

NFPW

E-Letter

July 2024

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President's Message

When my Twitter feed revealed the news that the Marion County (Kansas) Record had won the 2024 Don Bolles Medal from the Investigative Reporters & Editors (IRE), I took notice for two reasons. The first is that in August 2023, NFPW issued a statement of support for that newspaper after local police raided its offices. The second is that back in 1976, I was a college student at Arizona State University when the award's namesake, Don Bolles—an investigative reporter for the Arizona Republic—died after his car was blown up that year, in an attempt to silence his reporting.

It didn't work. [As the IRE's press release says](#):

"Bolles' death came a few days before the first national IRE Conference in Indianapolis, where the veteran reporter had been scheduled to speak on a panel. At the time, Bolles had been investigating allegations of land fraud involving prominent politicians and individuals with ties to organized crime.

"After his murder, nearly 40 journalists from across the country descended on Arizona to complete his investigation. News organizations across the country published their findings.

"Their message: Even if you kill a reporter, you can't kill the story." Rather than studying journalism, I was a history major. Nevertheless, I followed news of the stunning tragedy and its aftermath for the rest of my years in Arizona, and beyond.



President's Message

Congratulations to Eric Meyer, editor and publisher of the Marion County

Record, on the well-deserved Bolles Medal. And kudos to Wichita Professional Communicators, who'll be hearing from Meyer in person on July 10 (see below). I know they'll have a rich conversation, and I wish I could be there to shake his hand.
Julie Campbell
President, NFPW

First Amendment News

Access to public records continues to be under attack. The latest action occurred in New Jersey, where a new law, among other things, authorizes agencies to sue requesters they accuse of interrupting "government function." Other provisions would end the requirement for towns to pay attorney fees in court cases they lose over records requests, make it prohibitively expensive for the public and news reporters to challenge local and state governments in court, and allow officials to charge commercial interests as much as twice the cost of producing records.

In Louisiana, while a major public records assault was unsuccessful, there were still some very concerning changes. Governors can now hide their schedules and security details. Open-government advocates fear it can be used to hide who governors meet with and where they travel. In addition, a last-minute amendment approved with little debate allows the governor's office not to respond to public-records requests from national media organizations and others outside of Louisiana.

Marsha Shuler
FAN Co-Director

Affiliate News

For more information on these events and programs, please see the individual affiliate's website.

Alaska Professional Communicators

They have given their 2024 Memorial Scholarship to Martin A. Bargo, an Argentinian journalist and student majoring in creative and professional writing at Alaska Pacific University, and Jasz Garrett, who works at the college news outlet Whalesong and Juneau Media Center while attending the University of Alaska Southeast.

Arizona Professional Writers

The APW of Rim Country is sponsoring the Payson Book Festival on July 13. The event always draws big crowds of authors and readers.

Arkansas Press Women

"In a tribute to a lifetime of journalistic excellence, Arkansas Press Women is shining a spotlight on its longest current member, Eva Marie Pearson, as she reflects on her 35-year career in the ever-evolving landscape of journalism." So reads APW's story about one of their best. Pearson joined APW and NFPW in 1976, was the NFPW Communicator of Achievement in 2000, and has served on the NFPW board as historian, COA director and social director. [Read this much-deserved tribute here.](#)

Colorado Press Women

As Karen Petersen and Gay Porter De Nileon announced in St. Louis, CPW is

hosting the next NFPW conference, in Golden, Colorado, Sept. 11-13, 2025. Long before that, though, on August 24, they'll hear about the lost lodges inside Rocky Mountain National Park and explore Estes Park Museum's holdings and its many services available to journalists and history lovers.

Illinois Woman's Press Association

On September 7 and 8, join IWPA Under the Tent at Printer's Row Lit Fest 2024, where they will be sponsoring a table. It's a highlight of their year.

Virginia Professional Communicators

The Virginia Press Women Foundation (VPW being the former name of VPC) named Lily Reslink, a media and communication major at Virginia Wesleyan University, as the 2024 winner of the Agnes Cooke Scholarship. She also received a student membership in VPC.

Wichita (Kansas) Professional Communicators

On July 10, they will hear from none other than Eric Meyer, editor and publisher of the Marion County Record, who will discuss the international attention that was focused on his newspaper after its offices were illegally raided by the police last summer. His presentation is titled "Seized but not silenced."

Congratulations to Angie Prather. On July 11, she will be inducted by the Wichita Business Journal into the inaugural class of the journal's Marketing Hall of Fame. Angie is the chief community engagement officer and vice president of marketing of the United Way of the Plains. "This prestigious award recognizes Angie's remarkable achievements spanning decades in creating compelling marketing campaigns across major industries in our community," says the United Way. "But Angie is not only a marketing genius. More importantly, she's a champion for others. She serves on numerous boards, volunteers to encourage children as they learn to read, and mentors other marketing professionals. Our community is undeniably better because of her."

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 **current** 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

- September 11-13, 2025 - NFPW Conference, Golden, Colorado

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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