

NFPW

E-Letter

May 2023

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President's Message

Two years ago, I had the honor of being elected president of NFPW and installed along with the other officers via Zoom during the virtual Little Rock, Arkansas, conference. Things have changed considerably since then.

Last year, we were able to return to an in-person meeting with the NFPW conference in Fargo, North Dakota, and in just about three weeks, we'll convene for our 2023 conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

It's hard to find the words to describe how much of an impact these past two years have had on me. I've been fortunate to work with board members who shared my belief that NFPW is still a relevant organization in our rapidly evolving communications world but who also knew we needed to make some changes to stay relevant.

I've been encouraged by NFPW's affiliates and how they've adjusted to our now hybrid world with meetings that featured intriguing speakers and options for in-person and Zoom attendance.

I've been inspired by the quality of work our members continue to produce, as evidenced by the terrific entries in NFPW's Communications Contest last year and this year.

When I was first elected, I said I wanted NFPW to focus on four areas.

The first was our advocacy for a free press and the First Amendment. The



President's Message

second was NFPW's place in the ever-changing communications field. The third was encouraging young people to pursue mass communications as a career and younger professionals to stay in the field. And the fourth was celebrating NFPW's 85th anniversary in 2022.

On balance, we made progress.

We celebrated NFPW's 85 years and paid tribute to 70-year member Joan Bey of Woman's Press Club of Indiana at the 2022 conference in Fargo.

We made FAN news a consistent part of the E-Letter to help keep members up to date with challenges to the First Amendment and freedom of the press.

We continued to hold our well-regarded High School Communications Contest and recognize the important work young journalists are doing.

Most importantly, we developed a framework to help guide NFPW over the next five years. I wrote about the strategic plan in the most recent Agenda, and we'll talk about it some more at the conference, but I want to reiterate that the only way the plan will be successful is if YOU get involved. I urge you to consider how you might do that.

I'm so grateful to have had the privilege of serving as NFPW's 45th president.

Thank you to Julie Campbell, Meredith Cummings and Debbie Miller for taking this journey with me. Thank you to Gwen Larson, Teri Ehresman, Meg Hunt and Cynthia Price for their support and guidance. And thank you to Cate Langley and her team at ALP for helping us keep things running as smoothly as possible.

Now, it's time to pass the torch as we elect new officers to lead NFPW. I look forward to where NFPW goes next and to being a part of it.

Karen Rowley,
NFPW President

Affiliate News

Alaska Professional Communicators

Jessica Cherry, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's climate services director for Alaska, will be the speaker at APC's lunch meeting Thursday, May 4. The topic of her presentation will be "Polar Exploration Is for Everyone." The meeting, which will be at the Inlet Tower Hotel & Suites in Anchorage, starts at 11:30 a.m. Cost to attend is \$28 for members; \$32 for non-members. Deadline for reservations is noon Tuesday, May 2. A Zoom option is available for those who wish to attend virtually. Cost is \$5 for members; \$8 for non-members. To make reservations, go to https://akprocom.org/lunch_payment.html.

Arkansas Press Women

APW selected Mia Waddell, a senior at the University of Central Arkansas, as the recipient of its 2023 scholarship. Waddell received \$1,000 and a membership in the 74-year-old organization during APW's awards ceremony earlier this month. The scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding undergraduate college student in Arkansas who is planning a career in mass communication or journalism. In addition, APW named Mary Hightower as its Communicator of Achievement.

Connecticut Press Club

The Connecticut Press Club recognized the winners of its 2022 Professional and High School Communications Contest at an awards ceremony and cocktail party last month.

Illinois Woman's Press Association

IWPA members honored their 2023 Professional and High School Communications Contest winners, as well as their Communicator of Achievement and Silver Feather recipients, at the Mate E. Palmer Awards Luncheon earlier this month. IWPA member Marlene Cook was named the 2023 Communicator of Achievement.

Woman's Press Club of Indiana

WPCI held its annual communications awards banquet earlier this month to recognize the winners of its Communications Contest.

Nebraska Press Women

Two trailblazing journalists, one in broadcast journalism and the other in journalism education, were inducted into the Marian Andersen Women Journalists Hall of Fame last month during NPW's spring conference awards banquet. Linda Beermann, long-time reporter, photographer, news assignment editor and weather newscaster for KOLN/KGIN-TV, was a posthumous induction. Mary Hepburn of North Platte was recognized for her work as a reporter/writer for numerous U.S. and Canadian newspapers, publications and government agencies, as well as her years as a journalism educator. NPW also named Barb Batie as its 2022 Communicator of Achievement.

Virginia Professional Communicators

More than 40 VPC members and non-members met in Fredericksburg for VPC's spring conference, which lived up to its theme of "pushing boundaries." Speakers included Dr. Gaila Sims, curator of African American History and Special Projects at the Fredericksburg Area Museum; Dr. Anand Rao, chair of the communications and digital studies department at the University of Mary Washington; and VPC's 2023 Newsmaker, Kristen Green. The day ended with VPC's annual awards ceremony, during which Kimberly Loehr accepted the Communicator of the Year award.

Wichita Professional Communicators

Denise Sherman, executive director of The Kansas African American Museum, will be the speaker at WPC's lunch meeting Wednesday, June 7. Sherman will present "The Kansas African American Museum: Forward to the Future." The meeting, which starts at 11:30 a.m., will be at Larkspur Bistro & Bar in Wichita. For more information and to register, go to <https://www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com/events/>.

Candidates Declare for NFPW

The Elections Committee has been working diligently to develop a strong slate of candidates for the 2023 election. We are pleased to present the following list of members who answered the call to serve as NFPW leaders during 2023-2025:

- President: Julie Campbell (Virginia)
- Vice President: Wilma Moore-Black (Kansas)
- Secretary: Debbie Miller (Arkansas)
- Treasurer: Karen Stensrud (North Dakota)

These candidates will be introduced during the membership meeting on Thursday, June 22, at the 2023 national conference in Cincinnati. As a reminder, per NFPW Bylaws, nominations also can be made from the floor during the membership meeting when the slate of officers is presented. Those nominated candidates must be NFPW members in good standing and give written consent to stand for election.

The new officers will be installed by NFPW President Karen Rowley on Saturday, June 24, during the Communications Contest Awards Banquet.

[You can read more about each of these candidates in the latest issue of AGENDA](#)

2023 NFPW Conference



The 2023 NFPW Conference will be held June 22-24, 2023 in Cincinnati, Ohio!

LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR TOURS!

- Tours: Day Tours will be scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday before the conference and Sunday after the conference- [Register for Tours](#)
- Program: [View the Preliminary Program](#)
- Membership Meeting: Thursday, June 22, 2023. For quorum, at least 10 affiliates must be represented. Each Affiliate is entitled to 1 Delegate per 10 Members (professional or retired).

Registration is Still Open!

[2023 Conference Information](#)

Send Your Information

We can't communicate what we don't know! Please send news about your affiliates and members for inclusion in the monthly E-Letters and in Agenda, which is published quarterly. Send items to president@nfpw.org. **The deadline for each E-Letter is the 15th of the month preceding.**

We Remember

Affiliates, please remember to notify NFPW historian Amy Geiszler-Jones, algj64@sbcglobal.net, of the deaths of affiliate/NFPW members so that NFPW may recognize those individuals in the organization's E-Letter, Agenda and annual memorial service. Deaths will be reported in the E-Letter and an extended obituary will appear in Agenda.

Calendar

Upcoming Events

- June 22-24, 2023 - NFPW Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio
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NFPW 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.

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*"We draw strength, enrichment
and friendship from one
another."*

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