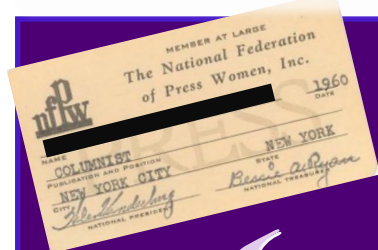


Which renowned first lady was once a member of NFPW?

Read Karen Rowley's President's Message to find out.



Winter 2022, Vol. 84, No.2

# Agenda



Quarterly Newsletter of the  
National Federation of Press Women



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## Mother-Daughter Duo

### NFPW Powerhouses



## President's Message: Celebrate our NFPW legacy

**By Karen Rowley**  
NFPW President

It's time to celebrate!

Why, you ask?

NFPW turns 85 this year!

On May 6, 1937, 39 women met in Chicago at the Chicago Women's Club to organize the National Federation of Presswomen. (The name was later changed to National Federation of Press Women.)

Led by Helen Miller Malloch and other members of the Illinois Woman's Press Association, these women established NFPW to "promote the highest ideals in journalism; provide exchange of journalistic ideas and experiences; and co-ordinate editorial opinion on matters of national interest to women." (From former NFPW President Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas' book *"Leadership 1937-2013: The First Forty Presidents of the National Federation of Press Women"*)

The group consisted of 24 women from Illinois, six from Indiana and nine collectively from Ohio, Michigan, New York and Washington, D.C. By 1939, nine states had affiliated with NFPW — Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and Texas. The two oldest affiliates were the Illinois Woman's Press Association (founded in 1885) and the Texas Woman's Press Association (founded in 1893), which is now Press Women of Texas.

Malloch was NFPW's first president. Eighty-five years later, I have the honor of being the 45th president.



**Helen Miller Malloch**

Over the years, NFPW's presidents have come from 25 different states, with Illinois and Kansas having the largest number at four each. Four other states have had three presidents each (Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana and Missouri), while six states have had two presidents each (Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, Virginia and Wisconsin).

NFPW also has had presidents from Alaska, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming.

But the history of NFPW is more than its presidents. The backbone of the federation since the start has been its state affiliates. NFPW started out with the nine affiliates mentioned previously, but that number has changed dramatically over the past 85 years as affiliates have been established and dissolved. For instance, out of the 25 states from which NFPW presidents have come, 10 no longer have affiliates and much of their history has been lost.

In that vein, I have a few favors to ask.

First, if you have ideas or thoughts about how we might celebrate our 85th year — whether at our conference in June in Fargo, North Dakota, or during the year — I'd love to hear them.

Second, if you have any photographs or other materials from your affiliate's past that you'd be willing to share—temporarily, if not permanently — please let me know. I'd like to try to put together a display or a slide show for the conference honoring NFPW's past.

Third, I don't know how many of you know this, but NFPW's official archives are at The State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. If you have NFPW/

*(Continued on page 3)*

### On the Cover:

Ann Griffith, left, and Carolanne Griffith Roberts smile for the camera at a fashion event in New York City. They are two among several mother/daughter duos who are or have been members of NFPW. Ann and Carolanne are featured in a story written for Agenda by Ann Halpern of Alabama. The story starts on page 8.





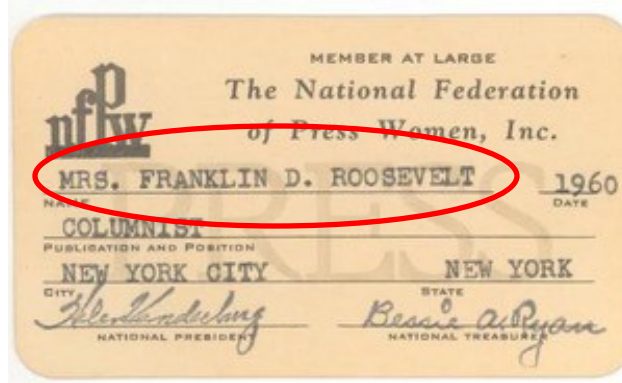
## President's Message: Celebrate our NFPW legacy

(Continued from page 2)

state affiliate-related documents or photographs or other materials you don't know what to do with, please contact me or NFPW Archivist Paula Casey. We would very much like to talk to you. You can reach me at [president@nfpw.org](mailto:president@nfpw.org) or Paula at [pcasey@bellsouth.net](mailto:pcasey@bellsouth.net).

In doing some research for this column, I ran across an astonishing — at least, to me — piece of information. In 1960, NFPW President Helen Vanderburg signed a press card for Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was identified as a columnist and an at-large member of NFPW.

Yes, that Mrs. Roosevelt.



NFPW doesn't have the card — it's in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. But my point in bringing it up is we'll never know what treasures we have until we start looking for them and ensuring we preserve them.

I'm a history buff, as you've probably figured out. At the same time, I'm cognizant of the fact we live in the present and we need to look to the future. Our history has an important role to play in that.

As the incomparable Maya Angelou said, "You can't really know where you are going until you know where you have been."

## 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.

— Adopted in 1975 at the NFPW Conference  
in Sun Valley, Idaho

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*



# FOIA is broken

**By Marsha Shuler**  
**National FAN Co-director**  
**Louisiana Press Women**

"The documents involving one of the most sensational cases in the long colorful history of Louisiana corruption arrived in the mail last week — a mere 12 years after I requested them."



**Marsha Shuler**

So began the story of Bruce Alpert's experience with the Freedom of Information Act — the 1966 federal law that is supposed to provide Americans with access to information about the operations of their government and officials.

Alpert's experience underscores just how broken the FOIA is.

FOIA requests are supposed to be answered within 20 days. That is a rarity amid the federal bureaucratic maze where it can take months or years to receive a response. But 12 years to release documents is an affront to the public the FOIA is meant to serve.

Alpert, now retired, filed his request back in 2009 when he was the New Orleans Times-Picayune's Washington, D.C., correspondent. The records he sought related to the criminal investigation, prosecution and trial of former U.S. Rep. William Jefferson, a Democratic congressman from New Orleans who had been convicted on

corruption-bribery charges.

Jefferson was convicted in 2009 in a case that included a federal raid on his Washington apartment where \$90,000 in \$20 bills was found stuffed in Boca Burger boxes in the freezer.

By the time Alpert received the requested documents in mid-October of 2021, Jefferson had already served his time in prison and Alpert had retired.

To add insult to injury, the FBI said only 293 pages of the Jefferson investigation documents were responsive to Alpert's request and then agreed to release only 83 pages with, as Alpert put it, "large sections redacted."

By the time the documents arrived and Alpert wrote his story, there wasn't much new information. But he found one jewel. Apparently, there had been an internal debate about whether the FBI should raid Jefferson's congressional office as part of its probe.

An editorial in The Advocate/Times-Picayune noted that "The Freedom of Information Act is designed to let citizens understand and debate the actions and policies of their government, but that can't happen if the records are released long after the controversy is over."

It is clear the Freedom of Information Act needs serious reform. It is even more clear that the legislation is not accomplishing the drafters' goal of letting the sun shine on government operations and the officials who pledge to serve the people.

# Sunshine Week 2022



Sunshine Week, designed to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information, is a national initiative, which occurs each year in mid-March.

The weeklong focus on government transparency, or the lack of it, will be upon us sooner than we realize.

Sunshine Week 2022 runs March 13-19. It coincides annually with James Madison's birthday and national Freedom of Information Day on March 16.

Madison is regarded as the father of the U.S. Constitution and was a key advocate of the Bill of Rights where press freedoms are guaranteed in the First Amendment.

The News Leaders Association spearheads the initiative "to educate the public about the importance of open government and the dangers of excessive and unnecessary secrecy."

Sunshine Week, which began in March 2005, was established by the American Society of News Editors — now the News Leaders Association. Funding came from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The National Federation of Press Women whole-

heartedly supports the effort designed to underscore the basic principle that government functions best when it operates in the open. Information is power and is necessary to hold government accountable to the people.

NFPW's Code of Ethics (found on page 3) says in part, "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."

NFPW encourages its members to participate in

Sunshine Week in any way they can — whether it be affiliates hosting seminars, forums or programs; members writing news articles or opinion and guest columns; educators teaching a class on the subject — to draw attention to the importance of having an open and accountable government. And members are encouraged to share their efforts through the federation's publications — the NFPW website, the monthly E-letter and the quarterly Agenda.

We must be vigilant.



**You can donate to NFPW when you shop at AmazonSmile at no additional cost to you**



AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charity of your choice. Just designate the **NFPW Education Fund** as your preferred charity and help the **NFPW Education Fund** continue its good works — funding the annual high school contest, providing first-timers awards, and awarding research and education grants to NFPW members.





### Compiled from Online Resources

The First Amendment (Amendment I) to the United States Constitution prevents the government from making laws which regulate an establishment of religion, or that would prohibit the free exercise of religion, or abridge the Freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the freedom of assembly, or the right to petition the government for redress of grievances. It was adopted on December 15, 1791, as one of the ten amendments that constitute the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights was proposed to assuage Anti-Federalist opposition to Constitutional ratification. Initially, the First Amendment applied only to laws enacted by the Congress, and many of its provisions were interpreted more narrowly than they are today. Beginning with *Gitlow v. New York* (1925), the Supreme Court applied the First Amendment to states — a process known as incorporation — through the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

In *Everson v. Board of Education* (1947), the Court drew on Thomas Jefferson's correspondence to call for "a wall of separation between church and State", though the precise boundary of this separation remains in dispute. Speech rights were expanded significantly in a series of 20th and 21st century court decisions which protected various forms of political speech, anonymous

speech, campaign finance, pornography, and school speech; these rulings also defined a series of exceptions to First Amendment protections. The Supreme Court overturned English common law precedent to increase the burden of proof for defamation and libel suits, most notably in *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan* (1964). Commercial speech, however, is less protected by the First Amendment than political speech, and is therefore subject to greater regulation.

The Free Press Clause protects publication of information and opinions, and applies to a wide variety of media. In *Near v. Minnesota* (1931) and *New York Times v. United States* (1971), the Supreme Court ruled that the First Amendment protected against prior restraint—pre-publication censorship—in almost all cases. The Petition Clause protects the right to petition all branches and agencies of government for action. In addition to the right of assembly guaranteed by this clause, the Court has also ruled that the amendment implicitly protects freedom of association.

Although the First Amendment applies only to state actors, there is a common misconception that it prohibits anyone from limiting free speech, including private, non-governmental entities. Moreover, the Supreme Court has determined that protection of speech is not absolute.



A post-WWII mother and her first-born, Ann Griffith and daughter Carolanne, were destined to share a career path and membership in the National Federation of Press Women. Carolanne Roberts, right, maintains her membership in NFPW. (Photos courtesy of Carolanne Griffith Roberts.)



## Mother/Daughter duo: NFPW winners

By Ann Halpern

Alabama Media Professionals

Meet the mother and daughter who have known the pride of earning awards for their work in the NFPW Communications Contest. Ann Bishop Griffith and Carolanne Griffith Roberts found satisfying careers along with their honors.

Ann Bishop was the first-born in a family of achievers. Her father was "everything" in the little coal mining town where they lived in Fayette County, West Virginia. Her mother, a schoolteacher until her own first child was born, was a bundle of energy.

"She belonged to and ran everything from the Daughters of the American Revolution to the garden club, from church circle to community work," said Roberts. "She was encouraged by her mother just as she encouraged me."

At West Virginia University Bishop found journalism, choosing advertising in that age when women reporters were scarce.

"While my father was in the South Pacific during World War II, my mother wrote advertising copy for a major department store in San Francisco," said Roberts. Earlier during the war years, Bishop pioneered her way from West Virginia to Shreveport, Louisiana, to write ad copy for the Shreveport Journal.

Returning to West Virginia as a newlywed and then a young mother, Griffith dabbled at advertising at the Daily

Mail in Charleston.

"But the editorial side noticed her talent, beginning a 30-something-year career in the newsroom," said Roberts.

Griffith was part of what they called the women's pages back then (later to become lifestyle pages).

"She did write the occasional satirical piece for the editorial page, at once witty and insightful and among my favorites in her body of work," said Roberts. "I applaud the paper for running her words. Heavens, a woman who was supposed to be writing about softer subjects!"

Roberts said her mother beautifully covered people, wrote a recurring column (often about her two daughters) and a society column (much to her dismay), and went to High Point, North Carolina, to the furniture marts, and to New York City at least twice a year to cover the couture shows with the top designers during Fashion Week.

"I accompanied her to New York countless times and became a junior writer when she suggested to the paper that I articulate the teen point of view," Roberts said.

Being on the fashion beat in New York meant visits to Seventh Avenue and getting to know shoemakers, tailors, famous designers and more.

"My sometimes-shy mother was the absolute darling in the world of designers — they adored her," Roberts said. "They created one-of-a-kind items just for her."

(Continued on page 8)

# Mother/daughter duo . . .

(Continued from page 7)

Griffith and a group of enterprising women journalists formed NFPW's West Virginia affiliate in 1977. Roberts also was among the founding members.

"There were wonderful women all over the state, and we traveled from north to south for each annual meeting and awards ceremony," Roberts remembered. "Ever the contest enterer, Mom would submit stories from all areas of her journalistic arsenal."

Roberts described seeing her mom called to the podium to receive a first-place national award. The announcer halted her before she returned to her seat.

"You should just stay up here," she was told. And then came the parade of national firsts.

"Always firsts. So, so many. Every year the same. She was just that good," Roberts said.

Besides her NFPW awards, Griffith also won at least two major awards in the national Penney-Missouri annual contest. One in 1984 was for her special coverage in fashion. Another was announced and awarded just weeks after her death in 1993.

"She cherished each and every award, never assuming and always grateful for the validation," Roberts said.

Griffith loved NFPW and never missed an event, and "without Mom and her fellow go-getter women at the helm, the West Virginia affiliate folded sometime in the mid-'90s or early 2000s," said Roberts.

Griffith turned down offers from major players on the print scene, including Good Housekeeping magazine, which would have meant a move to Iowa. West Virginia was home, and she created great things from that base. She also nurtured her daughter's interests and talents.

Carolanne Roberts' career got an early start.

"My mom, who also freelanced, gave me my first byline at the age of six months." She explained that the story in American Baby magazine was titled "How I Learned to Love Cereal" by Carolanne Shelbourne Griffith (now Roberts) as told to her mother. Roberts' career continued when she submitted a letter to the Terri Lee Doll magazine, dictated to her mother, and later saw it in print.

"A poem I wrote about the sun was published in Jack & Jill magazine. I was about eight and was written up in the Daily Mail for my achievement.

"I was lucky to grow up in a newsroom, watching my mother research and write stories, going on interviews, traveling to New York City for fashion industry showings," recalled Roberts. "I never saw barriers – she modeled the fact that all things are possible.

"I'll never forget walking 10 blocks from Charleston High School to the Daily Mail on that horrible day when President Kennedy was assassinated. I sat at her desk and watched the reporters and staff manage and localize the coverage. To this day the engraving of that front page hangs on a wall in the newsroom. I was there when that page came to life."

Roberts had gone to the Daily Mail that day in 1963 to accompany her mother and a photographer into the countryside for a story about a family preparing Thanksgiving with foods they'd grown on their farm.

"We actually went on that assignment but kept one shocked eye on the TV where the images and Walter Cronkite kept giving us more details. Mom had earlier been on the streets interviewing everyday Charlestonians reacting to the horror of it all," Roberts recalled.

## Ann Griffith Writing Tips

Carolanne Roberts said her best career advice came from her mother. Can these tips help you?

- \* *Write in your own voice. Don't try to copy someone else.*

- \* *Write letters. Griffith felt letter-writing enabled one's real voice to develop. "She encouraged me toward pen pals because she believed that writers need to write. At one time I had eight pen pals," Roberts recalled.*

- \* *Stuck for a lead? Griffith advised, "Just start with Dear Mom and keep going—you can take off the salutation."*

- \* *Read. At least once a week we left the newsroom and headed to visit Miss Brown at Kanawha County Library. That was 100 percent Ann Griffith instilling a love of words in her first-born.*

(Continued on page 9)



# Mother/daughter duo . . .

*(Continued from page 8)*

After college and an internship with the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Roberts kicked off her career at the Fort Lauderdale News (now Sun-Sentinel) as TV/film/nightclub critic/columnist. Her visits to the Broadway district during trips to New York gave her a solid background for the job.

She returned to her home state to chair the West Virginia American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, then moved on to serve as public relations director for the West Virginia Cultural Center of the Department of Culture and History.

Roberts moved to Alabama to accept a job with Southern Living magazine.

"My mother lived to see me go there and was proud that one of us had moved to the next platform," she said. At Southern Living, her posts included travel editor, features editor and editor of 36 state-specific sections. She worked full time for 26 years and continues today as a contract writer.

"As a member of the Alabama chapter for the past 36 years, I consider every year and every member a gift — and a connection to the great woman who inspired me," she said.

Throughout her career, Roberts has regularly tested her competence by entering the NFPW Communications Contest, earning multiple national awards each year. As a freelancer, she tried blogging and was awarded for her new skill.

"I've been fortunate enough to win national firsts over the years and always thank Mom in my heart for the great start."

*~ Carolanne Griffith Roberts as told to Ann Halpern*

**Among the celebrities interviewed by Carolanne Roberts during her career were, from top right, Bob and Delores Hope; Bobby Kennedy in 1964 with journalism classmates (they skipped school and tracked him down) and Goldie Hawn (one of hardest interviews ever — she only giggled). (Photos courtesy of Carolanne Roberts.)**



## Also a winner at home

Ann Griffith's talents on the job were well known but also extended to home and family.

"My mother loved to enter contests — and she almost always won," said her daughter Carolanne Griffith Roberts. A significant win was one where she was to write in 25 words or less why she wanted a trip to Europe.

"While she never revealed to us what she wrote, my parents' first

trip to Europe in 1959 set the stage for many, many adventures to come," said Roberts.

Ann's dish called Chicken Broccoli Baroque won the West Virginia Best Recipe contest. C&O Railroad served it in their dining cars for a year.

"Dad would dig out the big trophy every time Mom took a soufflé out of the oven — they were known to fall rather quickly," Roberts said.

Roberts still has a dress her mother made for her when she was about 6 years old. On the bodice of

the dress Ann had embroidered a spider web with an appliqué spider tipping his hat. Streamers, each a different color, wrapped around the waist.

"It was magnificent enough for the Singer Sewing Machine Co. to award the dress first in the nation, resulting in Mom being flown to New York City for the awards ceremony. She stayed at the Waldorf Astoria and enjoyed a private lunch with then-famous actress Eleanor Parker."



## North Dakota getting ready for 2022 NFPW Conference

"Be Bold. Be Brave. Be Legendary. Discover the Possibilities of the New Communications World" is the theme for the 2022 NFPW Conference June 23-25 in Fargo, North Dakota.

North Dakota Professional Communicators (NDPC) is asking NFPW members to travel "North of Normal" to experience Fargo during the conference. The program will focus on ways professional communicators can adapt and succeed in a constantly evolving industry.

Pre- and post-tours are still in development.

### Plan to meet in Fargo

Fargo lies on the Red River of the North, which forms the eastern border of North Dakota and western Minnesota. It is the largest city in North Dakota, population 125,990 with nearly a quarter of a million in the metro area of Fargo, West Fargo and Moorhead, Minnesota.

North Dakota is widely known as one of the coldest places in the U.S., but June in Fargo is typically mild and pleasant with an average high of 78 degrees and low of 56 degrees. Lush, tree-lined streets will welcome you to this urban oasis.



### Hotel Information

The recently renovated [Radisson Blu Fargo hotel](#) is the second tallest building in North Dakota and provides lovely views of the downtown area and the Red River.

The conference room rate is \$134 plus tax per night for single or double occupancy. Call the Radisson Blu at 701-232-7363 or make your reservation online. Be sure to request the NFPW group rate. The hotel's COVID-19 safety information can be found on its website.

### Travel Details

Fargo's Hector International Airport (FAR) is served by Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier and United airlines. The Radisson Blu offers a free shuttle to and from the airport. Interstates 29 and 94 intersect in Fargo for those interested in renting a car to see the sights. Lyft, Uber and several taxi companies also serve the area.

The NDPC chapter is excited to host fellow NFPW members in Fargo. Please check the [NFPW Conference page](#) for updates about the agenda, speakers and tours. Checking North Dakota's [COVID restrictions](#) before traveling is advised.



# Deadlines loom for communications contest

**By Teri Ehresman**  
**NFPW Contest Director**  
**Media Network Idaho**

The beginning of a new year is a wonderful time to look back on the accomplishments of the previous year.

As NFPW members reflect on 2021, we encourage members to recall some of their major accomplishments.

Our members continued to produce outstanding communications products this past year.

Make the time to review those products. Enter some of those top stories, photographs, publications, speeches, advertisements, books and social media products in the 2022 NFPW Professional Communications Contest.

We have categories for nearly every type of communications product. Outstanding judges from throughout the United States will review the entries and provide encouragement and feedback.

The first tier of the contest is run at the state level. Entrants in states without an affiliate-level contest and international entries are welcome to enter the at-large section of the contest. When entries warrant, the at-large section of the contest may be split into regions to create a more level playing field. The affiliate and at-large contest deadline is Jan. 19 at noon in the entrant's time zone.

The NFPW Communications con-



test is open to anyone regardless of sex, professional status or location. College students do not have to be 18 to enter any of the categories in the Collegiate Division. High school students may enter the professional contest if they are acting in a professional capacity.

Following the Jan. 19 deadline, book entries can still be submitted until noon on Feb. 2. The final contest deadline is noon on Feb. 9 for the remaining categories. After that date, entries will not be accepted in the contest.

An additional \$25 fee will be charged for the first entry submitted by any entrant after the Jan. 19 deadline.

Additional entries will only be charged the affiliate or at-large entry fee.

Affiliate and at-large judging should be completed by March 11. First-place winners who are not NFPW members will have until March 15 to join NFPW so their entries can advance to the national contest. The national round of judging is scheduled to begin March 18.

Winners of the national contest will be honored at the NFPW conference June 25 in Fargo, North Dakota.

Here is a link to the contest: [professional contest](https://www.nfpw.org/professional-contest).

For contest category-related questions, contact [Teri Ehresman](#), NFPW contest director.



# Nominations due March 21 for NFPW's highest honor

Nominations for the 2022 NFPW Communicator of Achievement are open and due by March 21.

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.

Affiliate nominees for NFPW Communicator of Achievement are recognized individually, with the winner and runner-up announced at the COA banquet during NFPW's annual conference, slated for June 23-25 in Fargo, North Dakota.

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

"We strongly encourage each affiliate to select a COA every year, recognizing individual achievement, and share it 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."

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 NFPW's national COA winner.

Nomination packets must be emailed to Karen Stensrud at [nfpw-coa2022@gmail.com](mailto:nfpw-coa2022@gmail.com). The entry fee of \$60 covers COA expenses plus

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 at [nfpw.org/coa](http://nfpw.org/coa) 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 March 21.

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

- **Professional achievement** (50%) — All nominees should have strong 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 and judging criteria for submission form can be found online at [nfpw.org/coa](http://nfpw.org/coa).

## 2022 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
    - ☐ 75-word biography for the conference program
    - ☐ Color photograph of the nominee in jpg format, at least 300-dpi resolution
- All items on the checklist are required as part of the nomination submitted to NFPW.

# Colorado's media literacy efforts result in new education standards

By Rep. Lisa Cutter  
Marilyn Saltzman  
Colorado Press Women

A chilling workshop about the proliferation of misinformation and disinformation was a call to action for Colorado Press Women.

"Now we know the problem, what are we going to do about it?" asked CPW President Sandy Nance. We immediately formed a Media Literacy Committee.

That was almost five years ago. Since then, CPW has hosted numerous workshops for members, the media and teachers. We've partnered with state and national groups, including the News Literacy Project, the Colorado Secretary of State's office, Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition, Channel 9 News, and teachers' language arts and journalism organizations. We've worked with Rep. Lisa Cutter as she successfully shepherded two media literacy bills through the Colorado Legislature.

Rep. Cutter's journey with media literacy was borne of her belief in the power of communications. Newly elected in 2019 and a 25-year public relations veteran, she had worked extensively with media throughout her career and broadly advocated for ethical communications. After further research and connecting with national



Lisa Cutter



Marilyn Saltzman

organizations, including Media Literacy Now, Cutter was convinced that introducing legislation on media literacy could be a way to approach the dangerous rhetoric and divisiveness that had become prevalent in our society.

In Colorado it is difficult to create mandates for education, so her 2019 bill simply created an advisory committee to study media literacy and recommend resources. Surprisingly contentious (opponents wanted to see the committee broadened to include non-experts), the bill passed and was signed into law.

As a result of this bill, the state formed the Colorado Media Literacy Advisory Committee, and Marilyn Saltzman served as a member. The committee developed proposed media standards and an appendix of learning resources for parents and teachers. The report and resources are available online [here](#).

The COVID 19 pandemic sidelined Cutter's next bill until the 2021 session. The second bill, which she co-authored with the chair of the Education Committee, Rep. Barbara McLachlan, required the Colorado Department of Education to incorporate media literacy into state education standards. This was also not without controversy, and the debate included questioning the veracity of sources such as NASA and the New York Times. The 2021 legislation finally passed, ensuring that media literacy will be included in reading, writing and civics standards for Colorado K-12 students.

CPW is now working with Rep. Cutter and like-minded organizations to spread the word across Colorado about media literacy and what parents, students and the community can do to curtail the spread of disinformation and misinformation.

**The News Literacy Project, a nonpartisan national education nonprofit, provides programs and resources for educators and the public to teach, learn and share the abilities needed to be smart, active consumers of news and information, and equal and engaged participants in a democracy. ([Read their brochure](#))**

## Affiliate and Member News . . .

### Virginia Professional Communicators

Virginia Professional Communicators hosted a virtual fall conference series in October and early November that included a networking session allowing members to catch up and share with each other, a "Lightning Talks" panel featuring the expertise of members on a variety of topics, a presentation and chance to chat with the affiliate's communicator of achievement and a webinar on the VPW Foundation.

Also, check out member profiles on longtime VPC and NFPW members [Gwen Woolf](#) and [Gail Kent](#).

### Missouri Professional Communicators

Suzanne Corbett published "A Culinary History of Missouri: Foodways & Iconic Dishes of the Show-Me State" through Arcadia Publishing.

According to the [Arcadia website](#), "Missouri's history is best told through food, from its Native American and later French colonial roots to the country's first viticultural area. Learn about the state's vibrant barbecue culture, which stems from African American cooks, including Henry Perry, Kansas City's barbecue king.

"Trace the evolution of iconic dishes such as Kansas City burnt ends, St. Louis gooey butter cake and Springfield cashew chicken. Discover how hardscrabble Ozark farmers launched a tomato canning industry and how a financially strapped widow, Irma Rombauer, would forever change how cookbooks were written. Historian and culinary writer Suzanne Corbett and food and travel writer Deborah Reinhardt also include more than 80 historical recipes to capture a taste of Missouri's history that spans more than 200 years."

Ruth E. Thaler-Carter, a recent new member of the Missouri Professional Communicators chapter in St. Louis, was quoted in an [ARRP online article](#) about Thanksgiving in the post-pandemic (somewhat) world.



Ruth Thaler-Carter

### Chapter news:

In St. Louis, freelance members of MPC met recently over dinner to network. The in-person

get together was delightful! Several members also enjoyed a guided tour of the Missouri History Society's fascinating, moving exhibit "Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage," which is on view through June 5, 2022.

### Women's Press Club of Indiana

Longtime WPCI member Georgia Gianakos Buchanan recently received the 2021 Harriet P. Irsay Distinguished Parent Award from Noble of Indiana, an organization that serves children and adults with developmental disabilities. Buchanan has been involved with the organization for many years, including serving on the board and chairing fundraisers. She is the author of several books, including a memoir, and is working on her fourth book, a novel set in Indianapolis. Buchanan has won numerous awards for her writing, including several from WPCI and NFPW.



Georgia Buchanan

Jessica Shrout, a perennial winner in the WPCI/NFPW Communications Contest, has accepted a position on the board of directors for Women in Business Unlimited, an organization dedicated to providing networking opportunities for women of Muncie and East Central Indiana.



Jessica Shrout

Shrout is the owner of Circle Three Branding and an award-winning wasteland recycling marketing strategy consultant, columnist and global speaker. The WIBU provides resources and professional development training and strives to create opportunities for women and increase community awareness of the contributions women make in East Central Indiana.

Shrout was honored to accept the board position and pointed out that that fellow WPCI/NFPW member Buffy Grieves is one of the founding members and a past president of this organization.

*(Continued on page 15)*



# Affiliate and Member News . . .

(Continued from page 14)

## Illinois Woman's Press Association

Tracy Ahrens, a member of the Illinois Woman's Press Association, recently received an award for two of her children's books, "What if the Moon..." and "Cloud Jumpers."

The 2021 Creative Child Magazine Awards Program consisting of mothers and educators gave the preferred choice awards to both books in the picture books/kids category. Preferred Choice awards are given to books that are runners-up to Book of the Year awards. The judging was done virtually in late October.

Tracy is the author of two other children's books, "Come with Me" and "Sammy Sparrow's First Flight," which have also won Creative Child Magazine Awards.

She started self-publishing "What if the Moon..." and "Cloud Jumpers" in 2021 after the original publisher went out of business.

For the first time in its 136-year history, the Illinois Woman's Press Association (IWPA) has elected a man to serve as its president.

Art Brauer takes the helm of IWPA for a two-year term. A vital member of the chapter since 2005, he is a past communicator of achievement recipient and the coordinator for the IWPA's presence at the annual Printers Row Lit Fest in Chicago.

In 1999, Art and his wife, Susan, formed the company Dreamers Tapestry Inc., with the initial objective of using it as a base of operations for her outreach in the area of women in technology. Susan also is treasurer for IWPA.

Since he retired from the auto industry in 2002, Art's passion has become Dreamers Tapestry's business operations and doing what it takes to get the message out. As the company's vice president and creative director, his responsibilities include advertising, designing promotion-



Tracy Ahrens



Art Brauer

al materials, web presence and generally taking care of the business end of the company.

Art takes over for out-going IWPA President Cora Weisenberger, who served in the post for four years and remains on the IWPA board of directors as editor of the chapter's quarterly newsletter.

## Alaska Professional Communicators

Alaska Professional Communicators invites you to a Zoom meeting Thursday, Jan. 6, to hear author, photographer, poet and outdoorsman Frank Baker talk about 50 years of Alaska outdoor adventures through the seasons: nature's and his own.

Join the Zoom meeting as early as 11:30 a.m. for conversation and to troubleshoot connections, and by 11:50 a.m. to be prepared for the start of the program at noon. Here is the [link](#).

Baker will begin his presentation with a 10-minute slide show of the four seasons. He will follow with a discussion of how his outdoor adventures paralleled those seasons while dealing with age-related health issues, injuries and other challenges. Frank will describe his motivations to write and photograph these adventures and what living and working in Alaska for three-fourths of a century has meant to him.

A resident of Eagle River, Frank arrived in Seward from Pennsylvania in 1946. He received a B.A. degree in journalism from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1974. Soon after that, he began a career as a writer in Alaska's oil industry that spanned more than 40 years.

Following his retirement in 2015, Frank contributed articles and opinion columns to publications and websites both inside and outside Alaska. He has published three books of poetry. Frank also produced a weekly radio program on Anchorage's KLEF 98.1 FM radio station from 2002 to 2007.



Frank Baker

# The power of participation . . .

*You can help grow the communication field, NFPW and yourself*

By Ann Halpern

Alabama Media Professionals

As we head into 2022, we all hope for a better year than the past one.

Paying your dues and being part of your affiliate and NFPW can give you an edge. Being an active part of these professional groups adds an extra boost.

Hope you read what NFPW President Karen Rowley said in the November E-letter:

*"I continue to be impressed and inspired by the efforts all of you make to get better at what you do, to become more involved in your communities and to help this organization move into the future.*

*"Being involved not only helps our organizations, involvement and participation reward you with new skills and new contacts.*

*"Whether you write news stories, develop public relations campaigns, create ads, teach, explain governmental workings, spread the word via social media, take pictures, or write books and poetry, you are pushing the communications field forward. As it changes, you change, and NFPW changes along with you — and we will all be better for it."*

So how can you participate? Starting right now, there are several opportunities just waiting for you — some this month and others in the near future.

- \* Enter your best work of 2021 in the Communications Contest. Your first-place state awards allow you to advance to national competition. Winning a national award feels really good and can impress your clients.
- \* Invite other communications professionals to join NFPW and your affiliate so they can earn the same

membership benefits that you enjoy. Send them to the [NFPW website](#) to sign up. You probably did not join until someone invited you. Pass it forward. Focus on mid-career pros and rising stars in every field of communications.

- \* Find new ways to put NFPW objectives into action in your state. NFPW and its affiliates strive to share knowledge and ideas to build professional skills, recognize excellence with awards, protect First

Amendment freedoms and mentor young people seeking communications careers. We're also putting new focus on improving news and media literacy so our audiences receive and understand the intended messages.

- \* Say YES when you are asked to serve as an officer or committee chair. You will be able to teach others the joys of

participating and develop skills you can use in many places. Your circle of contacts will grow beyond your expectations.

- \* Submit a story to be shared with NFPW members across America. Next deadline is March 10. Query Agenda Editor [Cathy Koon](#) with your story ideas.
- \* Start planning to attend the NFPW Communications Conference in Fargo in June. You will return with new friends and fresh ideas.

Membership is more than monthly meetings. It is your key to adding skills, meeting people who can direct work your way, open doors to opportunities you never considered.

The more you give to your affiliate and NFPW, the more you get in return. Try it this year. It could make 2022 your best year ever.



### Media Network Idaho

Meg Parks Donahue, 48, died Nov. 19, 2021, after a 16-year battle with cancer. Donahue was a past president of Idaho Press Women, now known as Media Network Idaho.

Donahue was born several months after her parents, Allen and Peggy Parks, bought the Chalis, Idaho, weekly newspaper. After she married her husband, Shawn Donahue in 1995, she commuted 100 miles daily to work at the family's newspaper, while Shawn worked on the family farm. When her mom retired from the newspaper, Meg and Shawn moved to Boise where she took a graphics job at All America Publishing from 2005 until she retired in 2017, with a brief stint as managing editor of Idaho Magazine in 2007.

Besides writing, Donahue enjoyed making her own greeting cards and doing cross stitch; she wrote about the latter in a blog called Live to Stitch. In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to a local library especially a youth summer reading program. She also asked that everyone buy a stranger a cup of coffee.



**Meg Donahue**

### Women's Press Club of Indiana

Ruth Chin, 97, a longtime WPCI member, died Oct. 1, 2021.

Chin was a barrier-breaker: She was Indiana's first female photojournalist and the first Chinese female photojournalist. She was the first woman to photograph a state high school basketball championship in Hinkel Fieldhouse. In 1951, she was the first female to win the Bushemi Award, the top news photography award from the Indiana Associated Press.

Chin grew up in Muncie, where her family ran the city's first Chinese restaurant. At age 8, she started taking photographs with the camera her father bought her. She later ran her own studio and wrote a newspaper column called Positives and Negatives.

She joined WPCI in 1962, served as its president from 1974 through 1976 and was its Communicator of Achievement in 1975 and 1987. Donations in memory of Ruth Chin may be made to the Woman's Press Club of Indiana Education Fund, care of Julie Slaymaker, 5161 Washington Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46205.



**Ruth Chin**

**Send submissions for Agenda to:**

Editor Cathy Koon at [cathykoon1952@gmail.com](mailto:cathykoon1952@gmail.com)

**March 10, 2022,** is the deadline for the next issue of Agenda  
due out **April 2022**





*Just a thought . . .*

I believe there are angels among us  
Sent down to us from somewhere up above.  
They come to you and me in our darkest hour  
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give  
To guide us with the light of love.

— Alabama, the group

**By Cathy Koon**  
**Media Network Idaho, Agenda Editor**

Alabama, the county music group not the state, had a hit years ago with “Angels Among Us.” I cry every time I hear it.

One of those angels was Meg Donahue, who died just before Thanksgiving after a 16-year battle with cancer.

I first met Meg when she attended Idaho Press Women meetings with her mom, Peggy Parks of Challis. Meg was sweet, smart and creative. She grew into a sweet, smart and amazing woman who went to work at her mom’s newspaper and joined IPW and NFPW.

As is often the case in small affiliates, she worked her way through committee assignments and offices until she was our affiliate president. She attended an NFPW conference while she was pregnant with son Thomas. Let’s just say it wasn’t her most pleasant experience.

Meg suffered terribly as she fought her cancer in its many and progressive forms. Through it all, she kept her faith and her sweet spirit. She comforted those around her and didn’t complain. She would be the first to tell me I shouldn’t cry for her. She left this world on a journey she looked forward to.

She and her mom were one of those mother-daughter duos of NFPW. Powerhouses. Examples to all of us. As are Cecelia Green and Jill Miller, and Betty and Lisa Packard. I’m sure there are others, and I hope you will share their stories with us in future issues of Agenda.

Without IPW (now Media Network Idaho), I would never have met Peggy or Meg or the other remarkable women from our Idaho affiliate, women who made a difference in my life long before I became active in the national organization and met even more remarkable women and

men. Thanks to all of them for their impact on my life.

NFPW President Karen Rowley has asked us to help preserve the legacy of our federation, which celebrates its 85th birthday in 2022. “. . . we’ll never know what treasures we have until we start looking for them and ensuring we preserve them.”

Another MNI member who has been a big influence on me is Kitty Fleischman, who owns and publishes Idaho Magazine. She often reminds us that we lose a library of information with each and every death.

If you have materials for your affiliate and don’t know what to do with them (like the boxes of stuff I have from IPW and MNI), check out Karen’s President’s Message to find out how you can archive all of it in the national archive.

Ours is a proud heritage, and we need to preserve it so we won’t forget those angels among us.

# NFPW Leadership Directory

## 2021 ELECTED OFFICERS

### President:

Karen Rowley, Louisiana

### Vice President:

Julie Campbell, Virginia

### Secretary:

Meredith Cummings, Alabama

### Treasurer:

Debbie Miller, Arkansas

### Immediate Past President:

Gwen Larson, Kansas

## APPOINTED BOARD

### Archivist:

Paula Casey, At-Large

### 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:

Mark Fowser, Delaware

### Presidential Adviser — Conference Liaison:

Meg Hunt, South Carolina

### Presidential Adviser — Membership:

Cynthia Price, Virginia

### Presidential Adviser — Contest Director:

Teri Ehresman, Idaho

### Student Membership Director:

Unfilled

### Publications Director:

Cathy Koon, Idaho

### Publications Assistant:

Jane Newton Falany, Alabama

### Web Director:

Cate Langley, NFPW Executive Director

### 2022 Conference Co-Directors:

Sadie Rudolph, North Dakota

Tammy Fogle, North Dakota

## 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  $4.075 \times 2.476 = \$10$

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- 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.

## NFPW Headquarters

Cate Langley, Executive Director  
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