

AGENDA



Quarterly Newsletter

National Federation of Press Women

Communicator of Achievement

NFPW will honor its best



Michael Clay Carey



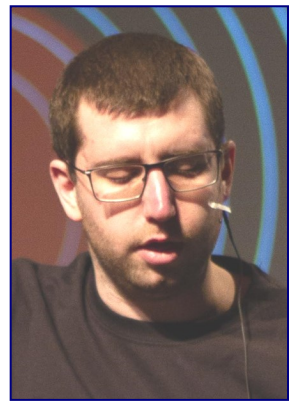
Sharon Almirall



Gwen A. White



Heather Syverson



Joshua Friedberg

Annual award to be presented at St. Louis conference

By Karen Stensrud
NFPW COA Director

Congratulations to the five accomplished NFPW professionals who have been named their state affiliates' Communicators of Achievement for 2024.

We hope you'll join us at the NFPW conference in St. Louis in June, when we will name NFPW's national COA and honor all of the nominees.

The five nominees are:

- * Michael Clay Carey of Alabama Media Professionals
- * Sharon Almirall of Colorado Press Women
- * Joshua Friedberg, Illinois Woman's Press Association
- * Gwen White of North Carolina Press Club
- * Heather Syverson of North Dakota Professional Communicators.

Read on to learn more about each of these inspiring leaders in communications.

Michael Clay Carey
Alabama Media Professionals

Dr. Michael Clay Carey teaches courses in print and online journalism at Samford University, including introductory and advanced writing classes, visual storytelling and the practicum classes that produce *The Local*, an award-winning magazine written and designed by SU journalism students.

Carey is a member of Alabama Media Professionals, having served as professional communications contest director and vice president of programs.

He is the author of the award-winning book "The News Untold: Community Journalism and the Failure to Confront Poverty in Appalachia." Additionally, he has written more than a dozen academic journal articles, book chapters and white papers.

(Continued on page 3)



President's Message: A toast to New Mexico Press Women

By Julie Campbell
NFPW President

As I left New Mexico Press Women's awards banquet and said goodbye to the keynote speaker —“Game of

Thrones” creator George R. R. Martin—

three thoughts popped into my mind.

One, what an enjoyable event, packed with informative viewpoints and good people.

Two, the conference embodied the best attributes of all NFPW affiliates.

And three, did the National Guard members sharing the hallway of the event space with NMPW know who was strolling in their midst?

The conference, held March 15-16 near Albuquerque, was titled “Profiling Courageous Communicators: Celebrating 75 Years of New Mexico Press Women.” (See a recap p. 12 of this issue.)

I attended for two reasons. While I live in Virginia and have belonged to Virginia Professional Communicators for more than 25 years, I also hold a membership in NMPW, as I grew up in Santa Fe, and visit my family there often. While I'm not always able to participate in person, I enjoy keeping up with the New Mexico members and events through their newsletter and website.

This March, a visit to my mother coincided with a kind invitation from NMPW's Sherri Burr to only attend the conference and to offer a toast at their 75th anniversary reception. It was a pleasure to accept — and to raise a celebratory flute of champagne.

NMPW shares laudable traits that we've all seen demonstrated by our affiliates and at many a national conference. Here's one example of many: When a speaker

was unable to make it because of travel complications, the moderator of that session, Regina Griego, easily stepped in. She informed us about the absent speaker's illustrious career and then offered a deep dive into the family tragedy that informed Regina's own book, “Sins of the System,” which won first place in the 2023 national contest.

The respect and affection the NMPW members have for each other came across loud and clear. During the award presentations, the applause resounded for every winner in every category. I especially felt the warmth when a handful of 40-plus-year members reminisced about the monthly meetings they used to hold, happily juggling their work and families to keep NMPW thriving.

I also witnessed support and encouragement for younger communicators. For instance, their scholarship chair, Brandon Larrañaga, received one of NMPW's scholarships and is now studying agricultural communications in graduate school.

And of course, the affiliate's devotion to the First Amendment is clear, which brings me to George R. R. Martin. NMPW gave him the Courageous Communicator Strong Award for his unflinching devotion to free speech. Martin is famous for writing the book series “Song of Ice and Fire,” which became the HBO series “Game of Thrones.” The possessor of a B.S. and M.S. in journalism, he has lived in Santa Fe for 45 years. He delivered a funny, rousing and provocative talk that won a standing ovation.

Afterward, I doubt that any of the National Guard folks, who were wrapping up their own conference next door, recognized Martin as he departed. If only they'd known of the equally impressive caliber of the attendees at the NMPW conference.

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***

COA nominees . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Prior to his academic career, Carey spent 10 years working as a reporter and editor at several newspapers in Tennessee, covering a wide variety of topics. He wrote for The Tennessean in Nashville, covered the state as a news correspondent for USA Today and won 13 journalism awards during his career.

Sharon Almirall

Colorado Press Women

From being publisher and co-founder of a community newspaper in Colorado to serving as publisher of a Murphy McGinnis Media newspaper in Minnesota, Almirall had a five-decade career in journalism and communications, marked by courage, perseverance and community service.

In addition to her work as a publisher, Almirall has been a reporter and editor for newspapers and magazines, and served as a newspaper marketing executive. She has also been the director of communications for a large cathedral, an advertising sales associate, a freelance writer and the owner of a desktop publishing company.

As a graduate student in communications at the University of Colorado, Almirall was invited to participate in a Poynter Institute seminar with journalists from around the country. She served as president of Colorado Press Women in the 1980s and is currently vice president of membership.

“Sharon’s journalistic knowledge is boundless,” says Judy Taylor, a former magazine publisher who partnered with Almirall.

Joshua Friedberg

Illinois Woman’s Press Association

Josh Friedberg is an author, TEDx speaker, music historian and public intellectual whose years with the Illinois

The NFPW Communicator of Achievement banquet is held Friday evening of the national conference, this year on June 21 at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac.

Woman’s Press Association and the NFPW stretch back to 2014, when he first joined the IWPA. He joined the NFPW in 2017 for his first entry in the IWPA Professional Communications Contest, which earned first place in its category. To date, he has earned 20 first-place designations at the state level and placed nine entries in NFPW’s national contest.

In 2021, Josh was elected to the IWPA board as high school contest chair, helping the contest grow with 36 percent more complete entries since his first year. He has served as a judge in the IWPA and NFPW high school contests, diligently providing constructive comments for every entry he judges. He is in line to become the IWPA’s president in 2025.

Gwen A. White

North Carolina Press Club

Gwen A. White is a former journalist and now a non-profit executive director, public relations professional, humorist and motivational speaker. She is a former NFPW president and a charter member of the North Carolina Press Club, where she has served four terms as president and currently serves as treasurer.

She worked for a daily paper for 17 years and spent 10 years working for weekly and twice-weekly newspapers. She began her speaking career when she first took the stage as a teenage 4-Her and has never stopped addressing audiences in all 50 states and seven countries.

White currently serves as executive director of the nonprofit North Carolina Lions Visually Impaired Person’s Fishing Tournament. Each year she organizes the three-day independent living and recreational event on the Outer Banks of North Carolina for 550 blind and visually impaired people and their guests.

Heather Syverson

North Dakota Professional Communicators

Heather Syverson has enjoyed more than 20 years in the communications industry, moving from traditional journalism to brand journalism. She had her first taste of

(Continued on page 4)

COA nominees . . .

(Continued from page 3)

press life as an award-winning reporter and news editor at the North Dakota State University student newspaper, The Spectrum.

After college, Syverson became a news producer for the local CBS and NBC affiliates in Fargo, North Dakota. Over a nine-year period, she worked her way up to executive producer in the combined KXJB and KVLV newsroom.

Working in TV news provided a front-row seat to the biggest local news stories of the time, including catastrophic flooding on the Red River of the North in 2009.

In 2011, Syverson transitioned to a brand journalism role at AE2S, an engineering consulting firm. She now promotes AE2S and provides communication consulting services to the firm's clients, about such catastrophes as massive flooding and drought mitigation projects.

\$50 Prize

for the

BEST 2024 Conference Photo

The photo will become the property of NFPW and will be published in the July issue of AGENDA.

Submit to cathykoon1952@gmail.com

by June 30, 2024

I'm looking for a photo that best depicts the heart of NFPW's annual conference. Entries will be judged on photo quality but more on the emotional impact they convey.



Letter to the Editor . . .

The January 24, 2024, AGENDA was a really meaty issue, with plenty to read, plenty to ponder and plenty to get riled up about as we journalists struggle to do our jobs in a society suffocating for trustworthy, true information.

I was at lunch with a few co-workers not long ago and talked about some stories I led back in Cleveland, where I was a newspaper editor.

As I talked, I was stunned to see some co-workers shrinking back. They weren't sure this was "news."

I explained that shenanigans by public officials must be made public. These officials are paid by taxpayers, I said. Their monkey business belongs in the headlines. The lunch

crowd just looked at me. This was new to them.

Too many of them, I fear, especially the younger ones, know nothing about the First Amendment and our vital role in our form of government. Meanwhile, we're just publishing pablum most of the time with a reduced staff. Our mantra seems to be: Don't expose anything. Don't make our elected officials look bad. I roll my eyes.

Thank you!

Mary Jane Skala
Nebraska

Editor's Note: Mary Jane has been a reporter in Kearney for 10 years and was senior editor at a Cleveland suburban newspaper chain for 20 years.

[Register](#)

By May 20
for the early-bird
discount

[Book a room](#)

Hilton St. Louis
Frontenac

[Tour Information](#)

[Tour Registration](#)

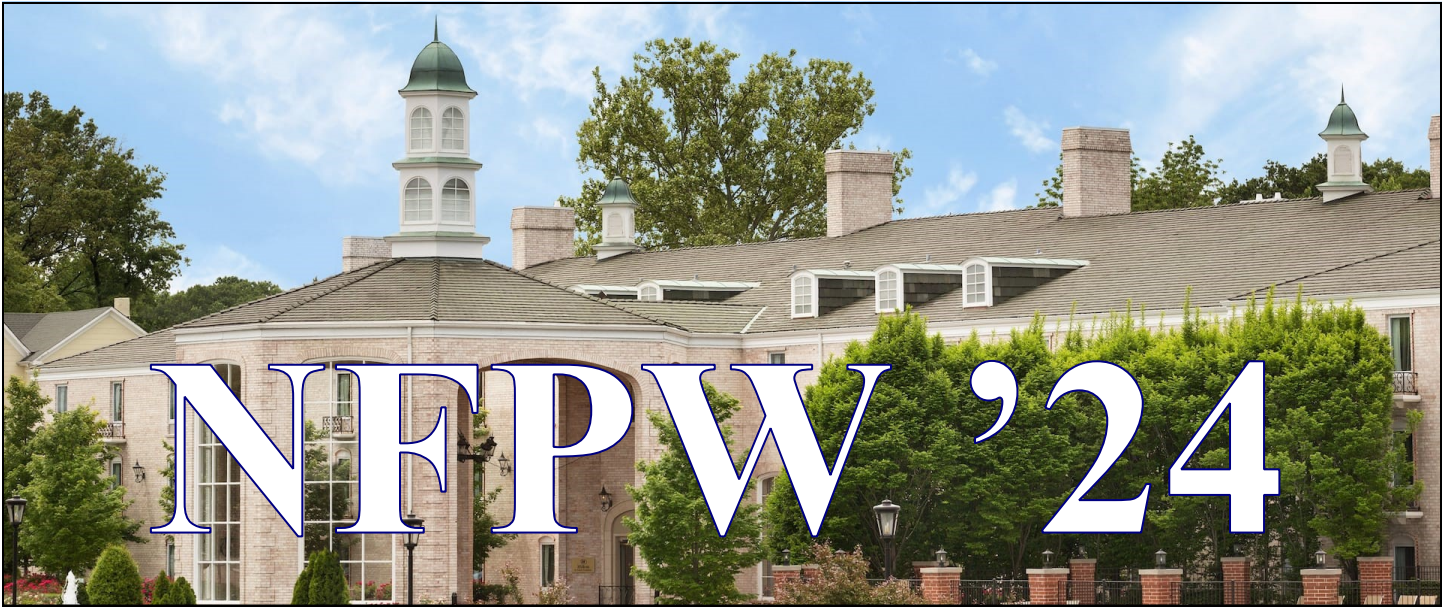
Hosted by
Missouri
Professional
Communicators

AGENDA Publication Schedule

- July 2024
- October 2024
- January 2025
- April 2025

The deadline for submitting content is the
10th of the month prior to publication.

Submit content to
cathykoon1952@gmail.com



June 20-24, 2024, NFPW conference, St. Louis

Summer and the 2024 NFPW conference both begin June 20 and promise good days ahead after the dreary days of winter.

This year, Missouri Professional Communicators will host the annual event in St. Louis to the theme, "Gateway to Success." The affiliate is busy finalizing plans for events that officially begin Thursday evening at the opening social at the St. Louis Artists' Guild and end at Saturday night's contest awards banquet.

In between are the workshops, luncheons, memorial services, board meetings, POPPs sessions, Silent Auction and president's roundtable.

Kicking off the conference June 21 will be keynote speakers Dr. Jody Sowell, a former journalist who is now president and CEO of the Missouri Historical Society, and Lynne M. Jackson, a radio and TV

host who is president and founder of the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation. Both will discuss history in the headlines.

Just a few of the workshops to be offered at the conference, which will be at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac hotel, include:

- Effective Storytelling through Photography, Chris Blackstone
- Launching a Freelance Communications Business, Ruth E. Thaler-Carter
- Getting the Most from Social Media, Adair Wilson Heitmann
- The Vital Importance of Media Literacy, Jessica Z. Brown-Billhymer.

Pre- and post-conference tours will showcase the best of the St. Louis metropolitan area:

June 18 — The St. Louis History tour will 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.

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

June 23 — The post-conference tour will head to historic St. Charles and nearby Missouri Wine Country for a taste of award-winning wines.

The full-day tours include motorcoach transportation, attraction admissions, lunch and gratuities for \$120 per person

For NFPW members who have never before attended a national conference, the NFPW Education Fund provides first-timer grants covering the registration fee.

For information on applying for the grants, contact NFPW HQ at info@nfpw.org.

The story of my writing quilt

By Marti Webb Slay
Alabama Media Professionals

I started quilting about the same time I chose writing as a career. Both are creative outlets, although one helps pay the bills while the other lives on the opposite side of the ledger sheet.

Like every other quilter I know, I have developed a fabric stash that I use when I start a new project. Sometimes I buy fabric with a specific pattern or project in mind. Other times I just buy fabric I like and figure I'll find a project for it one day.

Several years ago, I found some delightful fabric with typewriters, and the paper in the typewriters had quotes about writing. My favorite is, "Sometimes all you have to do is sit at the typewriter and BLEED," by Ernest Hemingway.

At the same time, I found other writing-themed fabrics and bought some of those, deciding I needed to make a quilt that paid homage to my craft. Over the years I added to my stash as I found other typewriter fabrics depicting pens, pencils, words, letters, typewriter keys, images of newspapers and the like. I still had no idea what I would do with it.

Then last fall, my quilt guild started a Quilt Along. Those of us who chose to participate would be making a quilt using the Little Miss Sawtooth pattern, an old and familiar quilt block.

I already had too many projects underway to start something new, but I liked the pattern and wanted to



Alabama affiliate member Marti Webb Slay shows off her quilt, which she has dubbed *Writer's Block*. Photo courtesy of Marti Webb Slay.

participate, so I justified it by deciding to use all my writing fabrics and clear out my stash just a bit.

The Quilt Along called for us to make two or three blocks every month, and by the end of the year, we would have a finished quilt top, ready for our quilt show in June.

The piecing of my top is finished, and now it's time to do the actual quilting — sewing the top to a back with the quilt batting in between, like a sandwich.



Quilting patterns can vary, but I will continue with the writing theme by sewing words into the quilt ... noun, verb, paragraph, sentence. I've been collecting words about writing as I've pieced, looking forward to the day when I can complete this project and enjoy reading under my writing quilt.

The quilt block is Little Miss Sawtooth, but the name of the quilt is *Writer's Block*.



Trussville, Alabama

Defending our local library

By Marti Webb Slay
Alabama Media Professionals

I live in a small suburb outside of Birmingham, where we have an outstanding public library.

I started taking my children there as toddlers, and we participated in many programs as they grew. I know firsthand how much the library can mean to a child's academic success and an adult's career.

So when a group of 50 book banners descended on my library board, I knew the community needed to be made aware of their attack.

The library board had received the list of challenged books and reviewed every one. Eleven books would have been removed in a few weeks due to lack of circulation and were removed early.

Another 30 books stayed put or were moved to a different section of the library, but all remained available to patrons.

That wasn't enough for the book banners. They packed the board meeting in February to insist all the books be removed. They characterized the library as being like an adult book store and accused the board and staff of being "groomers."

I was appalled, but I had arrived after all the public comment times had been filled. All I could do was listen and vow that the next meeting would be different.

I posted on three Facebook sites that the library was under attack and immediately heard from people who wanted to help defend the library. We started Read Freely Trussville, and in under a month more than 200 joined.

We arrived early for the March meeting. We signed up in the order of arrival according to policy. And this

time, book lovers gave all the public comments. We outnumbered the book banners two to one.

Speakers were parents, grandparents, ministers, members of the military and family of military and represented a range of ages. What did we all have in common? We love the library. We recognize that book banning is unconstitutional. We do not want anyone dictating their religious perspective or sense of morality to the rest of us. And we believe parents should be free to parent their own children.

According to a story on msn.com, Board President Debbie Waid told the crowd, "Parents and guardians are responsible for guiding and directing the reading, listening and viewing choices of minor children," noting that the complaint was the first she's heard about the content of a book in her 23 years at the library. "The library does not stand in place of the parents," she said.

At the end of the meeting, Waid repeated what they had determined earlier: They had followed library policy and the law, and the books would remain in the library. The decision was final.

We heard rumors the book banners would go to the city council asking to defund the library or replace the board, but they found no support there. They didn't even bother to show up for the city council meeting

Is it over? Probably not. They may find fertile soil through statewide initiatives in the legislature and from the governor. But for now, we celebrate the success we found here.

Editor's Note: For more on the topic from msn.com, go to [Trussville library purges, moves books after complaint about inappropriate content \(msn.com\)](#).

Journalist fined by federal judge for refusing to divulge sources

CNN (March 1) — A federal judge has held veteran journalist Catherine Herridge in contempt of court, fining her \$800 a day for refusing to divulge her sources for a series of stories published in 2017 while she was a correspondent at Fox News.

Herridge, who has aggressively fought the case, is expected to appeal the judge's decision. The case could have sweeping First Amendment implications for journalists and news organizations across the country.

Herridge, who left Fox News in 2019 and was recently laid off by CBS News, refused in September to disclose the sources used for her stories, defying a court order issued earlier in the year by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The order from Judge Christopher Cooper came as a result of a lawsuit filed by Chinese American scientist Yanping Chen against the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Citing documents reviewed by Fox News, Herridge reported Chen was the subject of an FBI investigation. Chen, who was never charged, has alleged that federal authorities improperly leaked the information about her, violating the Privacy Act.

In an effort to prove her case, Chen subpoenaed Herridge and Fox News, with the hope of unmasking the reporting's sources. Fox News and Herridge aggressively fought the move, arguing that Cooper should quash the subpoenas because of First

Amendment protections afforded to the press.

But Cooper disagreed and ordered otherwise, stating that "Chen's need for the requested evidence overcomes Herridge's qualified First Amendment privilege in this case."

That set the stage for a Sept. 26, 2023, deposition of Herridge, when the journalist was repeatedly asked how she obtained the information for her 2017 stories. Herridge politely declined to answer dozens of such questions.

In the Feb. 29 order, Cooper acknowledged that his decision would have implications for the press.

"The Court does not reach this result lightly," Cooper wrote. "It recognizes the paramount importance of a free press in our society and the critical role that confidential sources play in the work of investigative journalists like Herridge. Yet the Court also has its own role to play in upholding the law and safeguarding judicial authority."

Herridge's lawyer, Patrick Phibin, told CNN in a statement that she plans to appeal the case.

"We disagree with the district court's decision, and to protect Ms. Herridge's First Amendment rights, we intend to appeal," he said.

Fox News also stood behind Herridge, warning that the decision could imperil the work of journalists.

"Holding a journalist in contempt



for protecting a confidential source has a deeply chilling effect on journalism," a network spokesperson said in a statement. "FOX News Media remains committed to protecting the rights of a free press and freedom of speech, and believes this decision should be appealed."

Herridge declined to comment and pointed to previous legal motions challenging the decision to hold her in contempt.

The judge's decision had drawn criticism from First Amendment advocates and press freedom groups.

"Requiring journalists to reveal their confidential sources deters whistleblowers and others from coming forward, meaning the public has less access to information," Caitlin Vogus, deputy director of advocacy at Freedom of the Press Foundation, told CNN last year.

The case has also renewed calls for Congress to pass legislation offering federal protections to journalists. In June, a bipartisan group of lawmakers reintroduced the Protect Reporters from Exploitive State Spying Act, known as the PRESS Act. The legislation would offer important safeguards to journalists, including preventing the government from compelling reporters to disclose their sources.

Some tricky AP Style punctuation rules to remember

By Randall McCoach
PR Newswire.com

We know journalists are busy, and it can be difficult to keep up with recent AP Stylebook changes. So we've done the work for you, rounding up a few of the recent significant — and just plain interesting — updates to the AP Stylebook.

It's time for another quarterly AP Stylebook recap and with this edition, we'll be reviewing a few of the guidelines noted in the punctuation section. I see hundreds of news releases each month, and here are some of the most common mistakes:

Ellipsis: An ellipsis is written with three periods and a space on either side. It seems common nowadays to neglect adding those spaces, but AP Style dictates they must be included. The Stylebook suggests treating an ellipsis like a three-letter word. So, it would be like this: "*The resolution ... has little chance of success.*"

If the text before the ellipsis ends a complete sentence, add the period, then a space, then the ellipsis: "*The resolution has come before the committee. ... It has little chance of success.*"

Colon: If what follows the colon is the start of a complete sentence, the first word should be uppercase. "*He promised this: All my cookies will be baked on time.*"

Apostrophe: This one can get tricky. We know to use the apostrophe to indicate possession ("That was Billy's baseball."). But with plural nouns ending in *s*, add only the apostrophe and not the additional *s* ("The horses' food. The states' rights.").

That's also the rule with proper nouns ("Socrates' life. Dickens' novels.").

However, and this is where it gets tricky, if the word is singular and common, you add the extra *s*. "*The hostess's invitation. The witness's answer.*"

Hyphen: Believe it or not, there isn't a strict rule when it comes to compound modifiers — two or more words used together as an adjective. In general, no hyphen is needed if the meaning is clear: "*Third grade teacher*" or "*Climate change report.*" However, the hyphen can sometimes be desperately needed to make the meaning clear and prevent your reader from having to pause and think about it: "*Free-thinking teacher*" and "*Loose-knit group.*"

Period: Another tricky scenario involves rhetorical questions. It might seem like you need a question mark, but a period is preferable if a statement is more a suggestion than a question, like "Why don't we go."

Timely Reminders: We'll have more punctuation reminders in future recaps. Meanwhile, here are a few tidbits from recent AP Style newsletters:

▪ **Dressing vs. Stuffing.** *Dressing* is cooked outside of the bird; *stuffing* is cooked inside. Use of the terms also varies regionally in the U.S., with one preferred over the other in some places regardless of how it's prepared.

▪ **Travel, traveled, traveling, traveler.** All these words have only one *l*.

▪ **Headlines.** Use single quote marks, never double quote marks.

▪ **School resource officer.** A sworn member of local law enforcement who is stationed on campus. They often are armed and in uniform. They are different from armed or unarmed security guards, who are not law enforcement officers. Avoid the abbreviation SRO unless in a direct quotation; if used, explain it.

▪ **Hyphenate well.** Combinations before a noun, but not after: a well-known judge, but the judge is well known.

▪ **GivingTuesday.** The first Tuesday after Thanksgiving is known as GivingTuesday, when individuals are encouraged to make donations to nonprofits. No space between the two words. The group that handles the administration of the day is also known as GivingTuesday, born from a social media campaign known as #GivingTuesday in 2012.

▪ **Frosting, icing.** Either term can be used to describe a topping of sugar, butter and other ingredients applied to cookies, cakes and other pastries. Use of the terms varies regionally in the U.S. Both cookies and cakes can be glazed (drizzled with a thin sugar mixture).

One more.: And finally, do you know when to use *lay* or *lie*? Here's the scoop.

The action word is *lay*. It takes a direct object. *Laid* is the form for its past tense and its past participle. Its present participle is *laying*.

(Continued on page 11)

Missouri Professional Communicators

Congratulations to MPC member Jessica Z. Brown-Billhymer on her Feb. 1 induction into the St. Louis Media History Foundation.

Jessica was among those cited in the field of print journalism alongside other professionals in television, radio and advertising/public relations. Her career spans reporting, television, corporate communications and education in her history of responsible engagement.

She founded Gateway Media Literacy Partnership Inc. (GMLP) in 2004 to share critical thinking skills to help navigate the onslaught of media messages. She previously was a television producer, talent and writer at KSDK Channel 5 and held management positions at Southwestern Bell (now AT&T). She served as adjunct professor for more than 20 years at Webster University, where she received an M.A. in media communications.

Serving as GMLP president for many years since she and other professionals interested in media literacy

came together in its founding, she has steered it through new waves of media challenges and one week every October devoted to gaining attention for the learning field both regionally and nationally.

She received the St. Louis Press Club's Catfish Award in 2021 and interviewed 40 local media professionals for the web series "Our IN THE NOW," initiated on YouTube during the pandemic.

New Mexico Press Women

NMPW received a standing ovation on Feb. 13 from legislators at the state capitol in honor of the affiliate's 75th anniversary.

Dr. Regina Griego and NMPW President Sherri Burr attended as guests of Rep. Pameyla Herndon and received a certificate of recognition from the House of Representatives.

Melanie Moses, NMPW president 40 years ago and is current executive director of the Foundation of Open Government, cheered from the house gallery. *(More on page 11.)*

(Continued from page 10)

When lie means to make an untrue statement, the verb forms are lie, lied and lying.

Lie also has various other meanings, including to recline, to be situated or to exist. It does not take a direct object. Its past tense is lay. Its past participle is lain. Its present participle is lying.

Some examples:

Present or future tenses:

Right: I will lay the book on the table. The prosecutor tried to lay the blame on him.

Wrong: He lays on the beach all day. I will lay down.

Right: He lies on the beach all day. I will lie down. The village lies beyond the hills. The answer lies in the stars.

In the past tense:

Right: I laid the book on the table. The prosecutor has laid the blame on him.

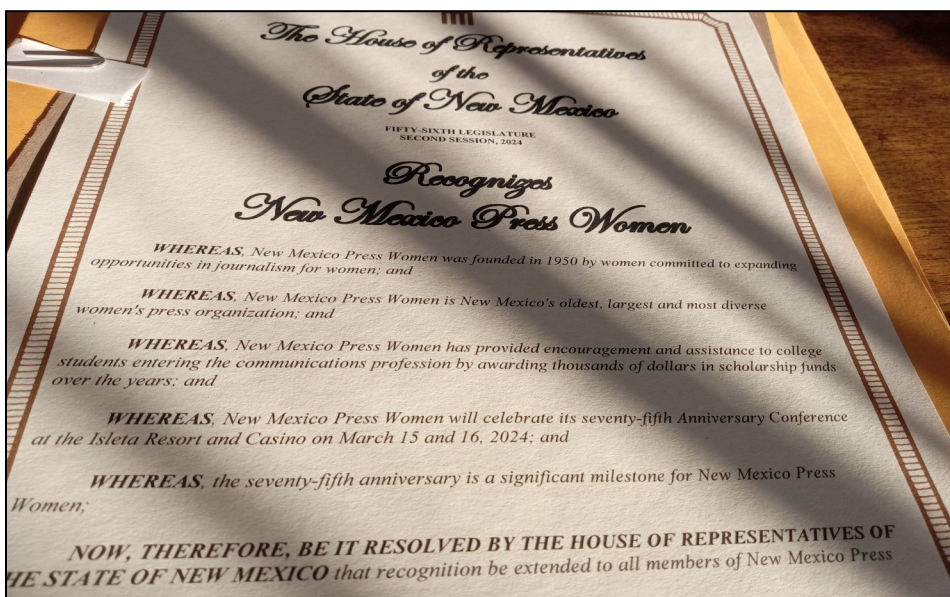
Right: He lay on the beach all day. He has lain on the beach all day. I lay down. I have lain down. The secret lay in the fermentation process.

With the present participle:

Right: I am laying the book on the table. The prosecutor is laying the blame on him.

Right: He is lying on the beach. I am lying down.

Editor's Note: *AGENDA adheres to the AP Stylebook, so the punctuation guidelines presented in the above article apply to any submissions for publication from members. Style guidelines change from time to time, so we need to keep abreast of the industry standards.*



Affiliate and Member News . . .



New Mexico Press Women's Regina Griego, center, and President Sherri Burr, right, were present at the state capitol to accept a certificate of recognition of the NFPW affiliate's 75th anniversary. They were there as guests of Rep. Pameyla Herndon, left. Griego was an NMPW board member at large and is now incoming president. *Photo courtesy of Sherri Burr.*



NFPW President Julie Campbell, top left, toasted New Mexico Press Women at the affiliate's 75th anniversary conference in March. Banquet speaker was renowned "Game of Thrones" author George R. R. Martin, shown with NMPW President Sherri Burr, top right. Above, NMPW board members, past and present, posed for a photo with Martin. New Mexico's own Anne Hillerman was also a guest speaker at the conference. Check out Julie's column on page 2 for more details.

Don't forget auction items

All those fun and wonderful items you find at the NFPW Silent Auction are donated to the Education Fund by members and affiliates.

You, too, can donate. All you have to do is take your items to the conference in St. Louis and present them to the auction volunteers led by Betty Packard.

Think of items that might remind bidders of the conference or introduce them to your home state. A souvenir from your hometown? Something you made yourself?

Keep in mind, the winners have to fit the items in their luggage for the trip back home.

Donors been known to pay to have bulkier items shipped to the winner's home address.

You can, of course, just donate cash, but remember all the fun you have bidding, then outbidding, and winning those coveted items with a bid just before the closing bell.

Deadline for next issue of AGENDA

Submit stories and/or photos by:

June 10, 2024

(For publication July 2024)

Send submissions to cathykoon1952@gmail.com

Items for briefs about NFPW affiliates and members should be emailed to

AGENDA Editor Cathy Koon,

cathykoon1952@gmail.com.

Photos are also welcome.

Alaska Professional Communicators

Caroline Rinehart, 81, died Feb. 19, 2024, due to complications of bladder cancer.

She served in various leadership and other roles with Alaska Professional Communicators during her 45-year



membership, including serving on the host committees for the 2000 and 2015 NFPW conferences.

Rinehart got an early start with her journalism career. In the summer after third grade, she started a neighborhood newspaper in Austin, Texas, which grew to 300 subscribers by the time she finished eighth grade. Then she ran her high school newspaper and the University of Texas at Austin's newspaper.

She and her husband, Robert, shared a commitment to social justice and civil rights. When her family moved to Alaska in the 1970s, she worked as a reporter for the Anchorage Times and later was a technical writer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Colorado Press Women

CPW Co-president Sandy Graham, 72, died Jan. 7, 2024, after battling lung cancer.

Graham turned her affinity for grammar, spelling and punctuation into a 40-year writing career. Her obituary noted, "She led a lifelong crusade against the misuse of apostrophes, particularly in 'its' vs. 'it's' and possessives."



When college calculus derailed her goals to work for NASA, she ended up writing about science, along with health and medicine, during her journalism career with various newspapers, including the Chicago bureau of The Wall Street Journal. She later wrote for Gannett's Sunday magazine, USA Weekend, and was managing editor of the Colorado Health Foundation's quarterly journal. Her final job before retiring was part-time grant writer for the Children's Museum of Denver, helping raise \$1.6 million.

New Mexico Press Women

Valorie (Vicky) Ramakka, 74, died July 22, 2023, after treatment for an aggressive brain tumor.

Ramakka had a long career in the field of education. Before moving to New Mexico, she worked at Western Nevada Community College in Carson City, Nevada, the University of Neva-



da Reno and with the Nevada Department of Education. In New Mexico, she served in various capacities at San Juan College in Farmington. She also had a successful writing career, producing award-winning articles, short stories and two mystery novels, "The Cactus Plot" and "The Pearl Plot." She was a volunteer for the San Juan Animal League, the Aztec Museum Board and the Northern New Mexico Site Stewards Program, where she monitored important rock sites.

Woman's Press Club of Indiana

Helen Corey, 100, died Jan. 28, 2024.

In the mid-1940s, Cory became an active participant in civic, church and political activities. In the early 1960s, she became the first Arab American elected to a state-level office in Indiana.



An NFPW member since 1962 and WPCI's 2017 Communicator of Achievement, Corey published one of the most influential cookbooks on Syrian food, "The Art of Syrian Cooking," providing descriptions of Middle Eastern customs, celebrations and holidays along with recipes and menus for such occasions as feasts celebrated within the Eastern Orthodox Church. Once her political career ended, she started Corey Advertising Specialties. She published two other cookbooks, "Healthy Syrian and Lebanese Cooking" in 2004 and "Helen Corey's Food from Biblical Lands" in 2016.

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 the national conference.

Just a thought . . .

What does baseball have to do with the NFPW conference I talk about in my column? Absolutely nothing, but it speaks to where my mind goes in the spring. This is my grandson Korbin, who plays varsity baseball at my high school alma mater. His dad played varsity baseball there, too.



By Cathy Koon

AGENDA Editor

Springing ahead and changing climate are mucking with my head, and watching the price of gas at the station across the street makes it worse at the time of year I'm ready for flowers and planting a garden.

It's too early for either one here in Eastern Idaho, but a girl can dream, can't she?

It's not too early to think about getting ready for our annual NFPW conference, this year in St. Louis. I haven't attended for a number of years, and I miss seeing old friends, meeting new ones and catching up with industry news and trends. I plan to be there this year!

If you haven't attended an NFPW conference, you are missing one of the best parts of belonging to this organization of professional communicators. It is there you gain a real appreciation and a love for this group of extraordinary women and men.

I can't imagine what my life — both professional and personal — would have been like without it. I traveled to places I wouldn't have gone otherwise and made friends (family, really) I wouldn't have met otherwise.

What I learned from all those workshops, round tables, tours and conversations is worth more than what I paid in conference fees, hotel rooms, airfare and other

incidental expenses. You can't put a price tag on what you learn and the bonds forged with remarkable people.

When you attend conference, attend all the workshops and events you can. Don't duck out to go shopping or sightseeing instead of supporting NFPW with your attendance. The people who plan these conferences spend their blood, sweat and tears finding outstanding speakers, scheduling the best in communications topics and agonizing over menus, registration packets and hundreds of other details. Ducking out is an insult to the planners and to the NFPW officers who spend so much personal time and money to be there for you.

From the opening social to the last award given out on Saturday night, it's all intended to show you what NFPW is about. We honor our communicators of achievement, contest winners, long-time members and those who have passed before us. Every other year, we elect a new slate of officers.

And let's not forget one of my favorites, the Silent Auction, where we bid on items donated by members and affiliates to raise money for the NFPW Education Fund, the nonprofit arm of our organization that funds the high school contest, first-timer awards and scholarships for continuing education and research. Bid high and bid often. And watch out for those last-second bidders.

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 Professional Communicators

Ad Rates for AGENDA

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

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.