

BRIEFING MEMO

Ohio Professional Writers Inc.

An affiliate of the National Federation of Press Women Inc

JULY 2008

New officers at OPW leadership helm

Members attending Ohio Professional Writers' annual meeting and awards session June 21 at Malabar Farm State Park near Lucas, Ohio, capped off a morning brainstorming session and afternoon business session by electing a new leadership team for the next two years. Winners in OPW's 2008 Communications Contest and 2008 Communicator of Achievement Irene Wright-Abraham were also recognized.

The new leaders include: Vivian Goodman, president; Marjorie Thomas, vice president; and Ann VerWiebe, recording secretary. The treasurer's post, held for a number of years by Dean Buckenmeyer, is an appointed position and is expected to be vacated in the near future. Dean has notified the leadership team that he is now a full-time student, planning to pursue an MBA and does not intend to remain in the communications field. (See the President's column for details about the Treasurer's job.)

The day's activities opened with a get-acquainted session, where both long-time members and new members traced their career paths and shared interesting personal insights. That session provided a springboard for a "brainstorming" session dealing with members' expectations of OPW and devising a strategy for growth for the organization.

Among the ideas that put forward are:

Organize regional meetings during the year.

Develop an OPW web site and use e-blasts to create awareness of the organization.

Use postings on Facebook and GroupBlogSpot.com.

Offer more professional development opportunities.

Have a presence at Ohio Newspapers Association convention in February.

Explore co-sponsorship of workshops and programs with ONA and SPJ.

Participate in NFPW/affiliate membership brochure program.

Obtain mailing lists of possible members through PRSA, IABC as well as high schools and colleges.

OPW leaders attend NFPW convention and learn from leaders in other states.

During the business session, the following motions were acted upon:

1. Motion by Vivian Goodman to form a committee to explore whether Ohio Professional Writers should consider changing the name of the organization so that it is more inclusive of the various professionals within the membership.

Seconded by Mary Jane Skala

Motion approved by vote 9 to 3.

2. Motion by Mary Jane Skala to allocate not more than \$500 to create a web site for Ohio Professional Writers Inc.

Seconded by Vivian Goodman.

Approved by vote of 12 to 0

(New president will appoint a committee to advise regarding content.)

3. Motion by Mary Jane Skala to study the need for and the amount of a dues increase for OPW. (To be done after audit of books.)

Second by Vivian Goodman

Approved by vote of 12 to 0.

4. Motion to by Vivian Goodman to hire an auditor (cost permitting) to audit the books at conclusion of current Treasurer's term.

Seconded by Irene Wright-Abraham.

Approved by vote of 12 to 0.

5. The Nominating Committee recommended the following slate of officers for the next 2-year term.

President – Vivian Goodman

Vice President – Marjorie Thomas

Recording Secretary – Ann VerWiebe

No nominations were received from the floor. The slate recommended by the Nominating Committee was approved by a vote of 12 to 0.

From the president:

Hello!

I'm honored to be the newly-elected President of the Ohio Professional Writers. I invite you to join us in our mission to grow the organization and raise its profile.

These are not easy times in the communications field. Consolidation and convergence raise concerns about job security and professional development. OPW has the potential to affect positive change for its members but only if everyone gets involved.

Attendance at our gatherings has been light and communication has been sparse but we have plans to change that. I have appointed our new Vice President, Marjorie Thomas, as our First Amendment Chair. Marjorie will also chair our new Website Committee.

Other initiatives from our June 21st meeting include a possible name change for the group; the possibility of a change in our dues structure; and the idea of regional meetings.

First, there is a matter of some urgency that we need to address. Our Treasurer is retiring and we need a new one. The duties of the Treasurer are:

- 1) Collecting contest entry fees from the Contest Chair, depositing them in the OPW account and sending them off to the National Federation of Press Women for the national contest.
- 2) Collecting checks for our luncheons and paying or reimbursing for the expenses.
- 3) Filing the yearly tax report.
- 4) Serving as custodian of our accounts as investment officer.
- 5) Preparing a report for the annual meeting.

The Treasurer's job is an appointed position. Please let me know as soon as possible whether you are interested in accepting this key responsibility.

I look forward to the good work we will do together.

Sincerely,
Vivian Goodman
WKSU News
330-672-2132

One student winner in national contest

Sandi Latimer, OPW student contest director, reports we have one national winner in the Student Communications Contest.

Deanna Pan of Lakota East High School, Liberty Township, won first place nationally in the News division for "And then there were none: The play by play."
The student newspaper advisor at Lakota East is Dean Hume.

OPW members shine in NFPW contest!

Congratulations to Ohio's national winners in the NFPW Communications Contest:

<u>Last name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Category</u>
Ledford	Joseph	first	6A Editorial /Opinion, Non-daily Newspaper
Perala	Andrew	third	9I Special Articles, History
Ritchey	Brittany	second	13C Sections/Supplements, Edited by Entrant, Publication for general or specialized circulation, including internal pubs.
Ritchey	Brittany	third	14C Sections/Supplements, Edited by Entrant, Gen/Spec (infrequent)
Skala	Mary Jane	third	15A Publications Regularly Edited by Entrant, Non-daily Newspaper
Starck	Jeff	third	16A Page Layout, Non-daily Newspaper
Keller	Beverly	third	18A News Photo in Non-daily Newspaper
Schaeffer	Patricia	first	19A Photography in a Daily Newspaper
Schaeffer	Patricia	third	19B Photography in a Daily Newspaper - feature photo
Schaeffer	Patricia	HM	19C Photography in a Daily Newspaper – sports photo
Ledford	Joseph	HM	23 Photographer-writer
Rabinowitz	Amanda	first	25A Prepared Report, Radio (news, investigative, feature, sports)
Rabinowitz	Amanda	first	26A Special Programming, Radio (documentary, public affairs or editorial)
Niedermier	Kevin	second	27A Special Reporting Series, Radio (investigative or enterprise reporting)
Goodman	Vivian	second	29A Interview, Radio
Goodman	Vivian	second	32A Best Presentation, Radio (anchor, sportscaster, play-by-play)
Thomas	Marjorie	first	34C Website Edited by entrant, non-profit
Ernest	Judy	second	48B PR Magazine, Four-color
VerWiebe	Ann	first	50C PR Newsletter, CD - Electronics
Crandall	Dan	HM	57 Media Kit – Tools to Gain Media Coverage

