out answers.

Beyond sad, it is dangerous.

It says a lot about our country, which has traveled from freely teaching these skills since the Greatest Generation to shutting them down.

At my daughter's school, I dove in. I was a reporter and editor for 25 years before transitioning into freelance journalism and academia and, while I knew how to do the job and teach it to college students, I did not know how to teach elementary school students. This led me to seek out resources and learn through students' eyes, eventually teaching not only her class, but

dozens of others. It was immensely rewarding and enlightening.

Teaching journalism to students at a young age — fourth grade is the ideal grade to begin — can help foster a healthy democracy. Elementary schoolers can learn anything about the basics of journalism when taught at an age-appropriate level. When elementary students learn journalism, it reinforces what they already learn.

Every generation learns these things, even as curricula have changed: how to locate and cite primary sources, how to tell fact from fiction, and such basics as how to structure a sentence and paragraph. By doing those things, they learn about democracy and systems at work.

As one of my students told The Tuscaloosa News, "We're in the fourth grade, and we're cooped up in a room all day. We don't get to explore very much so it's been fun going out and learning more about the school."

I was delighted and surprised at what my young students were able to achieve. One boy, 9, wanted to interview an NBA basketball star. He learned and then understood how to go about emailing a star, through a press representative. Though the player declined the interview, I could see the student's pride for trying and receiving an email response.

A girl I taught as a 10-year-old ended up in my college multimedia class ready to tackle beat reporting, but as a child in my class she wanted

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# Sad day . . .

*(Continued from page 9)*

to write about the most popular Halloween costume in school. She learned to conduct a survey and present her results in writing; she was doing data journalism at its most elementary level.

Elementary school journalism also teaches skills beyond writing, taking pictures and video. It fosters a healthy democracy by asking students to care about their communities, whether that is a school, neighborhood or country. It teaches students how to interact with others. It teaches them empathy.

One of the ways I reach young people on their level is to ask them to imagine what their teachers do outside of school. This blows their minds. One of my fourth-grade students decided to interview the principal to see what she was like “as a person,” not a principal. We practiced the questions she might ask together.

She interviewed the principal who later told me that she had never seen that student look someone in the eye, and shake their hand before, much less speak with them in more than one sentence. That student learned to ask questions and seek thoughtful responses. She learned that she had some control over her environment and could seek to understand the people in it. That is democracy in its purest form.

The truth is, if journalism, which is almost never part of the spelled-out curricula at schools, became absent from elementary schools, students would learn many of those skills separately through various subjects. Yet a critical component of democracy and journalism would be missing — fact checking and presenting information by synthesizing it in context.

My daughter — the one who started my love of this peewee journalism crowd — is now 21 and graduated college a year ago, winning awards for

her college journalism. She and I watch as Gen Z and Gen Alpha take journalism tools and AI to a new level. The tools of democracy are expanding through the filter of good, and sometimes bad, journalism.

Elementary school students are in a position of prominence. Don't we, as a nation, want students to have the skills to advance and protect our democracy? If so, we need to support student journalists and support student journalism.

*Meredith is a freelance journalist and teaching assistant professor of journalism at Lehigh University and serves on the Society of Professional Journalists Education Committee.*

*This article is available for republication as part of U.S. Democracy Day, a nationwide collaborative on Sept. 15, the International Day of Democracy, in which news organizations cover how democracy works and the threats it faces. To learn more, visit [usdemocracyday.org](https://usdemocracyday.org).*

*May this New Year bring  
you new dreams, hopes, insights,  
wisdom, and happiness!*

*from the crew at* **AGENDA**

**Happy New Year!**

# Parks' visuals justify First Amendment



**By Wilma Moore-Black**  
**Kansas Professional Communicators**  
**Wichita Professional Communicators**

Messages in Gordon Parks' photographs defend American privileges promoted in the First Amendment.



**Wilma Moore-Black**

He was the first Black photographer hired by Life magazine and became internationally known for using his camera as his choice of weapons against inequality, poverty and racism.

Parks' leadership roles define the integrity and charisma he would bring to the table globally.

He represented and lived the meaning of a Pulitzer Prize award

recipient. Unapologetically, Gordon Parks' photographs showcased his intention to get people to think or listen, react or overreact, be emotional or nonresponsive, to evoke an emotion.

A 20th-century photographer, Parks used his camera lens as a change agent that advocated for the rights of anyone faced with inequality, empowering them to tell their own story. That storytelling was mastered through his eyes with his camera lens.

The Ulrich Museum of Art based at Wichita State University has an outstanding Gordon Parks Collection that is open to the public. The largest collections of his works are at the Gordon Parks Foundation in New York; many original items, including Gordon's piano, are housed at the Gordon Parks Museum/Center for Culture and Diversity in the Ellis Family Fine Art Center at Fort Scott Community College in Fort Scott, Kansas.

Parks gained high standards and solid values from his parents, books and self-appointed mentors. Credit must be given for his ambition, faith, integrity, cultural aspirations and vision for growth. He was born Nov. 30, 1912, in Fort Scott to Sarah (Ross) and Andrew Jackson Parks. At age 93, he died of cancer on March 7, 2006, in his Manhattan, New York, home. A memorial monument honoring Parks stands tall in the now integrated Evergreen Cemetery in Fort Scott.

A first-generation and limited-income individual, Parks' successes have been a motivator to his children, family, colleagues and generations to come. The youngest of 15 children, he left Fort Scott in his teens for better opportunities. Parks was awarded honorary doctoral degrees from 54 colleges and universities. Many of those international awards were still hanging on the bathroom walls in the New York home when he died.

Besides his love for film and photography, Parks found peace in the universal language: music. He was a self-taught pianist and composer. He never gave up and always expected his filmmaking crew or anyone working with him to aim for perfection, measuring up to Gordon Parks' standards.

Each of his photos is worth a thousand words-plus. That's why his legacy lives on to keep hope alive and as a lifetime fight for equality and the First Amendment.

*Wilma is CEO/President, WMB Creative Productions/ Publicist for David Parks, son of Gordon Parks; retired associate director, TRIO Communication Upward Bound, Wichita State University; and retired weekend assignments editor and consumer advocate "Write Wilma," KAKE-TV, ABC affiliate in Wichita; twice past president for Wichita Professional Communicators and WP C 2023-24 scholarship co-chair.*



**Gordon Parks' Visuals Justify First Amendment Rights. Photo courtesy of the Gordon Parks Foundation. Gordon Parks, untitled, New York, 1963, Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University**



# Google's hidden (NFPW) treasures

By Wendy Plotkin

## Arkansas Press Women Historian

Did you know that Google Books has digital copies of NFPW's Press Woman and AGENDA in its collection? Or that, due to the intricacies of U.S. copyright law, you can only view snippets of the hits that are shown when a Google Books search finds matches in these volumes?

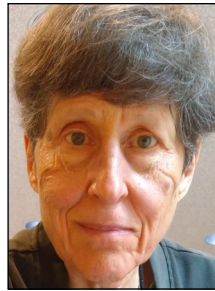
I discovered this when I joined Arkansas Press Women (APW) and became its historian in January 2021. As a late-blossoming historian who learned my craft in the 1990s (at the dawn of the digital revolution), I had a strong commitment to digitizing and preserving APW's organizational documents — both those created on paper in APW's earlier years and those produced in digital form since.

APW was fortunate to have had historically minded officers and historians who had preserved much of our written record.

I began to digitize the papers of our founder, newspaper publisher Roberta W. Fulbright, as she organized our first meeting in June 1949. I also scanned papers produced by the 1949-1959 officers as they wrote and revised the constitution and by-laws, planned board and membership meetings, prepared publicity and outreach, produced minutes and budgets, listed new and existing members, and debated policies.

The 1953 folder included 27 members' mailed-in ballots unanimously supporting APW's affiliating with NFPW and a newsletter announcing that NFPW President Helen Ankeny would attend APW's next winter meeting to present APW with a charter.

As I began to browse the issues of Press Woman stored in APW's files, I saw they offered a rich source of historical information about APW. Regular features in-



Wendy Plotkin

cluded reports on the affiliates' officers, membership, meetings and other activities. Detailed information on affiliates' officers and members was offered periodically, including first names (!), addresses, professional affiliations and membership year.

Longer articles appeared on the more ambitious activities of affiliates and individual affiliate members, with a tendency to include coverage of all of the affiliates over time. Finally, NFPW news and activities were prominently covered, and an affiliate member who served on the NFPW board or participated in these activities would be featured in the reporting.

That Google Books included content from Press Woman and AGENDA became apparent when the two periodicals began to pop up among the hits generated during my Google searches. These searches were related either to filling gaps I discovered in organizing and analyzing the APW scans; in writing occasional historical articles or obituaries for the APW newsletter or website, or in preparing a brief presentation on the history of APW for the Arkansas Historical Association.

My research revealed Google Books includes the full run of Press Woman from 1975-1994 and AGENDA from 1995-2002 among its searchable texts. Unfortunately,

only snippets of text adjacent to the search word are displayed with each hit. This is due to the legal agreement signed between major publishers and Google Books in 2012 after the publishers had sued Google for scanning a large amount of content still

under copyright. For material with current copyrights, Google agreed to limit content from the work to a small amount of text around the search word — or with more recalcitrant publishers, to show no text at all.

What is the impact of this? Changes to copyright law in the '00s lengthened the period of protection for books, magazines and journals published on or after Jan. 1, 1978.

(Continued on page 13)



# Google . . .

*(Continued from page 12)*

The period was now the life of the author plus 75 years. Thus, works published in 1978 could not be made publicly available as digital texts until 2053 at the earliest — and then, only if the author died in that year.

Google Books did offer a procedure for authors and other copyright holders to make their work fully available to the public. I received permission from then NFPW President Gwen Larsen to begin this procedure — only to face a major obstacle common to many organizations.

NFPW did not own the copyright on articles included in its publications — the articles' authors did. Although NFPW could have required authors to transfer copyright to NFPW as a condition of publishing their work, this made no sense at the time. The authors would benefit most from future opportunities to reprint them or reuse them in another medium.

Purposes tied to NFPW's interests, such as encouraging the use of the content to produce histories of NFPW, were far more remote, especially when historical research involved visiting distant archives that possessed copies of the magazines.

Because of this wrinkle, if NFPW wanted to persuade Google Books to make available the full text of the digitized issues of *Press Woman* and *AGENDA*, NFPW would have to obtain the approval of the numerous authors of the magazines' articles — a massive and probably impossible project.

NFPW is in good company facing this dilemma, which centers around what have come to be known as orphan works — copyrighted, out-of-print works containing valuable content, for which the location and status of the copyright holders are unknown.

If they are still alive, are they aware of their possession of the copyright, interested in obtaining commercial benefit by having the work reprinted or willing to allow their work to be made available on Google Books?

If they have died, have the copyrights been included in their estates, entitling their heirs to enforce copyright protection? Are the executor of their estates aware of these provisions?

Scholars and others who sought to make these works

freely available crafted legislation at the time of the Google Books controversy to solve the problem. The legislation would provide a procedure that allowed broad public availability of orphan works while reserving the rights of authors who came across the material to remove them.

Introduced in 2015, the legislation failed to receive Congressional approval. Although Europe appears to have moved ahead on this front, interest in the project in the U.S. has apparently flagged.

Some have solved the orphan works issue by making these works broadly available and assuming that the risk that the author would discover the availability of the material and sue the digital publisher would be low.

I raised the idea with an NFPW member, a lawyer who is professionally involved in copyright issues in the communications field. She advised against NFPW following this course. A better course, she suggested, would be for NFPW to craft a copyright agreement with authors of future contributions to *AGENDA* that would allow NFPW to make the content digitally available for an indefinite period in the future. It would allow others such as libraries, historical societies and similar organizations to broadcast the material indefinitely for suitable purposes — intellectual, educational, social, charitable — even after NFPW no longer exists.

As an historian whose mouth waters at the thought of having the contents of these magazines available as a source for APW's history, I hope that the NFPW board will consider this.

*Wendy joined Arkansas Press Women (APW) and became its historian in January 2021.*

NFPW members who have contributed content to *AGENDA* or who may do so in the future need to weigh in on this issue.

Are you willing to give up copyrights to your works so anyone wishing to access past issues of the newsletter can do so?

Is there a way to copyright *AGENDA* but still allow authors to retain their copyrights for their own purposes?

Consider that at the moment, if you want to know more about NFPW's past, you can't access decades' worth of information with a Google search.

What should we go? Email [Cathy Koon](#) your comments.

# Nominations due 3/18 for NFPW's highest honor

Nominations for the 2024 NFPW Communicator of Achievement are open and due by Monday, March 18.

The award, NFPW's highest honor, is given to a member nominated by his or her state affiliate for achievement in the communications field and service to the affiliate, NFPW and the community.

The nominees will be honored at the annual COA banquet at conference, introduced individually, with the winner and runner-up announced that evening. The 2024 NFPW annual conference is slated for June 20-22 in St. Louis.

Karen Stensrud of North Dakota, herself a past national COA, is again serving as NFPW's COA director.

"We strongly encourage each affiliate to select a COA every year, recognizing individual achievement and sharing those achievements at the national level," Stensrud said. "Judging criteria balance both professional accomplishments and service, so any nominee has an excellent chance of being recognized as NFPW's national COA."



Karen Stensrud

Nominees must be living members in good standing for at least two years in an affiliate and NFPW. To check on a member's status, email [membership@nfpw.org](mailto:membership@nfpw.org). A previous nominee can be named by an affiliate again, as long as he or she has not been honored as the national COA winner.

Nomination packets must be emailed to [Karen Stensrud](#). The entry fee of \$60 covers COA expenses and corsages or boutonnieres for the nominees to wear at the COA awards banquet. The COA director will provide the flowers.

The fee can be paid [electronically](#) or by check made out to NFPW and mailed to: NFPW 140B Purcellville Gateway Dr., Suite 120 Purcellville, VA 20132. Payment of the fee must be made by the March 18 deadline.

Continue to watch email and NFPW publications for information. Nominees will be judged in four areas:

- **Professional achievement** (50%) — All nominees should have high professional qualifications and achievements in their areas of communications (any field that has qualified the nominee for NFPW membership).

- **Community service** (20%) — Each nominee should have made some impact on the world beyond his or her profession — some contribution to humanity. That impact or contribution may be through the profession or beyond it.

- **NFPW service** (15%) — Since this is NFPW's highest award, each nominee should have been active in the national organization. This could include attendance at previous NFPW conferences, volunteering or giving presentations at NFPW conferences or other activities deemed by the judges to have been of service to NFPW.

- **State affiliate service** (15%) — Each nominee should have made a definite and important contribution to his or her affiliate, as the state affiliates are important for carrying out the mission of NFPW.

The complete nomination packet, including rules, judging criteria for submission form can be found [online](#).

## 2024 COA checklist

- Official COA entry form
- Brief summary in resumé-style list form of vital information divided among professional, community and NFPW/affiliate service (one page – 500 words maximum)
  - Narrative about the nominee (up to four pages – 2,400 words maximum)
  - Endorsements of the nominee (up to two pages – 1,200 words maximum)
  - Two samples (or excerpts) of nominee's work (up to two pages – may include copy excerpts, graphic images/ clips or digital links)
  - 150-word biography for AGENDA newsletter (will also be edited to 75 words for the conference program)
  - Color photograph of the nominee in jpg format, at least 300-dpi resolution



# It's contest deadline season

*First deadline is Jan. 17 at noon in your time zone*

**By Helen Plotkin**  
**NFPW Contest Chair**

Your journey toward winning recognition in the 2024 NFPW Professional Communications Contest, starts with a few small steps.

The first is to enter your affiliate contest. If you don't live or work in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, South Carolina or Texas, don't despair.

NFPW's At-Large contest was created for you. Visit the [Find Your State's Affiliate Contest](#), click on your affiliate or the At-Large Contest link for specific details before you start your entries.

You've already completed the most important step toward contest success by producing outstanding work throughout 2023. Now, it's time to review your work and the contest [Categories and Requirements](#) to select the categories that are the best fit for you.

Our broad selection of categories offers opportunities for writers, editors, photographers and graphic designers working at print and online publications, radio and television stations, and in communications and public relations roles in business, government and education. The professional contest also includes categories for college students working in campus media and their advisers.

*(NFPW sponsors a separate competition for high school students. Check out the NFPW High School Communications Contest for details,*



**Helen Plotkin**

and contact [Teri Ehresman](#), 2024 NFPW High School Communications Contest director, with questions.)

You might consider these tips on your journey to contest success:

- Double check the personal and contact information you submit. We use it to contact you if we notice any issues with your entries (for example, a file or link that doesn't open) before judging begins; to print your name on award certificates and in news releases; and, if you win first place at the affiliate level, about your advancement to the national competition.

- Add the contest deadlines to your calendar and start your contest entries as early as you can. Remember that entries are not submitted to the contest until entry fees are paid.

- If you have questions, ask them! Contest directors and the NFPW staff are here to help. We want you to have a good contest experience and look forward to seeing you at award ceremonies across the country and Saturday, June 22, when national awards are presented during the final evening of the 2024 NFPW Conference in St. Louis.

## About those deadlines

All deadlines are noon in your time zone.

Avoid a one-time \$25 processing fee by meeting the first contest deadline at noon on Jan. 17.

Final deadline for book entries is noon on Jan. 31.

Final deadline for all other entries is noon on Feb. 7.

QUESTIONS? Contact your affiliate contest, or [Helen S. Plotkin](#), 2024 NFPW Professional Contest director.

For technical issues with the contest system, the email address is [contest@NFPW.org](mailto:contest@NFPW.org).



Last seen at Authors Alley...*The Hoarder's Wife*,  
By Deborah S. Greenhut

## SECOND PLACE

NFPW

2023 NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRESS WOMEN'S  
AT-LARGE COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST

*Deborah Greenhut*

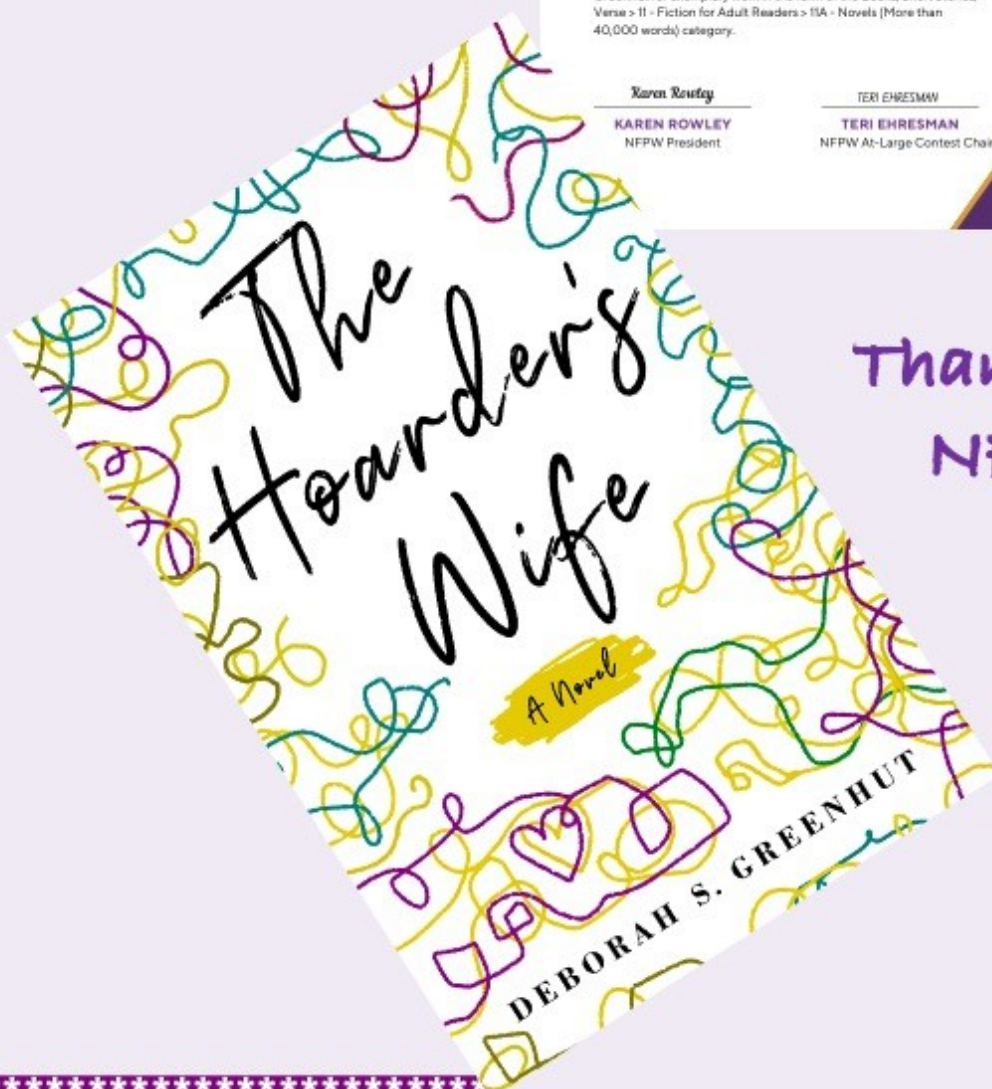
The National Federation of Press Women recognizes Deborah Greenhut for exemplary work in the form of the Books, Short Stories, Verse > 11 - Fiction for Adult Readers > 11A - Novels (More than 40,000 words) category.

*Karen Rowley*

KAREN ROWLEY  
NFPW President

*Teri Ehresman*

TERI EHRESMAN  
NFPW At-Large Contest Chair



Thank you,  
NFPW!

\*\*\*\*\*  
Available on Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Woodhall Press  
\*\*\*\*\*



# *Experience history through food at annual conference in St. Louis*

**By Deborah Reinhardt**  
**Missouri Press Women**

Food is a window into a city's culture, so organizers of Gateway to Success, the 2024 National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) Communications Conference, are working to provide a wide view of St. Louis' culinary story. From beer to gooey butter cake, coffee to "concretes," attendees will take a big bite out of the Gateway City.

Abundant tables have been a part of St. Louis since its 18th-century founding. Over the years, St. Louis became a brewing center and cultivated a reputation as a beer town. Prior to Prohibition, the city boasted three dozen breweries.

More than 100 wineries were scattered across the state. While brewers and wine makers were shut down, coffee roasters did a booming business. By the 1920s, St. Louis had developed into the largest inland coffee distributor in the country.

Today, St. Louis visitors have a global menu to experience, thanks to immigrants who made the city their home. The oldest ethnic neighborhood, known as "The Hill," was settled in the 1800s by Italian immigrants. Here, one of the city's iconic dishes—toasted ravioli—is said to have been invented by accident.

German immigrants influenced the city's brewing and coffee culture, and it was an employee at a German

bakery who, in the 1930s, turned a yellow cake catastrophe into a delicacy we call gooey butter cake.

Some St. Louis food is appreciated for the most part by locals. Non-native St. Louisans often struggle to accept our St. Louis-style pizza," which features a cracker-thin crust and is topped with polarizing Provel cheese. And a St. Paul sandwich — an egg foo young patty on white bread with mayonnaise, iceberg lettuce and tomato — may hit the spot after a night on the town, but it's not for everyone.

The Gateway to Success opening reception June 20, will feature many of St. Louis's best bites. Enjoy a selection of Missouri-made wines provided by our sponsor, the Missouri Wine and Grape Board.

Local brewer Urban Chestnut will provide beer samples. Appetizers will include toasted ravioli, barbecue ribs, salad and Ted Drewes "concretes," frozen custard

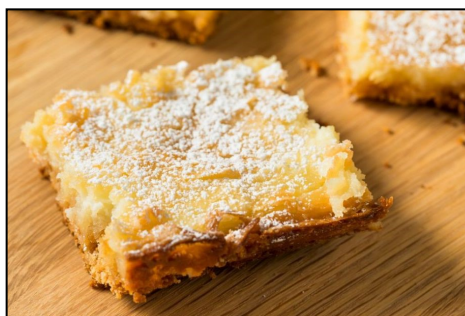
thick enough to hold upside down. Ted Drewes has been a Route 66 institution for generations.

Round-trip transportation to the reception at the St. Louis Artists' Guild will be available for a nominal cost..

Make plans to attend our Gateway to Success conference and see for yourself why Food & Wine in 2022 named St. Louis one of the next great food cities.



**Toasted Ravioli**



**Gooey Butter Cake**



**Missouri Wine and Grape Board**



# Plan now for Conference 2024 in St. Louis

## Missouri to host

The Lou. Gateway to the West. Mound City. Pain Court. St. Louis's nicknames are snapshots of its long history, and Missouri Professional Communicators (MPC) invite you experience all the city has to offer at the 2024 National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) Communications Conference, June 20–22.

MPC's conference planning committee is working on an unforgettable experience in St. Louis for you.

Registration is now [open](#).

Our conference hotel will be the venerable Hilton St. Louis Frontenac.

With the Hilton as our home base, we'll explore the St. Louis metropolitan area and taste some of our regional cuisine. Check out that story on page 17.

Pre- and post-conference tours for "Gateway to Success" (theme for the 2024 NFPW annual conference), will showcase the best of the St. Louis metropolitan area.

The St. Louis History tour will be June 18 and include visits to the Mississippi riverfront and Gateway Arch, the St. Louis Baseball Hall of Fame, historic Lafayette Square neighborhood and the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.

St. Louis Culture on June 19 will take tour participants to beautiful Forest Park to experience the St. Louis Zoo and Missouri History Museum, as well as the Missouri Botanical Garden in south St. Louis.

The post-conference tour on June 23 will head to historic St. Charles and nearby Missouri Wine Country where participants will sample award-winning wines.

These full-day tours include motorcoach transportation, attraction admissions, lunch and gratuities. Each tour's inclusive price is \$120 per person.

Registration is now [open](#)!

## Rebirth of local journalism: Paying for itself

Excerpted from the New York Times

By David Leonhardt and Lyna Bentaha

Dec. 22, 2023

Many of this country's biggest problems are devilishly hard to solve. The decline of local news may be different.

That decline is certainly a problem. Hundreds of newspapers have closed in recent years, leaving many communities without any source of local news. Academic research has found that voter turnout tends to fall, and corruption and political polarization tend to rise, when people have no way to follow local events.

But replacing yesterday's newspapers with 21st century digital news publications may be more feasible than it once seemed. That's the argument that Steven Waldman — a longtime journalist who now runs Rebuild Local News, an advocacy group — made in a recent essay in The Atlantic.

"Unlike other seemingly intractable problems, the demise of local news wouldn't cost very much money to reverse," Waldman wrote.

Most journalists don't make a lot of money, he noted. Most communities don't need hundreds of journalists to

cover them. And local journalism often more than pays for itself in tax dollars saved. Waldman pointed to examples of costly corruption in California and Utah that exposés helped halt.

That said, there is still the question of where the money for local journalism will come from. We hope you'll consider supporting a local news organization in your community through a subscription or donation. Find one whose work you admire, and then help them do their work strengthening your community. A growing number of these publications are thriving.

"It took a generation for the American news industry to unravel, and it will take a generation to fully rebuild it," Sarabeth Berman, CEO of the American Journalism Project, which funds nonprofit newsrooms, said in a recent speech. "But real progress is underway."

### AGENDA Deadline

Submit stories and/or photos by:

**March 10, 2024**

(For publication April 2024)

Send submissions to [cathykoon1952@gmail.com](mailto:cathykoon1952@gmail.com)

# NFPW's Betty Packard — a force of nature

Compiled by AGENDA Editor Cathy Koon

Betty Packard is a familiar sight at NFPW conferences and often seems to be everywhere at once — greeting members at the registration table, ushering guests into meals and workshops, ramrodding the Silent Auction, and accepting praise and awards with aplomb — always with that Betty smile on her face.

Betty has been an NFPW member since 1967. Joining first as a member of Women's Press Club of Indiana, where she served on the national NFPW board as co-chair, Status of Women; national communications director (eight years); national management development director and several affiliate capacities, including convention bus mother.

She and her husband moved to California in 1979. Upon joining the California affiliate, she immediately became newsletter editor and advanced through the chairs to president. Betty now is CPW's executive director.

In 1983 she volunteered to initiate a state high school journalism contest and has never looked back. She started with five schools and now has about 40. She also runs the professional contest, which has a much smaller number of entries than the 350-600 annual high school entries.

Since the membership is small and spread throughout the state, CPW does not hold meetings. However, most members are involved in judging for one or both contests; it's a positive way to stay connected.

Betty also shepherds all Freedom of Information and First Amendment issues for CPW, primarily through working with the California First Amendment Coalition and the Student Press Association.

The SF Press Club board on which Betty served was an active sponsor of the high school contest. When they decided to disband in 1997, they donated their entire bank account of \$17,000+ to the NFPW Education Fund

with a stipulation that an environment category be added.

Soon after, a position opened on the NFPW Education Fund Board, and Betty was asked to join. It didn't take her long to get involved with the Silent Auction at conference. It was an opportunity to meet new members and work closely with old. She says it is what brings her back to conference every year (except for a few medical



**The SF Ballot Simplification Committee celebrated its final session at City Hall with the news that the March 5, 2024, Voter Handbook and ballot are finished. NFPW member Betty Packard is second from left. Photo courtesy of Betty Packard.**

emergencies). She treasures her longtime NFPW friends. In 2006 she was honored as NFPW's Communicator of Achievement.

Betty continues to live a full life outside of NFPW/CPW. She is a volunteer for the San Francisco Symphony, served for 10 years on the Conservatory of Flowers Council until it recently merged with the SF Botanical Garden, just completed a three-year tenure as president of the SF Garden Club and for 28 years has served on the SF Ballot Simplification Committee.

Since 2004 she has chaired the BSC, which writes the Voter Information Booklet and ballot for the City/County of San Francisco. The BSC is the only one of its kind in the U.S., its mandate to represent the voter. After public hearings it distills each measure presented for the ballot in unbiased and eighth-grade language.

Betty is the mother of two, grandmother of six and great-grandmother of six. Her husband, Stephen Voris, is a retired career U.S. Army officer and business management executive.

### Alabama Media Professionals

Sandra Bearden, 88, died Sept. 25, 2023, after a short illness.

Bearden earned bachelor's and master's degrees with honors from the University of Alabama. Bearden enjoyed a varied communications career, working in Memphis for the Cotton Council, reporting for the Birmingham Post-Herald, working for the federal government, teaching at Samford University, and working for BellSouth.

After she retired, she discovered Alabama Media Professionals/ NFPW. AMP member tips led to assignments at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Business Alabama, Birmingham Magazine and other clients. Competing in the annual communications contest for several years helped hone her writing skills, she had said.



### Nebraska Press Women

Ruth Hermance, 95, died Oct. 14, 2023, at her home in Portland, Oregon. She was a life member of Nebraska Press Women and the National Federation of Press Women. She formerly lived and worked in Ogallala, Nebraska.

Hermance had been an administrative assistant and para educator at Ogallala High School where husband Cliff taught and coached. She later joined the Keith County News staff in Ogallala. She wrote the award-winning "Reflections by Ruth" column and took photos.

Hermance loved her newspaper work and advocated for women's rights in the workforce at a time when the women's rights movement was in its infancy.



### New Mexico Press Women

Colleen Keane, 74, died Oct. 26, 2023.

Based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Keane spent most of her career working with the Native communities in the southwestern United States, as a radio and television producer, grant writer, social worker, teacher and journalist.

Throughout the 1970s, Keane directed educational programs to implement the Indian Child Welfare



Act to reunite Native American children with their families and tribes and taught broadcast journalism at the Alamo Navajo and Rock Point community schools in Arizona and New Mexico.

She wrote, produced and directed the award-winning film "The River That Harms," an investigative study of the largest radioactive wastewater spill in U.S. history that took place on Navajo land.

In the decade before her death, she was a journalist for the Navajo Times. She is the author of "Crashing an American Wake" (2021).

### Virginia Profession Communicators

Alberta Lindsey, 82, of Richmond, a longtime member of Virginia Professional Communicators, died Dec. 8, 2023.

She worked for more than 40 years as a reporter for the Richmond Times-Dispatch and The Richmond News Leader, covering religion as well as health and social services. As her obituary noted, "She overcame adversity from the moment of her birth on Sept. 9, 1941, when her parents were told she might never walk because of a stunted leg. She grew up to walk all over the world, from the Great Wall of China to the dusty paths of South Sudan."

She was a frequent attendee of NFPW conferences and won numerous awards during her career.



### *Submitting obituaries*

*Please remember to notify NFPW Historian [Amy Geiszler-Jones](#) of the deaths of affiliate/ NFPW members so NFPW may recognize those individuals in AGENDA, E-Letter and the annual memorial service during conference.*

*Death notices are published in the E-Letter and obituaries in AGENDA.*



## *Just a thought . . .*



By Cathy Koon

Media Network Idaho, AGENDA Editor

Anybody watch "Homeland," the CIA spy thriller starring Claire Danes and Mandy Patinkin?

Seasons 6 and 7, in particular, are a case study in the First Amendment. How politicians give it lip service, ignoring it when it suits them. Anti-government zealots twist it to suit themselves. And how misinformation, outright lies, can incite hatred and violence.

For me, the show points out the importance and the urgency of defending the First Amendment, even in those instances when we may not agree.

Case in point for me, flag-burning. It's protected under the First Amendment. And so, it seems, is taking a knee. Both are abhorrent to me, but as my dad and I came to agree, we would fight to defend the right of those who use those actions in protest. Dad was a veteran of WWII and Korea, and did exactly that.

Now we have a former president calling for an end to the Constitution.

" . . . Donald Trump called for the termination of the Constitution to overturn the 2020 election and reinstate him to power in a continuation of his election denialism and pushing of fringe conspiracy theories," a CNN report says.

He doesn't want to do away with the First Amendment; he wants the entire Constitution "terminated."

As the content of this issue has aptly said, these are tough times, sad times and even dangerous times for the First Amendment and freedom of the press. It is a difficult time to be a journalist

Meredith Cummings talks about teaching journalism to elementary students (pages 12-13) who "can learn anything about the basics of journalism when taught at an age-appropriate level." And what they learn early, they carry throughout their lives.

I hope you take the time to read every article in this issue. I typically forget to publicly thank everyone for sending their contributions to AGENDA. But not this time. I was humbled by the response to my call for content and by the quality of the submissions.

Former NFPW President Marsha Shuler and longtime Texas member Angela Smith are the co-directors of NFPW's First Amendment Network. They are on the alert year-round for FAN news to keep us abreast of the latest happenings.

Angela calls for all members to join FAN. You automatically become a member when you pay your dues, but you can also make sure you are on the FAN email list so you are notified whenever an issue arises. Email [NFPW](#) with your correct email address.

I feel like a broken record as I once again urge all of you to remain vigilant and to do whatever you can in your communities to stand up for the First Amendment.

# NFPW Leadership Directory

## 2024 ELECTED OFFICERS

### President:

Julie Campbell, Virginia

### Vice President:

Debbie Miller, Arkansas

### Secretary:

Kristin Netterstrom Higgins, Arkansas

### Treasurer:

Karen Stensrud, North Dakota

### Immediate Past President:

Karen Rowley, Louisiana

## APPOINTED BOARD

### Archivist:

TBD

### Communicator of Achievement Director:

Karen Stensrud, North Dakota

### FAN Co-Directors:

Marsha Shuler, Louisiana

Angela Smith, Texas

### Historian:

Amy Geiszler-Jones, Kansas

### Assistant Historian:

Mary Pat Finn-Hoag, Nebraska

### Hospitality and Protocol:

Catherine Petrini, Virginia & D.C.

### Parliamentarian:

Allison Stein, Missouri

### POPPS President:

Ann Lockhart, Colorado

### Professional Contest Director:

Helen Plotkin, Arkansas

### High School Contest Director:

Teri Ehresman, Idaho

### Presidential Advisers:

Marsha Hoffman, Iowa

Meg Hunt, South Carolina

Gwen Larson, Kansas

Cynthia Price, Virginia

### Publications Director:

Cathy Koon, Idaho

### Publications Assistant:

Jane Newton Falany, Alabama

### Web Director:

Cate Langley, NFPW Executive Director

### 2024 Conference Committee:

Missouri Press Woman

## Ad Rates for AGENDA

- Full / Page  $8.250 \times 10.625 = \$50$
- Half / Page  $8.250 \times 5.175 = \$30$
- Half / Page  $4.063 \times 10.637 = \$30$
- Quarter / Page  $8.250 \times 2.476 = \$15$
- Quarter / Page  $4.064 \times 5.2 = \$15$
- 1/8 / Page  $1.875 \times 10.563 = \$10$
- 1/8 / Page  $4.075 \times 2.476 = \$10$

Discounts are available for multiple runs of the same ad.

## NFPW Headquarters

Cate Langley, Executive Director

140B Purcellville Gateway Drive

Suite 120

Purcellville, VA 20132

Phone: 571-295-5900

[info@nfpw.org](mailto:info@nfpw.org)

## Ad Specifications

- Ads must be submitted in JPEG format, camera ready.
- Design and content of ads are the responsibility of the advertiser. The AGENDA editorial staff has the final say on whether ad content is appropriate.
- Payment must be made at time of submission.
- Payment by check should be sent to NFPW Headquarters, 140B Purcellville Gateway Drive, Suite 120, Purcellville, VA 20132.
- Payment can be made by credit card over the phone (571) 295-5900.