

AGENDA

Quarterly Newsletter

National Federation of Press Women



First Amendment issues in Kansas, Arkansas spark statements of support from NFPW board

(Editor's Note: NFPW President Julie Campbell has issued two separate statements of support regarding First Amendment issues in response to recent events in Kansas and Arkansas. This story by Gwen Larson focuses on the Kansas incident and is followed by a story from the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette about the situation in that state.)

By Gwen Larson

Kansas Professional Communicators

When NFPW members received an email about a First Amendment issue in Kansas, they may have been surprised that the issue centered in a small town.

After all, the First Amendment press issue we usually talk about (and studied in school) involves the New York Times publishing the Pentagon Papers.

But on Aug. 11, employees of the Marion County Record, a newspaper in Marion, Kansas, (population 1,902) found themselves treated like criminals when officers of the Marion Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Department executed search warrants at the newspaper's offices and at the home of Owner Ruth Meyer and her son, Publisher Eric Meyer.

According to descriptions published in the Kansas Reflector, a nonprofit, online news organization, officers yanked a cell phone out of a reporter's hand, dislocating her finger, and hauled away computers from the news office. From the publisher's home, they seized computers

and modems, and took photos of Eric Meyer's bank records.

Coverage of the issue expanded into news media across the state as well as the nation, revealing these facts:

- A U.S. representative from Kansas organized a town hall at a Marion restaurant. The restaurant owner, Kari Newell, asked reporters to leave and enlisted po-

lice officers to enforce her request. The newspaper published an account.

- Shortly after the forum, both the newspaper and a member of the Marion city council received copies of an official document that indicated that Newell, the restaurant owner, had her driver's license revoked after a driving under the influence conviction, yet was still driving. The allegation could jeopardize her request for a liquor license so she could expand into catering.

- Eric Meyer assigned a reporter to investigate the allegation. The reporter used a public website for a Kansas state agency to confirm the license suspension.

- Although the information was verified, the newspaper chose not to publish it because the publisher questioned the motives of the source. Instead,

(Continued on page 3)





President's Message: How the board made this decision

By Julie Campbell
NFPW President

"Thank you for your support. It's greatly appreciated." That's the response to the note of condolence we emailed in August to Eric Meyer, pub-

lisher of the Marion County (Kansas) Record, on the loss of his mother, Joan Meyer, the co-owner of the paper and a longtime journalist. Meyer was caught up in a news story of worldwide interest, yet he took the time to reply to our message. I was touched.

As you may remember, on Aug. 20 we issued a statement that NFPW stood with such organizations as the Kansas Press Association (KPA) and the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) in condemning the police raid on the Marion County Record. Thanks to those of you who sent emails affirming our decision.

On Sept. 10, we put out another statement, this one supporting our affiliate Arkansas Press Women (APW) and the Arkansas Pro Chapter of SPJ in their opposition to two bills that would have weakened the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

Afterward, I heard from a member who would have preferred that we include the text of the bills in our message so that she could have judged for herself. Pondering that request, I thought an explanation is in order of how the board decides to issue such statements.

As board members, some of us have been elected by the membership; others are appointed by the president. We represent the organization, abide by the bylaws, and act in what we judge to be NFPW's best interests. We are proud of our First Amendment Network (FAN), to which all NFPW members automatically belong. And we view such trustworthy organizations as KPA and SPJ as our peers with a similar devotion to the First Amendment.

Before our statement about the Marion County Record, many emails ensued among the elected board and presidential advisers, the input of our FAN co-directors (Angela Smith and Marsha Shuler) was considered, and a discussion was held at a board meeting before the statement was approved.

For the Arkansas legislation, after consulting with Smith and Shuler, I circulated a draft statement to the elected board and presidential advisers, along with the letters from APW and the Arkansas Pro Chapter of SPJ. The board's approval of our statement followed.

While we didn't have room to include the text of the bills, we did include their titles. There's always room for improvement, and perhaps next time we'll add hyperlinks to the material we are referencing.

In any case, to echo Eric Meyer, I thank you, our members, for your support — and your questions. You are greatly appreciated.

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

First Amendment issues . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the publisher informed the Marion police chief and Marion County sheriff about the situation. In his letter to them, Meyer wrote: "Because of the confidential nature of our source and privacy expectations of the individual targeted, I am not comfortable sharing additional information unless you inform me that you have cause to believe some crime or misbehavior might have occurred and additional information we might be able to provide could assist in any investigation."

Meyer received no response, but a week later the search warrant was served on the newspaper and the publisher's home as part of an investigation into identify theft and unlawful use of a computer.

As news media covered the actions in Marion, they were able to educate their audiences about freedom of the press and legal actions taken to preserve the same. In Kansas specifically, the Kansas Reporters' Shield Law sets out steps to take when authorities want access to information that news media outlets have. Those steps include issuing a subpoena and scheduling a court hearing to hear from both the authorities who want the information and the outlets who have the information.

The actions in Marion did not follow the process.

After the raids, the Marion County Record hired an attorney and filed its own lawsuit to return the seized equipment and records. It also hired an independent investigator to examine what was seized to determine what records law enforcement accessed.

When property was returned, the box included a flash drive with documents specifically culled from the equipment. The Record published a photo Aug. 30 showing a group of people in what looks to be a garage or larger storage area. Marion County Sheriff Jeff Soye holds a

USB drive, while Undersheriff Larry Starkey holds a mallet against a screwdriver placed against the drive. Watching are attorneys for the Record and the sheriff's office as well as a sheriff's investigator.

Currently, the Record is waiting for the outcome of the investigation by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation into the case of alleged identity theft. In addition, Deb Gruver, the reporter whose cell phone was ripped out of her hands, has filed a federal lawsuit against Marion Police Chief Cody Gideon.

In late September, Kansas residents were reminded this incident is not isolated. The Lawrence Journal-World, a newspaper in Lawrence, Kansas, home of the University of Kansas and its William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communication, requested an affidavit in

Support for newspaper goes global

By DEB GRUVER
Staff writer

"They sent pizza, offered computers, volunteered to edit copy and do research, increased advertising, and bought subscriptions to the 154-year-old Record."

"Thousands of people from around the world pledged support for Marion's second-largest operating business—its newspaper—after police officers and sheriff's deputies seized computer equipment and personal cell phones Friday from the Record newsroom, the home of its owners, and the home of Marion's vice mayor."

"Almost 2,000 people signed up for new subscriptions. More than 266,500 people read the Record's website."

"At least two downtown businesses posted 'Support the Blue' on storefronts."

"I have read with anger, sadness, empathy, and even a sting of fear about what has happened to all of you," a Goosend resident wrote in an email.

"Thank you for being one of the few remaining local newspapers around," another supporter wrote. "Please stay strong and keep fighting for local journalism. I come from a small town in Indiana and remember the local newspaper being critical to our understanding of community and unity overall."

"The raid on your newspaper office and the related death is an absolute outrage," a New Jersey resident wrote.



Memorials to Marion County Record co-owner Joan Meyer stand in a planter in front of the newspaper office. Residents, touched by Meyer's death a day after raids of the newspaper office and her home, quickly brought items in memory of her. **Story on Page 4; more reactions on Page 7.**

"This is something you'd expect to find in a totalitarian state."

Numerous people called to ask for the Record's mailing address, saying they were outraged and planned to send checks to help defray legal expenses.

The Record's three phone lines rang steadily over the weekend as well as Monday and Tuesday as news of the raid spread in The New York Times

and The Washington Post and on NPR and CNN—among dozens of other print and broadcast outlets. Emails poured in to the newsroom.

Outside the newspaper's building on 3rd St., people created a shrine to Joan Meyer, the Record's co-owner who died a day after police searched the home she shared with her son, Eric, publisher and editor of the paper.

They left fresh and artificial flowers, including a rose made of newspaper.

The Society of Professional Journalists pledged \$20,000 to help the paper with legal fees. The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press sent a stinging letter, signed by 30 heavy-hitter news organizations, to Marion Police Chief Gideon Cody, who read Record staff members their Miranda rights. Like the paper's at-

torney, Bernie Rhodes, the organization urged law enforcement to return seized materials.

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Kansas issued a statement saying, "We stand with our alumni and all journalists who work tirelessly and often at great personal cost, to ensure that the public is well-informed. The school, along with the William Allen White Foundation Board of Trustees, affirms that any threat to journalism is a threat to democracy itself."

"As our namesake once famously wrote in his own small-town Kansas newspaper 'Only when free utterance is suppressed is it needed, and when it is needed, it is most vital to justice.'"

Emily Bradberry, executive director of the Kansas Press Association, said, "An attack on a newspaper office through an illegal search is not just an infringement on the rights of journalists but an assault on the very foundation of democracy and the public's right to know. This cannot be allowed to stand."

"I continue to be outraged by the irresponsible speech by far too many in positions of authority condemning our nation's journalists for doing the job they are supposed to do," an Oregon resident wrote. "Such speech incites and condones the kind of reprehensible violations you've experienced in Marion."

a local court case. Joshua Seiden, Douglas County deputy district attorney, objected.

What made news was the nature of his objection. As quoted in the Kansas Reflector:

"Seiden, in an Aug. 25 court filing, identified four provisions in state law that allow an affidavit to be sealed, but he provided no argument for why any of those provisions would apply. Instead, he asked the judge to consider the newspaper's integrity."

"While the Lawrence Journal-World may claim that it requests this information because it is in the public interest, the sad reality is that the Lawrence Journal-World is a fledgling publication devoid of journalist integrity and constantly on the prowl for potential clickbait."

District Judge Stacey Donovan, ruling on the motion, provided an education about the First Amendment and freedom of the press.

Wrote the Reflector:

"Donovan, the judge, ruled Friday that Seiden's as-

(Continued on page 4)

First Amendment issues . . .

(Continued from page 3)

sersion was 'unfounded.' She pointed out that state law allows any person to request an affidavit."

"Thus, the state's position on whether the LJW meets the state's standards for journalistic integrity is irrelevant to the analysis,' Donovan wrote. 'It is, however, relevant to the purpose of the First Amendment — to protect against government actors deciding what news stories they find acceptable.'

"The judge wrote that she would grant the newspaper's request for the affidavit 'because the disparaging remarks by the state regarding the LJW demonstrate that the LJW's interest in the matter at hand is not being adequately represented.'

"The media functions as a watchdog that informs, as well as a forum that shares and promotes ideas and opinions for and among ordinary citizens,' Donovan wrote. 'The state's attempt to persuade this court to weigh the 'journalistic integrity' of the requester in deciding whether to seal the affidavit is disconcerting.'"

NFPW joins opposition to changes in Arkansas FOIA

Compiled from online news media reports

In Arkansas, Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders called for a special session of the legislature to consider, among other things, an overhaul of the state's Freedom of Information Act, saying it slows down state government operations and exposes her and other constitutional officers to security risks.

Arkansas lawmakers were to consider two identical bills, House Bill 1003 and Senate Bill 7, proposing expanded exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act. The bill would block disclosure of documents related to the governor's security and the policy making process.

Specifically, the bills included a deliberative process exemption that would exempt government documents such as memoranda, letters, commutations, advisory opinions, recommendations and deliberations "that comprise part of the process by which governmental decisions and policies are formulated."

The Arkansas Freedom of Information Task Force,

created through legislation in 2017, met via Zoom prior to the start of the special session to listen to public comment and to vote on a recommendation. The task force voted unanimously to oppose Sanders' plan.

Jimmie Cavin, a self-described Freedom of Information advocate, told the task force, "What this is going to do is take away the rights citizens have had since 1967 to see that deliberative process."

NFPW joined its affiliate, Arkansas Press Women (APW), and with the Arkansas Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ), to express to the leaders of the Arkansas General Assembly their opposition to House Bill 1003 and Senate Bill 7.

In the words of a letter to legislators, which SPJ sent and that APW (along with other organizations), signed, the legislation weakens the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act by creating "several new exemptions to the law that will shatter citizens' protection and violate the law's presumption in favor of disclosure and transparency. If passed and enacted into law as written, the bill will lock critical elements of state government in a black box, away from the people who have a right to know what the government does in their name and how it spends their money."

After the legislature wrapped up the special session, Sanders signed a law restricting release of her travel and security records.

The law, which took effect immediately, allows the state to wall off details about the security provided the GOP governor and other constitutional officers, including who travels on the state police airplane and the cost of individual trips.

Sanders has argued the restrictions are needed to protect her and her family, citing threats she's faced since taking office and going back to her time as White House press secretary for former President Donald Trump.

Democratic Rep. Andrew Collins said protecting the governor and her family is a good reason to exempt some records from release, but it should only be done as narrowly as possible.

"But I don't think this is drawn as narrowly as possible," Collins, who voted against the bill, said.



St. Louis, Missouri, skyline

Meet us in St. Louis for conference '24

By Deborah Reinhardt

Missouri Professional Communicator Co-president

Missouri Professional Communicators' (MPC) planning team for "Gateway to Success," the 2024 National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) annual conference, had a busy summer.

The site for the June 20–22, 2024, conference has been chosen, the opening reception is in place, keynote speakers have accepted, sponsors are starting to sign up, tours are being organized, and more.

"MPC is thrilled to welcome NFPW members to our wonderful home city, St. Louis," said Janice Denham,

MPC co-president. "Our dedicated planning team is working hard to put together a memorable conference."

Planning team members are Ruth E. Thaler-Carter, Denham, and myself. Deborah Marshall is working as an advisor.

Keynote speakers for Friday, June 21, 2024, will be Lynne Jackson and Dr. Jody Sowell.

Jackson is founder and president of The Dred Scott Heritage Foundation and great-great-granddaughter of Dred and Harriet Scott. She is overseeing a new monu-

(Continued on page 6)

Meet us in . . .

(Continued from page 5)

ment to be installed at the grave of Dred Scott in Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis.

Sowell, president of the Missouri Historical Society (MHS) and former professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, is an advocate of positioning MHS and its Missouri History Museum in St. Louis as a place where visitors can learn and wrestle with difficult history.

The conference team is reviewing proposals for additional programs. Anyone who would like to submit a proposal may visit the MPC website, <http://www.moprocommunicators.org>, for more information.

Sponsors are beginning to come forward to “meet us in St. Louis.” MPC welcomes Missouri WinesTM as a sponsor of the opening night reception on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at the St. Louis Artists’ Guild. Missouri boasts the



first American Viticultural Area in the country. Prior to Prohibition, the state had more than 100 wineries. Today, 129 wineries call Missouri home.

We are working on a tour to introduce conference attendees to one of our wine-growing areas.

Our conference hotel will be the venerable Hilton St. Louis Frontenac. With the Hilton as our home base, we'll explore the St. Louis metropolitan area and taste some of our regional cuisine. The hotel offers a free shuttle from Lambert St. Louis International Airport.

Those coming into St. Louis via Amtrak will have a short 15-minute car ride to the hotel.

Registration for the conference will soon open, and members can follow the MPC Facebook page or website for updates.



Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis, St. Louis, Missouri, was built over seven years and finished in 1914.

Professional, high school contests open

By Helen S. Plotkin

2024 NFPW Professional Contest Director

The 2024 NFPW professional and high school communications contests, sponsored by the NFPW Education Fund, open Oct. 1 with deadlines for submission in January and February 2024.

Now is the time to begin reviewing your 2023 work and selecting your entries. Then, check the contest categories and requirements to identify the best categories for your work. Entries can be disqualified if submitted in the wrong category, as determined by the judges.

NFPW's contest categories are listed on the NFPW website.

Professional communicators may enter the contest at the affiliate level or in the at-large contest. Affiliate winners are forwarded to the national contest. Non-members must join NFPW to enter competition at the national level. Entries must have been published in 2023.

About deadlines

The early deadline to submit entries – and avoid a one-time \$25 late processing fee – is **Jan. 17, 2024**. The final deadline for books is **Jan. 31, 2024**, and the final deadline for all other entries is **Feb. 7, 2024**.

The contest is sponsored by NFPW affiliates across the country. Check out the Find Your Affiliate page [online](#) to see if your state sponsors a competition. If your state isn't listed, you may enter the at-large contest.

Entries that place first in the affiliate and at-large contests are eligible to advance to the national competition. To enter the national contest, entrants must be NFPW members, or must join by March 15, 2024.

National winners will be notified in late April and the results will be announced during an awards dinner on June 22, 2024 – the final night of NFPW's annual conference, which will be in St. Louis, Missouri.



Helen Plotkin

The high school communications contest is also accepting entries for the 2024 Contest. The contest is open to middle and high school students throughout the United States. Affiliates in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska and Pennsylvania are hosting state contests.

Students in other states may enter the At-Large contest. For the high school contest, the entries must have been published between Feb. 1, 2023, and Jan. 31, 2024.

The deadline for all student entries is Feb. 7, 2024.

Entries that place first in the affiliate and at-large contest automatically advance to the national level of competitions. A third round of judging takes place for the first-place winners in the national competition when three judges select a "best of the best" winner from all the first-place-winning entries. All the national winners will be announced during a Zoom ceremony in May and further honored at a luncheon on Saturday, June 22, 2024 in St. Louis.

Questions about the professional communication contest should be directed to Helen Plotkin, 2024 professional contest director at haplotkin@outlook.com.

Questions about the high school communication contest should be directed to Teri Ehresman, 2024 high school contest director, at islandpark723@gmail.com.

Questions relating to issues submitting the entries and issues with the online contest should be directed to Cate Langley, NFPW executive director, at info@nfpw.org.

(Editor's Note: Helen Plotkin of Arkansas Press Women is the new director of NFPW's professional communications contest. She succeeds Teri Ehresman of Network Media Idaho, who held the spot for more than a decade. Plotkin retired in 2017 as vice president of marketing communications for Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, after working in higher education public relations for 28 years. She worked at newspapers in Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana for 13 years after earning a journalism degree from Henderson State University in Arkansas. Helen twice served Arkansas Press Women as president and served on the board of both APW and Louisiana Press Women. She was been APW's contest director for five years and was Ehresman's assistant director prior to being named director.)

Student reporter's investigation leads to resignation of university president

From Brian Wilson

Palo Alto (CA) journalism adviser

Northwestern football coach Pat Fitzgerald is out after hazing details are uncovered by The Daily Northwestern.

Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne is out after falsified research details are uncovered by The Stanford Daily.

Just in case you were curious about whether or not the reporting done by students is still important.

Meet the Stanford student whose reporting led to resignation of President Marc Tessier-Lavigne.

By Jill Tucker

San Francisco Chronicle

Without a then-17-year-old college freshman and his student newspaper peers, it seems unlikely that Stanford University's president would have resigned in July or that the world would have known that he spent decades overlooking lapses in academic integrity that left errors in widely cited neuroscience research.

Theo Baker, who served as the investigations editor of the independent student newspaper during his freshman year, reported extensively on a tip that Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne might be guilty of scientific misconduct due to data errors and other problems in academic papers he co-authored. Tessier-Lavigne resigned in July in the wake of a report, which found no evidence he knowingly falsified data.

Baker spent more than 1,000 hours in the fall of 2022 interviewing dozens of experts and digging into

obscure research citations and the minutiae of brain research, while attending classes, doing homework and taking tests.

"It's a fun way to start out" at Stanford, he said in an interview the day of Tessier-Lavigne's resignation.

His reporting prompted the Stanford trustees to launch an investigation by an independent panel of five scientists, with the results officially released as Tessier-Lavigne announced he would step down.

Baker said he started writing at 2 a.m. about Tessier-Lavigne's likely resignation as well as the results of the investigation. He was still working on the story and fallout of his probe nearly 12 hours later.

"The No. 1 thing I'm feeling right now is tired," he said, adding that the exit of Tessier-Lavigne, as well as his commitment to retract or issue lengthy corrections to research papers widely cited in academia, "feels really important."

Baker said the Daily's investigation raised important conversations about academic integrity based on Tessier-Lavigne's acknowledgment that there were problems and they will be addressed.

"Contributing to that feels really powerful," Baker said.

The stories published in the Stanford Daily resulted in the first George Polk Award, an elite national journalism prize, for a student journalist, as well as a James Madison Freedom of Information Award from the Northern California Chapter of



Theo Baker, student reporter

the Society of Professional Journalists.

Stanford's official investigation found that Tessier-Lavigne should have done more to correct problems he knew about, including apparent manipulations of images, in scholarly papers he co-authored.

There was no evidence that the departing president manipulated research himself, but rather was responsible for those who did the work in his labs, according to the report.

Sam Catania, the student editor in chief at the Daily during Baker's investigation, said it was clear early on that it was critical to get the facts and to have "extraordinary skepticism" of everything they found.

"The entire story was about understanding why this matters, does this matter, what does this mean more broadly," he said, adding this was about the president of the university.

(Continued on page 9)

Student report . . .

(Continued from page 8)

"Our take was, there was absolutely no room for error."

He said Baker was energetic and extremely thoughtful, "focused on doing it right."

"It takes a lot of energy to make a hundred phone calls and get no response," Catania said. "This story has reminded me why I love journalism."

Baker, now 18, carries at least some journalistic DNA. His father is Peter Baker, the Washington bureau chief of the New York Times, and his mother is Susan B. Glasser, a writer at the New Yorker magazine.

"I'm so lucky to have examples in my life of what I want to look up to, to know firsthand what good journalism looks like," he said. "The fact that

they have been willing to let me go off to the other side of the country and do this work and be voracious cheerleaders, I'm the luckiest kid."

The incoming college sophomore has noted, in response to previous media allegations of being a "nepo baby" — benefiting from nepotism and journalistic privilege — that neither of his parents have won a Polk Award.

Baker isn't sure what his future holds or whether it will include journalism down the road.

"I think I should probably figure out a major before a career," he said.

That said, "I really strongly believe that it is important to shine a light on the things you care about," Baker said.

Share news about affiliates and members for inclusion in the monthly E-Letter and AGENDA, the official quarterly newsletter of NFPW.

Send items for the E-Letter to president@nfpw.org.

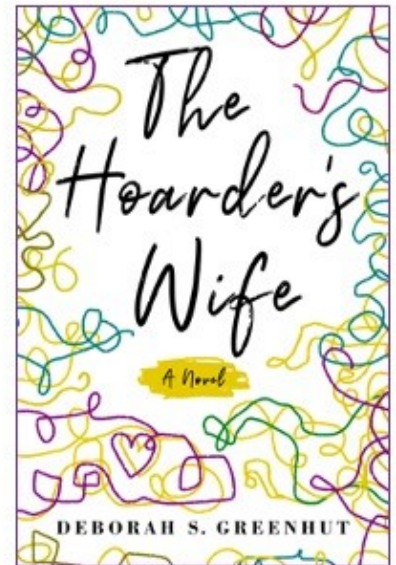
Send items for AGENDA to cathykoon1952@gmail.com.

AGENDA DEADLINES

Submit stories and/or photos
for the next issue of AGENDA by:

Dec. 10, 2023
(For publication January 2024)

Send submissions to
cathykoon1952@gmail.com



"Exemplary work..."
2nd Place
2023 NFPW
At-Large
Contest for
Adult Fiction

Available from
Woodhall Press at
Amazon
Barnes & Noble
Bookshop.org
Print and
E-versions

Conference first-timers recognized by NFPW

Seventeen NFPW members attended their first-ever national conference in Cincinnati in 2023.

As first-timers, they wore special ribbons on their conference nametags and were recognized at events during the three-day event.

First-timers were:

- Cris Blackstone, New Hampshire
- Katie Brandt, Illinois
- Mary C. Curtis, North Carolina
- Nicolette Gordon, Louisiana*
- Deborah Greenhut, New Jersey*
- Regina Griego, New Mexico
- Sharon Gripp, Texas
- Adair Heitmann, Connecticut
- Sarah Komar, Missouri
- Valerie Ormond, Maryland*
- Tom Quinn, Connecticut*
- Kassie Ritman, Indiana*
- Wendy Rosen, Illinois
- Carin Smith, Pennsylvania
- Erin Sullivan, Illinois
- Heather Syverson, North Dakota
- Ruth E. Thaler-Carter, Missouri

Twelve of the first-timers applied for and were awarded grants from the NFPW Education Fund to pay their conference fees. Asterisks (*) indicate those members who did NOT receive grants.

Members who qualify can apply for first-timer grants prior to conference. Applications are available on the NFPW website.

CORRECTION

The following correction is being made to the list of those honored at the memorial service at the NFPW conference in Cincinnati in June 2023:

Among those honored were Marion Garmel and Joline Nelson Moore Ohmar, members of the Woman's Press Club of Indiana. Their home affiliates were incorrectly listed in the July issue of AGENDA.



A winning answer drew an enthusiastic response during the opening night reception of the 2023 NFPW conference in Cincinnati. Photo by Lori Potter.

Silent auction raises \$4,090

The final tally for the NFPW Education Fund's silent auction at Cincinnati was \$4,090.

"We announced during the Saturday night dinner that the auction took in \$3,906, and I said I'd take additional contributions to get to \$4,000," said Betty Packard of California, auction director. "By the time I sat down, I had received the remaining \$94 needed."

But before the night was over, more people had donated to the cause, bringing the final total to \$4,090.

Among the high-dollar items at the auction was a special Build a Bear bear donated by the 2024 conference committee that sold for \$100.

Build a Bear is a St. Louis company.

The silent auction is an annual event at the national conference and considered by many members to be one of the highlights. It is a fundraiser for the Education Fund that pays for the high school and professional communications contest, gives out first-timer grants and offers research and education grants to members.

Contributions to the Education Fund are tax-deductible and can be made at any time through NFPW headquarters. The cost of items donated to the silent auction is also tax deductible, but the purchase of items at the auction doesn't count as a donation because the winning bidder receives tangible property.

Affiliate and Member News . . .

Kansas Professional Communicators

Longtime Kansas Professional Communicators' member Gloria Freeland is among this year's inductees into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame, coordinated by the Kansas Press Association.



Gloria Freeland

A professor for 37 years at the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism at Kansas State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and an MBA, Freeland became synonymous with community journalism. She retired in 2020.

During her academic career at K-State, she was the associate director

of Student Publications Inc. for 15 years, director of the Huck Boyd National Center for Community Media for 22 years, and the school's internship coordinator for 15 years. She also helped organize the 1996 centennial celebration of K-State's student newspaper and the 2010 Miller School centennial gala, and was on the planning committee for the university's sesquicentennial in 2013.

She and husband, Art Vaughan, a former K-State professor, wrote a book, "An Opportunity to Be Better," about the sister city relationship between Morganville, Kansas, and Metz, France, after World War II. It was published in English and later in French.

Belinda Venters, the public affairs director for the University of Kansas

School of Medicine-Wichita, is among this year's 2023 Wichita Business Journal marketing awards honorees.

Vanessa Whiteside, who won an NFPW award this year for her first book that was about 100 things to do in Wichita, has just released her second Wichita-focused book.

"Secret Wichita: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful and Obscure," has been published by Reedy Press.



Belinda Venters



Vanessa Whiteside



AP Style rules for ChatGPT, ‘woke’ and more

By Randall McCoach

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 we’ll be reviewing some recent changes. I know many of us might prefer these rules to remain constant, but in reality, style, grammar and even common spellings are fluid, changing with the times and common usage.

Here are a few interesting tidbits.

ChatGPT

This new entry explains something we’ve been hearing about a lot but might not yet know much about.

ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence (AI) text chatbot made by the company OpenAI that was released as a free web-based tool in late 2022. It relies on technology known as a large language model, which is trained to mimic how people write by processing a large database of digitized books and online writings and analyzing how words are sequenced together.

People can ask ChatGPT to answer a question or generate new passages of text, including songs, poems, letters and essays. It responds by making predictions about what words would answer the prompt it was given.

Tools such as ChatGPT show a strong command of human language, grammar and writing styles but are often factually incorrect (a topic we’ve covered in recent media news roundups). Avoid language that attributes human characteristics to these tools, since they do not have thoughts or feelings but can sometimes respond in ways that give the impression that they do.

Woke

Speaking of recent items in the news, there seems to be a new definition of an old word.

Use quotes around the slang term “woke,” which originally described enlightenment or awakening about issues of racial and other forms of social justice.

Some people and groups, especially conservatives, now use it in a derogatory sense implying what they see as overreactions.

Climate Terminology

While climate change might not be considered new news, how we describe different aspects of the ongoing event is still evolving:

— **Climate budget:** The amount of carbon dioxide that can be emitted globally before the world will exceed the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius or 2 degrees Celsius.

— **Carbon footprint:** Just about every business, government entity, product and mode of transportation has a carbon footprint, or an amount of greenhouse gases (mostly carbon dioxide, but others as well) put into the atmosphere. These greenhouse gases, of course, mostly come from the consumption of fossil fuels.

— **Desertification:** The process in which land becomes increasingly dry, with the amount and lushness of vegetation decreasing and eventually disappearing. Explain the term if you use it or quote someone using it.

— **Greenwashing:** Advertising or claims by companies, countries or other organizations that aim to deceive the public to believe a certain product, policy or organization is environmentally friendly. The term can be used independently or in direct quotations if one organization is accusing another of greenwashing. Explain the term when used.

Nonprofit vs. Not-for-Profit

Did you know there’s a difference between “nonprofit” and “not-for-profit”? Here’s the Stylebook entry:

In the U.S., a nonprofit organization is one that has tax-exempt status from the IRS and has a stated mission to provide a public benefit and often can receive a tax-deductible donation. Examples include a charity, church, or other social welfare group. That’s in contrast to a for-profit organization, which operates in order to generate revenue for its owners, like most businesses.

(Continued on page 13)

AP Style rules . . .

(Continued from page 12)

A not-for-profit organization is not required to operate for the public good and donations to the organization are not tax-deductible, even if it has IRS tax-exempt status.

Nonprofits are categorized based on what section of the Internal Revenue Code governs their type of organization. There are 29 types, but the most common are:

— **501(c)(3)**: Organizations created for what the U.S. tax code defines as “social welfare,” these are generally seen as charitable, educational or religious groups. They have tax-exempt status and donations to them are tax-deductible. To maintain that status, their work cannot primarily focus on lobbying for a single political candidate or party.

— **501(c)(4)**: These organizations are also created for “social welfare,” but they are allowed to donate to specific political candidates or parties and lobby for them. Donations to these groups are not tax-deductible.

Generally, refer to nonprofits based on their stated missions: “*The charity is dedicated to supporting earthquake victims,*” or “*The homeless shelter has seen an increased demand for its services.*”

Use the tax code designation in stories questioning whether the group is using its funding properly or to differentiate nonprofits working in the same sector.

(Editor’s Note: NFPW publications adhere to AP Style, which is updated regularly to keep pace with changes in technology, terminology and the other “ologies” that impact printed communications.)

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 conference.

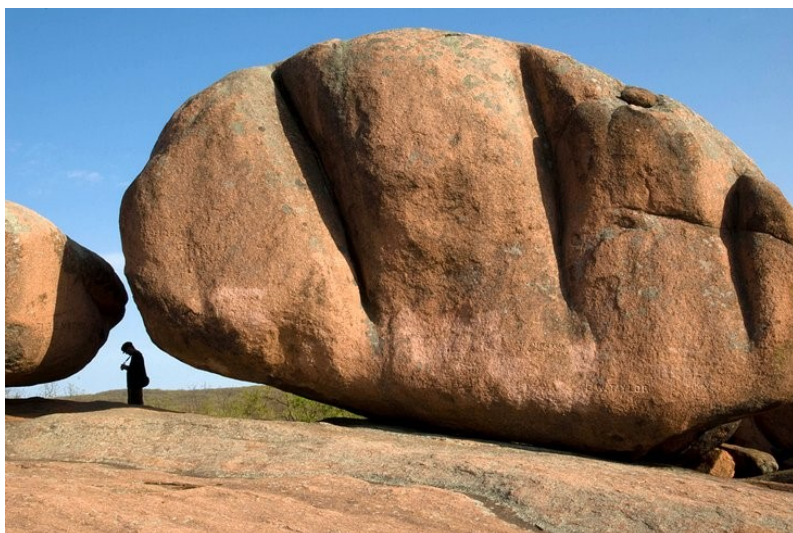
Death notices are published in the E-Letter and obituaries in AGENDA.

AGENDA Publication Schedule

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

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

Elephant Rocks State Park, Belleview, is listed among the most beautiful places to photograph in Missouri. The Show Me State has a lot of stunning landscapes to share. Cultural icons like the Gateway Arch rise in contrast to natural views like the one found at Alley Mill. Or you can snap shots of the remains of an ancient castle at Ha Ha Tonka State Park. On a southern arm of Lake of the Ozarks, the turn-of-the-century castle has excellent views of the water. And 15 miles of hiking trails surround the castle ruins and lead throughout the encompassing Ozark landscape. Missouri goes by another name, the Cave State, and its underground worlds are also fun to explore and photograph.



Got a First Amendment story to tell?

Now is the time to share it.

**Our annual First Amendment issue of AGENDA
is published in January each year.
The deadline for submission is Dec. 10.**

**Please contact our
First Amendment Network directors
regarding your intent to contribute
or to volunteer to cover specific topics.**

FAN Co-Director

Marsha Shuler, Louisiana
marshashuler@yahoo.com

FAN Co-Director

Angela Smith, Texas
ASmith1411@aol.com

**Email your stories directly to AGENDA at
cathykoon1952@gmail.com.**

**Limit stories to 400 words and include byline, mugshot of
author, and artwork or graphic to illustrate content.**



By Cathy Koon

Media Network Idaho, AGENDA Editor

Looking at the front page, you wouldn't know our First Amendment issue is published in January. I didn't think this story should be held until then.

Maybe we can consider it a reminder that the First Amendment issue is still scheduled for January and that First Amendment issues happen every day.

That's part of the problem of keeping our members educated about the First Amendment: Incidents happen so frequently in so many different guises, they have become mundane rather than the exception. So we don't think to speak up or speak out.

As Gwen Larson mentioned in her story, we often think of the First Amendment in mega-terms like the New York Times publishing the Pentagon Papers, sometimes overlooking the day-to-day nature of government keeping information from the public.

Our elected officials — from city councils to school boards to county commissioners — all too often fail to disclose the simplest information because they don't think it matters or they don't think it's any of our business.

And part of the problem is that we have begun to believe it doesn't matter, that it isn't worth the trouble it takes to find out what is really happening at meetings that are open to the public but rarely attended by private citizens or covered by news reporters.

Sadly, one of the biggest problems we face in exposing First Amendment violations is the lack of interest from the very people the law seeks to protect. According to recent studies and polls, the majority of the American people think the news media is out of line for the steps taken to ensure open government.

How do you protect the First Amendment when the people don't care if it is protected? Why should we care if the people don't?

In discussions with my teenaged grandsons, I have come to realize how precarious our situation is. They are growing up in a society dominated by social media, which doesn't recognize the value of news media. They have not been, and likely never will be, readers of newspapers. Their parents no longer subscribe to or read newspapers. They don't watch the news on TV and depend on the internet where they can pick and choose what they consider to be news.

I was approached recently about going to work as the news director for a new radio station to be launched next year. My initial response was, "Hell, yes, I'm interested." But do I really want to beat my head against the brick wall of indifference and even animosity the public has built in regard to being an informed populace? You can't beat the information into thick skulls or even put a crack in that wall.

Why try? What other choice do we have?

NFPW Leadership Directory

2023 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

Presidential Adviser — Conference Liaison:

Meg Hunt, South Carolina

Presidential Adviser — Membership:

Cynthia Price, Virginia

Professional Contest Director:

Helen Plotkin, Arkansas

High School Contact Director:

Teri Ehresman, Idaho

Presidential Advisers:

Gwen Larson, Kansas

Marsha Hoffman, Iowa

Publications Director:

Cathy Koon, Idaho

Publications Assistant:

Jane Newton Falany, Alabama

Web Director:

Cate Langley, NFPW Executive Director

2024 Conference Committee:

Missouri Press Woman

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 $4.075 \times 2.476 = \$10$

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.