

Fall 2021 Vol. 84, No.1

Agenda



Quarterly Newsletter of the
National Federation of Press Women



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President's Message: NFPW needs you

By Karen Rowley
NFPW President

The lifeblood of any organization is the people who make it go. NFPW is no different. Our members are the ones who inspire us, who challenge us, who enable us to get things done.

But, as is frequently the case right now, organizational memberships are declining, and the bulk of the work that goes into keeping an organization vital and relevant tends to rest on a few people. Again, NFPW is no different.

I'd like to change that. As NFPW kicks off its 2022 membership renewal effort, I want to encourage each of you not only to renew your membership, but also to invite at least one other person to become a new member. It's an idea I'm shamelessly borrowing from others, but I think it's a good one. And, even if just a few of the people you invite say yes, we will have taken a significant step in increasing our numbers.

NFPW and its state affiliates have much to offer communication professionals across the spectrum, and I hope you're all able to call those things to mind when talking with potential new members. They include developing professional networks, investing in your careers, learning from your peers, expanding your skills and receiving recognition for your work.

In addition, NFPW offers affordable libel insurance for members, and the NFPW Education Fund provides grants for professional development opportunities.

I also want to encourage you to be more involved with both your affiliate and the national organization. NFPW offers members an opportunity to get involved in efforts such as supporting the First Amendment or nurturing the next generation of communicators. In addition, we are always looking for members to help with contests, meetings, conferences and other projects or events, as

well as take more active roles at both the state and national levels.

In sum, NFPW and its affiliates offer members a lot! Please give some thought as to how you can be more involved, and please take this opportunity to renew your membership for next year. Encourage others to do the same.

(On a side note, the national dues will remain the same for 2022 as they were for 2021 – \$85. Given the difficulties many of us have faced in the past year, the NFPW board elected not to increase dues for next year.)

At-Large Contest Director

This is a terrific opportunity to play a bigger role with the national organization. We need someone to oversee the at-large portion of the 2022 Professional Communications Contest, the fastest-growing part of our contest. The director would be responsible for monitoring entries, answering questions from entrants, finding judges and making sure the judging is completed on time.

You would not be on your own, however. Contest Director Teri Ehresman, NFPW Executive Director Cate Langley and I will all be there to provide support. If you've never thought about taking on this type of position before, I urge you to consider it.

I had the honor of being the director of the National High School Communications Contest for a few years, and it was one of the most interesting, inspiring and sometimes frustrating things I've ever done. And I wouldn't trade it for anything.

If you might be interested, please contact Teri at is-landpark723@gmail.com or me at president@nfpw.org.

2022 NFPW Conference

As of now, we are planning to hold an in-person confer-

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On the Cover:

Delaware Press Association member Ray Firmani is celebrating his 100th birthday along with his long and varied commitment to his country, his career as a photographer and his involvement in NFPW and DPA. He is shown during a ceremony in his honor on Veterans Day at Delaware Air Force Base.



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ence next year in Fargo, North Dakota, hosted by North Dakota Professional Communicators. The dates for the conference will be June 23-25, 2022, and the hotel will be the Radisson Blu in downtown Fargo.

So, mark your calendars and plan to attend! As we have more information — particularly about conference and hotel registrations — we will pass that along.

Assistant named for NFPW publications

Jane Newton Falany of Alabama has agreed to serve as assistant to Cathy Koon, NFPW publications director, succeeding Gwen Woolf, who recently resigned after working with Koon for a number of years.

Jane is an award-winning writer and editor who has more than 30 years of experience, including 12 years as a freelancer. She has worked in corporate public relations, written news releases and news and feature articles, edited publications, and taught journalism and public

MemberClicks

Finally, please take a moment to read NFPW Executive Director Cate Langley's piece on age 15 about MemberClicks — our website management software. In her article, she explains what MemberClicks is, how it works and what you can do to make sure you're fully plugged in and able to take advantage of all of its many features.

relations courses at the college level.

Jane is the author of the book "Leeds: Images of America." She has served as historian and treasurer of NFPW, as co-chair for NFPW's conference in 2017 in Birmingham and was twice named Alabama Media Professionals' Communicator of Achievement.



Jane Newton Falany

"I am looking forward to working with Jane," Cathy said.

"She has already demonstrated her passion for NFPW and the communications field."

"Gwen Woolf was an invaluable asset to me for the years we worked together, and I will miss her input," Cathy said.

'22 COA nomination deadline announced

B Karen Stensrud
NFPW COA Director

We hope you've already started thinking about potential nominees for your affiliate's Communicator of Achievement (COA) for 2022.

Affiliate COAs become nominees for NFPW's highest honor, the national COA award.

The deadline for submitting 2022 NFPW COA nominations will be Monday, March 21, 2022. We will have an updated nomination form and packet of other information on the [NFPW website](#) soon.

Our COA celebrations for 2020 and this past year became virtual events due to the pandemic. While we were thrilled to have so many of you join us online, we hope to honor our 2022 nominees in person during the NFPW conference in Fargo, North Dakota, in June. Watch for more detailed information to come.

Agenda DEADLINES

Deadline for submitting photos and/or stories for the next issue of Agenda are:

Dec. 10, 2021

For publication Jan. 2, 2022

Send submissions to
Editor Cathy Koon at cakoon52@cablone.net

New federal shield law would protect journalists



By Marsha Shuler
National FAN Co-director
Louisiana Press Women

A new U.S. Justice Department policy bans federal prosecutors from seizing the records of journalists in leak investigations with some limited exceptions. The policy addresses a thorny issue that justice departments have struggled with in both Democrat and Republican administrations — how to balance the media's First Amendment rights against the government's desire to protect classified information.



Marsha Shuler

It's an important step in protecting journalists and the public's right to know.

The Department of Justice will no longer use "compulsory legal processes" to seize telephone and other records of people working in the news media who are acting "within the scope of their newsgathering activities," according to a memo recently released by U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland.

Compulsory processes include subpoenas and warrants.

There are exceptions written in the policy, such as if reporters are suspected of working for agents of a foreign power or terrorist organization, if they are under investigation for unrelated activities or if they obtained their information through criminal methods. Exceptions exist in situations with imminent risks of death or serious bodily harm, like kidnappings or crimes against children.

There are also exceptions for when the media agrees to provide records with a subpoena and when the Justice Department seeks already published records or information for authentication.

"Because a free and independent press is vital to the functioning of our democracy, the Department of Justice has long employed procedural protections and a balancing test to restrict the use of compulsory process to obtain information from or records of members of the news media," Garland wrote.

"There are, however, shortcomings to any balancing test in this context," he said. He said that the balancing test can "fail to properly weight the important national interest in protecting journalists from compelled disclosure of information revealing their sources, sources they need to apprise the American people of the workings of their government."

The move comes in the wake of revelations that the Trump Justice Department had obtained records of journalists at CNN, the Washington Post, the New York Times and the AP as it investigated who disclosed government secrets related to the Russia investigation and other national security matters. Records of journalists at some of those entities had been sought by the Obama Justice Department as well as it sought to identify leaks.

"This historic new policy will ensure that journalists can do their job of informing the public without fear of federal government intrusion into their relationships with confidential sources," said Bruce Brown, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Garland also promised a Justice Department review of the media protections. In addition, he said Justice will also support congressional action to "embody protections in law."

Four congressmen have introduced the "Protect Reporters From Exploitative State Spying Act" — the PRESS Act — a federal shield law. The legislation would grant journalists in federal court proceedings a privilege to refrain from revealing confidential news sources.

Many states already have "shield laws" to protect news gathering.

Now is time to look for contest entries

By Teri Ehresman
NFPW Contest Director

Fall is in the air. That means holidays are rapidly approaching, and it's time to reflect on 2021. It is also time to look back on all your communications-related efforts in 2021.

Yes, it is time to start thinking about the 2022 NFPW professional communications contest.

Again this year the contest officially launched Oct. 1, the same day the NFPW membership drive begins for the 2022 membership year which runs Jan. 1-Dec. 31. Yearly renewals begin when the contest opens.

Contest categories remain the same as the 2021 NFPW contest.

However, one contest-related change has been

implemented this year, to help speed up the vetting process for entries advancing to the national level of competition. If an entrant wants to submit an entry into the contest using the "member" rate, they must have joined or renewed their NFPW membership for 2022. This should make it easier for affiliate contest directors to verify that every person with entries placing first in your affiliate contest is a member.

Anyone who enters an affiliate contest as a non-members will have until March 15, 2022, to join NFPW if their entry on the affiliate level wins a first place award.

National winners will be notified they placed in the national contest beginning in April, with the results announced on Saturday, June 25, during the NFPW national conference in Fargo, North Dakota.

All deadlines are at NOON in the entrant's time zone

Jan. 19 — Early-bird deadline for the \$25 entry fee to be waived

Feb. 2 — Book entry final deadline

Feb. 9 — Final contest entry deadline

Feb. 11 — Affiliate and at-large contest judging begins

March 11 — Affiliate and at-large judging ends

March 15 — All affiliate first-place winners must be NFPW members for their entries to advance to the national contest

March 17 — Affiliate deadline to advance first-place winners to national

March 18 — National round of judging begins

April 8 — National judging complete

April 9 or as soon as possible — Notification begins to entrants if their entries placed in the national contest

April 22 — First-timer grant applications due to [Gwen Larson](#) for those asking for help to cover conference registration costs

May 6 — First-timer grant recipients deadline to be notified of grant award

May 20 — Early-bird conference registration deadline

June 25 — NFPW contest award winners announced and honored

Decorated WWII pilot, award-winning photographer

Delaware member honored on 100th birthday

By Katherine Ward

Delaware Press Association

Ray Firmani, son of Italian immigrants, remains a man on fire at the grand occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth, Sept. 19, 1921.

Today, at 100, our NFPW colleague and a member of Delaware Press Association (DPA), Ray still rides his bike, trims his hedges and is computer savvy. He maintains his own Facebook page, regularly Skypes with friends and family, gives talks about World War II and has developed expertise in the latest photographic software.

Schooled in film photography during a 46-year career as a photographer for DuPont and a patent holder for the DuPont Dylux photographic process, he thinks digital photography has more versatility and has embraced it completely.

When Pearl Harbor was bombed on Dec. 7, 1941, Ray, then 22, was an industrial photographer at the DuPont Chambers Works in Deepwater, New Jersey, directly across the Delaware River from DuPont's international headquarters and his home in Wilmington. Determined to get into the Army Air Corps, Ray studied math and physics with renewed interest, passed the Army General Classification Test and the physical exam and proudly took the oath of enlistment.

Progressing from primary to increasingly advanced training on ever more complex airplanes, Ray mastered difficult course work and the intricacies of single- and multi-engine planes. Assigned to fly the B-17 four-engine heavy bomber, infinitely more complex than any aircraft he'd flown, he became enamored of the sturdy "Flying Fortress" that rapidly became the iconic symbol of American air superiority in World War II.

Ray was stationed at Sudbury Airbase, southeastern England, from which he flew 25 missions. The first – Dec. 23, 1944, Battle of the Bulge – was to fly deep into enemy territory to hit manufacturing sites and rail yards near Hamburg, Germany. That day, while he was 25,000 feet over enemy territory, his wife, Elaine, gave birth to their first child.



First Lt. Raymond A. Firmani is awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by Colonel Glendon P. Overing at base HQ, Sudbury, England, in April 1945.

In the months Ray's crew flew together, they were attacked by German fighters, hit by flak thousands of times, lost a couple of engines, had their ship practically shot out from under them, saw planes explode, and watched men die. Against all odds, with the exception of one crewmate replaced by another experienced bombardier, they remained together, eluding death and serious injury, and completed all 25 bombing missions against the Nazis – 19 as lead crew – that constituted their tour of duty. For exceptional bravery shown on one mission, Ray and pilot Dick Hinze were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

When Ray mustered out of the Air Corps, he moved back to Wilmington with his wife and son. Re-employed by DuPont, Ray managed their Jackson Laboratory photographic studio and later the Chambers Works television studio until he retired in 1986.

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Delaware member honored . . .

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In the 1950s, Ray joined the Delaware Photographic Society. He continues to write articles and image critiques for the DPS quarterly newsletter, *The Reflector*, and mentors aspiring photographers. Read the tribute to Ray in the DPS September *Reflector* (see cover and p. 5).

Elaine, the love of Ray's life for 56 years, died July 23, 2000, peacefully in her sleep at their home in Elsmere. Ray still lives in that house, the walls filled with his best photographic work, and the room he converted from a porch to a TV room holds all of his service ribbons and medals, including the DFC, as well as many photography awards.

Ray has two children, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. He had never shared his combat stories with family or friends.

But when writing the book, *"Against All Odds: The Ray Firmani Story,"* DPA president Mitch Topal, public affairs operations chief, 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware Air National Guard, made a point of posting excerpts on

social media. Mitch also befriended many of Ray's family members, who were extremely surprised that their "Papa" was a war hero. They are very proud of him.

"Against All Odds" won first-place state and national awards in the categories of nonfiction/history, book design, and editing. The center of attention at book signings, Ray also has done a number of interviews for radio, television and newspapers.

On Veterans Day 2016, Ray, the oldest resident of Elsmere, was one of the first veterans to be fêted and his name inscribed in the Elsmere Veteran's Memorial Park.

In October 2017, Ray was inducted into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame.

In May 2019, Ray was grand marshal of the Wilmington Memorial Day Parade, the longest running Memorial Day parade in the U.S.

(Editor's Note: Katherine Ward is executive director of Delaware Press Association and editor of *"Against All Odds: The Ray Firmani Story."*)

Birthday greetings may be sent to Ray at rayfir@aol.com, visit his Facebook page or check out the website for ["Against All Odds."](#)

Excerpt from 'Against All Odds: The Ray Firmani Story'

Our plane was at 25,000 feet on a bombing run to Hamburg to destroy Germany's oil refining industry and "deal a death blow" to the Nazi war machine. As we neared the target, flak from 88mm antiaircraft guns enveloped our formation and perforated our hull. Ahead, the sky was black from exploding shells whose shockwaves rattled our ship. The rudder stopped responding. We'd been hit in the tail.

A large piece of shrapnel tore through the fuselage only centimeters behind the pilot's head, careened through the top of the plane, and left a hole big enough for a man to squeeze through. Seconds later we reached the target, dropped twenty 300-pound bombs, then banked and headed for the base, all the while harassed by antiaircraft guns.

The hole in the top of the fuselage caused wind to whip through that section of the ship, blowing papers, maps, and logbooks around as if we were in a tornado.

Checking for damage to the wings, I saw a hole in the cowl of number three engine, which was spewing black smoke, and the oil pressure was dropping.

We managed to hold our heading over the North Sea and Helgoland Island. But over the English Channel, number three, running hotter by the minute, began to sputter and shoot flames. The temperature needle was nearly buried in the redline area.

Nearing base, we dropped a red flare, indicating our ship was in trouble, to get priority to land. Pilot Dick Hinze cut the engine while I pulled the fire suppression



Flyboy Ray Firmani

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Excerpt from ‘Against All Odds’

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lever and feathered the propeller, turning the blades into the wind to reduce drag. A few long minutes later, we touched down without incident.



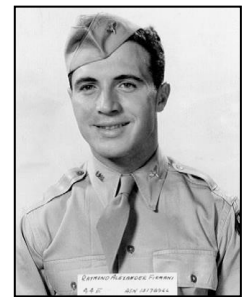
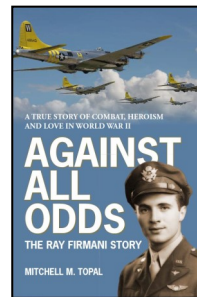
From left, DPA president Mitch Topal, Ray Firmani and Katherine Ward.

“That was a hell of a mission,” Dick said.

“Hell?” I replied. “Today I saw Hell. Hell is five miles over Germany!”

— Second Lieutenant Ray Firmani, Co-pilot
Battle of the Bulge, 31 December 1944
Fourth Mission of the Hinze Crew

Without the B-17 we may have lost the war.
— Gen. Carl A. Spaatz



The cover of Mitch Topal's book, left, and a photo of Ray Firmani taken during his service years.

HBO heading to Wichita for Tallgrass Film Festival

By Wilma Moore-Black
Kansas Professional Communicators
CEO, WMB Creative Productions

Pre-screening of the HBO documentary “Gordon Parks: A Choice of Weapons,” will be shown during the 2021 Tallgrass Film Festival in Wichita in late October.

HBO will release the program to the general public in November.

Whether or not you can travel to Wichita, you can view the films at

the 2021 Tallgrass Film Festival created by filmmakers from all over the world in person or virtually.

“We are showcasing the best filmmaking experience possible,” said Melanie Addington, the Tallgrass Film Association’s new executive director, who relocated from Mississippi to join her new film team. She said this year’s



Wilma Moore-Black

festival offers something for all ages.

With these uncertain times, film festival organizers must think outside the box and be super creative. There’s an international problem: they have no proven guide for running a film festival in the middle of a worldwide pandemic like COVID.

The festival is planned for Oct. 20-24 in person and Oct. 24-29 virtually. You can go to [Tallgrassfilmfestival.org](https://tallgrassfilmfestival.org) to find out how to view films virtually. Then, you can enjoy films of your choice sitting on the couch or your favorite lounging chair, reaching for your favorite drink and buttered popcorn.

Inaugural Black Filmmaker Award

A Fort Scott, Kansas, native, Gordon Parks died in 2006 leaving a worldwide legacy that earned him countless

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Heading to Wichita . . .

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honorary university degrees and awards.

"The Learning Tree," a novel and film written by Parks, delivered a powerful message about black manhood. The book, published in 1963, depicts the life of Newt Winger growing up in rural Kansas in the 1920s. In 1969, the novel was turned into a film written, directed and scored by Parks. The film was the first to be directed by an African American for a major American film studio.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of another movie, "Shaft," produced and directed by Parks. That and other movies directed by Parks will be shown at Tallgrass.

The winner of the Gordon Parks filmmaker award will be announced Oct. 23. David Michael Parks and two other national filmmakers will judge the five finalists.

"To have an award in my father's name is a tremendous honor," said David Michael Parks, the son of Gordon Parks. David is a seasoned filmmaker, photographer, author and two-time Purple Heart recipient for his service during the Vietnam War. He has taught classes with worldwide MGM photographer Eli Reed at the University of Texas at Austin and is working on a documentary for western Texas clients.

"Dad was so dedicated and motivated to produce the best films. He worked tirelessly in all his creations and expected the most from those who worked with him. I have truly enjoyed working with the Tallgrass Film Festival to select and honor the first recipient of the Gordon Parks Outstanding Black Filmmaker Award," David said.

Cargill, Inc. partnered with Tallgrass to award the first winner a \$500 cash award. Panavision is awarding a \$15,000 rental package to this year's winner in recognition of Gordon Parks "who used Panavision for his films. So, this is a meaningful addition to honor his legacy," said Andre Seward, Tallgrass programming director.

Wichita to share Parks documentary

"This is not your typical documentary or autobiography," one HBO producer said about the Parks program. "We took a different approach than the traditional autobiography."

Charles McAfee, a Wichita architect and close friend who played tennis with Gordon, has for years said that

"next to the Bible, 'Gordon Parks: A Choice of Weapons' is a must-read book."

Partnerships make it work

David has worked in partnership with others supporting the festival staff's annual event. Tallgrass festival association organizers knew they couldn't do it alone. So, they reached out to community leaders, area businesses and long-time festival supporters. They created a Gordon Parks steering committee that has met for months via Zoom detailing plans for the presentation of the award.

Partnering with the film festival has been a new adventure for some stakeholders and "a positive experience," according to Denise Sherman, executive director for The Kansas African American Museum (TKAAM) housed in the national historic Old Calvary Church in downtown Wichita.

TKAAM and Michael Roach, a Wichita lawyer and friend of Gordon Parks, in conjunction with Tallgrass Film Festival, will open a new exhibit, "Reflections of a Friend," through Oct. 31.

As a contributor to that exhibit, I am proud to have worked on my first museum exhibit.

"The Tallgrass Film Association fosters an appreciation of the cinematic arts by creating shared experiences around the international medium of film," as stated on the festival's website . . . "stubbornly independent since 2003."

Editor's Note: Wilma Moore-Black is the CEO of WMB Creative Productions and publicist for David Parks. Inspired and motivated by Gordon Parks, she works non-stop to keep his accomplishments alive, hoping to make his name a household word and for youngsters to be exposed to, have access to and develop their critical thinking skills in line with Gordon's legacy. His fearless efforts to master many arts and skills helped him develop into one of the most influential individuals in the world. With all that Gordon endured during his lifetime, he remained humble, courageous and determined to use his camera as a non-violent weapon against hatred, discrimination, poverty, racism and inequality. Moore-Black is an active member of NFPW, Kansas Professional Communicators (KPC) and the Wichita Professional Communicators (WPC).

Agenda calls for articles about news literacy efforts

By Jane Newton Falany
Alabama Media Professionals
NFPW Publications Assistant

Agenda Editor Cathy Koon is asking NFPW members to submit articles on the topic of news literacy for publication in a future issue of Agenda.

If you attended NFPW's virtual conference in June, you may have heard Hannah Covington's presentation about news literacy. Hannah, senior manager of education and content at the News Literacy Project, spoke about the importance of news literacy and the efforts of the NLP to provide programs for educators and the public to teach, learn and share the skills needed to be smart, active consumers of news and information and equal and engaged participants in our democracy.

If you would like to write an article about news literacy for a future issue of Agenda, here are a few questions you might answer:

- **What is your affiliate doing to help advance news literacy?**
- **What are educators in your state teaching students about news literacy?**
- **What laws have your state government enacted that require news literacy to be taught in the classroom?**

According to National Public Radio, the state of Illinois will require literacy courses at every high school by

What is news literacy?

According to the News Literacy Project (NLP), news literacy is the ability to determine the credibility of news and other content. It includes the ability and knowledge to identify different types of information and to use the standards of fact-based journalism to determine what to trust, share and act on. Becoming news-literate also means recognizing the critical role of the First Amendment and a free press in a democracy.

The News Literacy Project is a nonpartisan national education nonprofit that provides programs and resources to help educators teach news literacy to students and help adults learn how to determine whether information is credible.

For more information about news literacy, see the News Literacy Project's [website](#).

the 2022-23 school year. NPR also reports that 14 other states have some news literacy standards on the books.

If you are interested, please send your contribution to Agenda Editor Cathy Koon at ckoon52@cableone.net. Enclose photos and artwork when possible. Articles must include a byline that contains the author's home state or affiliate. Photos must be accompanied by cutlines. Word counts are flexible and up to the editor's discretion; rule of thumb, 400 words fill a page of the newsletter.

***59%** of Americans say it is hard to identify false information — intentionally misleading and inaccurate stories portrayed as truth — on social media.

***63%** of people worldwide agree the average person can't tell good journalism from rumors or falsehoods.

****96%** of young people didn't consider why ties between a climate change website and the fossil fuel industry might lessen the site's credibility.

****68%** of young people couldn't tell the difference between news and "sponsored content" (advertising) on a news site's homepage.

****52%** of young people believed a grainy video of ballot-stuffing — actually shot in Russia — was "strong evidence" of voter fraud in the U.S.

**NPR/PBS NewsHour/Maris Poll in January 2020 and 2018 Edelman Trust Barometer*

***Stanford History Education Group 2018 study found that young people, while digital natives, are just as vulnerable.*

(Source: News Literacy Project [website](#))

CPW members visit newspapers where their foremothers worked

**By Ann Lockhart
Colorado Press Women**

About a dozen Colorado Press Women and friends visited newspapers in Canon City and Alamosa, Colorado, July 30 and 31 on CPW's 80th anniversary to meet the editors and staff and present a plaque to them noting that founding members of the organization had worked at their publications.

Michael Alcala, editor of the Canon City Daily Record, and reporter Carie Canterbury asked the visitors about the kind of treatment women received around 1941 and later faced trying to get newspaper jobs and promotions. They in turn answered questions about how their diminished staff is still collecting and delivering news, whether in print or online.

CPW members first visited the Colorado Prison Museum in Canon City and took photos of the gas chamber and other prison artifacts.

As we toured, a guard with a long gun could be seen in the nearby guard tower topping the high stone wall of "Old Max," the 1871 Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility, still an active prison. Members then drove to Alamosa, where they met for comfort food, camaraderie and libations at the San Luis Valley Brewing Company.

The next morning, they visited the Valley Courier in Alamosa, meeting Editor Stephen Jiron and reporter Priscilla Waggoner. After members viewed the offices and printing press, CPW president Sandy Nance presented them with a plaque. Waggoner later published a photo of the visitors with an article about the affiliate's 80th anniversary and history of its early female journalists.

Juanito's Mexican Kitchen provided the lunch, and CPW arranged for three excellent speakers. Alamosa's charming Mayor Ty Colman welcomed the group and

stayed for a talk by Dr. Cheryl Lovell, president of Adams State University. CPW member Liz Watts went to college there with her and now heads the ASU's Alumni chapter in Denver.

Sherri Burr, New Mexico Press Women's president, then surprised CPW president Sandy Nance with a trophy for the 80th anniversary. Burr, the NFPW Communicator of Achievement for 2021, gave a brief introduction to her book, "Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia, 1619-1865," nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in History.

Researching her own genealogy led her to do seven years of research resulting in the book.



New Mexico Press Women President Sherri Burr traveled to Colorado to surprise Sandy Nance, CPW President, with a trophy honoring our 80th anniversary.

Following a tour of the ASU campus, members drove to the Great Sand Dunes National Park near Mosca for a picnic.

After sipping wine provided by Ellen Glover of Westcliffe and eating sandwiches arranged by Sharon Almirall, drizzle started. Dark clouds overhead and rain ended the group's plans to see the stars that evening, per the Sand Dunes' Dark Sky designation.

Thanks to Sharon, Liz and Ellen for organizing CPW's summer outing and Gay Porter DeNileon, Sandy

and Sharon for creating the plaques presented to the two newspapers. In addition to Sharon, Liz and Ellen, the small but spirited group included Sandy Nance, Ann Lockhart, Kathleen Spring, Ruth and Larry Anna, Dala Giffin, Lee Anne Peck and Sharon's friend Chuck.

A third plaque was sent home with Lee Anne for presentation to the Trinidad Chronicle-News in recognition of that paper's charter member honored by CPW in a visit in 2019. The Chronicle-News [also ran a wonderful article](#) about CPW's 80th anniversary, featuring history Lee Anne uncovered about CPW'S charter member in Trinidad.

When organized, Colorado Press Women had 58 charter members from 30 towns and cities all over Colo-

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Affiliate and Member News . . .

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rado, including 27 different newspapers. They were publishers or editors of 13 of those papers. Other charter members managed the Denver Civic Symphony or did publicity for the Central City Opera, Denver Art Museum and Denver Public Library. They taught journalism at the University of Colorado and Western State College and wrote texts. They were columnists, freelancers and broadcasters and wrote advertising, poetry and plays.

At-Large in Arizona

Dianne Ebertt Beeaff is pleased to announce her short story collection, "On Traigh Lar Beach," is the Winner in Short Story Fiction with the 2021 American Fiction Awards, and has also won the First Place Gold Medal in Literary Fiction with the 2021 Readers' Favorite Book Awards.



New Mexico Press Women

New Mexico Presswomen past president and current member Anne Hillerman has been selected to receive The Rounders Award for 2021. The award honors those who "live, promote and articulate the Western way of life."

The award is named after world-renowned author Max Evans.

New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture Jeff M. Witte made the announcement and was scheduled to present the award.

Hillerman writes best-selling mysteries set on the Navajo Nation. Her newest book, "Stargazer," was published in 2021 by HarperCollins.

Woman's Press Club of Indiana

WPCI member Mary Anne Barothy was interviewed recently by Devon Caron of Niagara Falls, Canada, for "The Dev Show" about her days as a personal secretary to Doris Day. Mary Anne also lived with Doris Day. They had 11 dogs and Mary Anne slept with four of them — Bobo, Charlie, Rudy and Chachi. It's all in the interview. WPCI members are invited to view the 30-minute show on [YouTube](#).



If you're not familiar with Mary Anne's background, find out more on her Facebook [page](#).

Women's Press Club of Indiana

Eunice Trotter, WPCI and NFPW member and author, will be the featured speaker at the WPCI March 2022 Writers Workshop.

Members and guests will hear about Eunice's latest book, "Black in Indiana," a first-place winner this year in both the WPCI Communication and the NFPW Professional contests.



A review of her book on Amazon says, "Life for Blacks in Southern Indiana in the 1820s could be brutal, but Mary Bateman Clark's victorious lawsuit helped advance change. This book is a must-read which looks beyond typical stories about slavery. (The) book includes genealogical information about numerous African-American families in Knox County, Indiana, before 1820."

Send submissions for Agenda to:
Editor Cathy Koon at cakoon52@cableone.net
Dec. 10, 2021, is the deadline for the next issue of Agenda,
due out **January 2022**

NFPW Alabama affiliate rebranding for the future

**By Olivia McMurrey and Ann Halpern
Alabama Media Professionals**

Alabama Media Professionals is sporting a new logo. Following a survey in which most members expressed eagerness or openness to a new AMP logo and color palette, the board of directors undertook a months-long process to explore options.

"We enlisted Savannah Bullard, a talented designer and member who has won numerous AMP and NFPW awards for her work," said AMP President Olivia McMurrey.

After multiple meetings and reviewing 51 different logo options, six color palettes and seven font styles, the board happily announced a winner. Because the board represents a diverse cross-section of AMP membership, AMP expects the new logo to carry the organization successfully into the future.

The color palette of lemon yellow, violet blue and pastel aqua reflects the state's sunshine, rivers (Alabama has more freshwater biodiversity than any other state), Gulf Coast waters and blue violet-hued mountains. The fonts in the logo have bold personality and are easy to

read. The logo itself retains an outline of Alabama, emphasizes our work by placing "Media" front and center and features a background gradient that beautifully blends colors from the palette.

"My initial vision was to create a logo that is clean, simple, timeless and – above all else – fully encompassing of what AMP wants to be as an organization," Bullard said. "We have media professionals who represent print products, digital journalism, radio and television broad-

casting, public relations and everything in between. The common denominator among all of us is two-fold: We live and work in Alabama, and we are the mouthpieces for our communities. I hope all of our members enjoy the new logo and the branding system."

With a logo, color palette and fonts selected,

AMP is moving forward with rebranding the AMP website, social media and newsletter.

"Most successful organizations periodically evaluate and update their branding in order to remain relevant," said McMurrey. "The last time our organization renewed its branding was 2008, so a new look was overdue. The pandemic and the need to grow membership made this the perfect time for AMP to commence this task."



North Dakota here we come

North Dakota Professional Communicators will host
the 2022 NFPW Communications Conference

Coming June 23-25, 2022

Affiliate and Member News . . .

Delaware Press Association

Serial killer H. H. Holmes built his murder castle in Chicago, but he met the hangman in Philadelphia. His execution, one of the most bizarre in city history, is one of the historic true crimes in NFPW member Kathryn Canavan's new book "True Crime Philadelphia: From America's First Bank Robbery to the Real-Life Killers Who Inspired HBO's Boardwalk Empire."



Kathryn Canavan

Like many NFPW members, Canavan didn't stop researching and writing after retirement. She wrote her first book at age 65. "Lincoln's Final Hours" was published by University Press of Kentucky in 2015. Immediately after its publication, Canavan, a reporter who had never spoken in public, appeared on PBS, C-Span 3 and the Discovery Channel.

COVID happened smack in the middle of Canavan's second book contract, so she developed workarounds to research murderous housemaids, America's first kidnapping, a 19th Century mass murder, Al Capone's first prison stint, two of bank robber Willie Sutton's brazen jail-breaks, an arsenic murder ring with occult overtones and

a detective's 10-year quest to convict a famous showgirl of masterminding the most lucrative house burglary in Pennsylvania history. Lillian Reis, the defendant, was so sexy that she was once arrested for lewdness for dancing the twist fully clothed.

After working 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. including every weekend for 13 months, Canavan said the case she found most interesting was the 1874 kidnapping of 4-year-old Charley Ross, the case that gave rise to the admonition, "Never take candy from a stranger."

The kidnapping was the most publicized case in Philadelphia's long history. A popular song was written about Charley. George S. Kaufman wrote him into a Broadway play. The case inspired the Leopold and Loeb kidnapping in 1924. The worldwide search for Charley went on for 50 years, until the kidnapping of another blond Charley – Charlie Lindbergh Jr. – supplanted it in the public mind.

The Lyons Press book is available online and wherever books are sold.

Canavan was named a National Health Journalism Fellow at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communications and Journalism in 2011. Her fellowship project, "No Child Allowed Outside," chronicled the health effects of gun violence on children. She was named a 2017 Individual Artist Fellow for Creative Nonfiction by the Delaware Division of the Arts.

As part of the Delaware Division of Arts' Creative Aging initiative, she is a teaching artist helping older adults to write memoirs and nonfiction.

Yes, you can donate to your favorite charity without spending a dime!

Simply shop at AmazonSmile, and AmazonSmile will donate a percentage of each purchase to your designated cause. You can designate the **NFPW Education Fund** to help the foundation continue its good works, which include funding the annual high school contest, first-timers awards, and research and education grants for NFPW members.



Logon to updated website for all things NFPW

An updated website for NFPW members is now online, and NFPW President Karen Rowley and NFPW Executive Director Cate Langley encourage members to check out the various features, considered one of many benefits of membership.

NFPW.ORG – Features enhance your membership

NFPW membership dues are on an annual basis. Starting Oct. 1, email notifications began going out to remind you to renew before Dec. 31, 2021. The easiest way to renew is online:

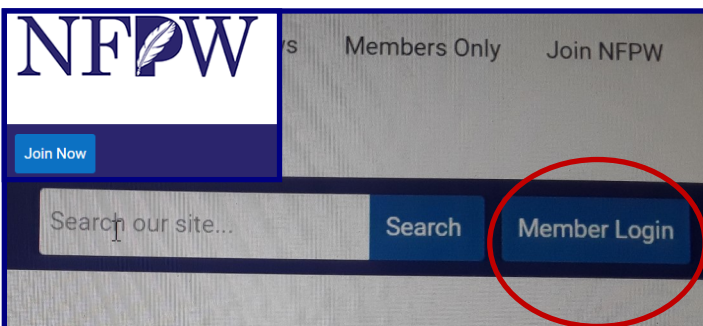
1. The email reminder to renew includes a “View this Invoice” link at the bottom. If the information on the invoice is correct, you can click on that link and pay the invoice online.
2. If you are changing affiliates, adding affiliates or need to pay for POPPS dues, you can follow these instructions:
 - a. Go to www.nfpw.org
 - b. Click on Member Login on the right-hand side of the screen.
 - c. Click on “Renew Your Membership for 2022” under quick links on the right-hand side of the screen.
 - d. This will give you a form with options to select affiliates and pay for POPPS, if applicable.

Member Directory

Are you utilizing the features available to you as a member?

The website has a searchable membership directory. To be included in that directory, you have to “opt-in.” To do this:

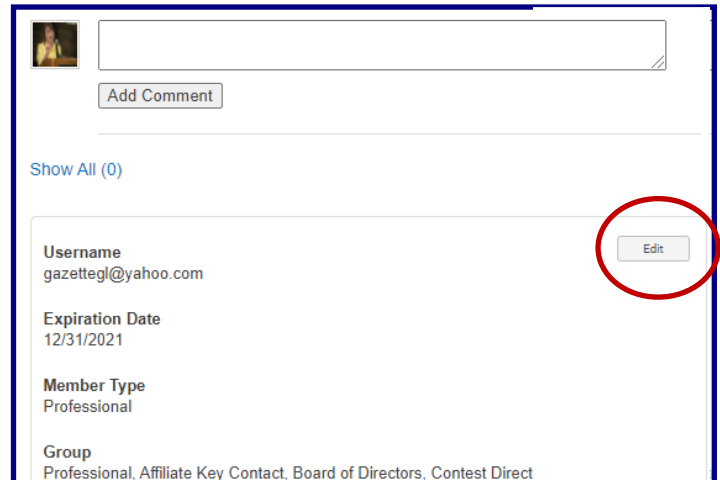
1. Go to www.nfpw.org
2. Click on Member Login on the right-hand side of the screen.



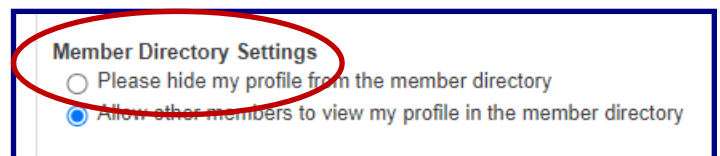
3. Click on “My Profile.” You can also upload a profile picture.



4. Scroll down to see your information, such as address and email. The opt-in to the membership directory is included in this. This is also where you can update your contact information.
5. Click on “Edit.”



6. Choose your Member Directory settings. This is the last option on the page.

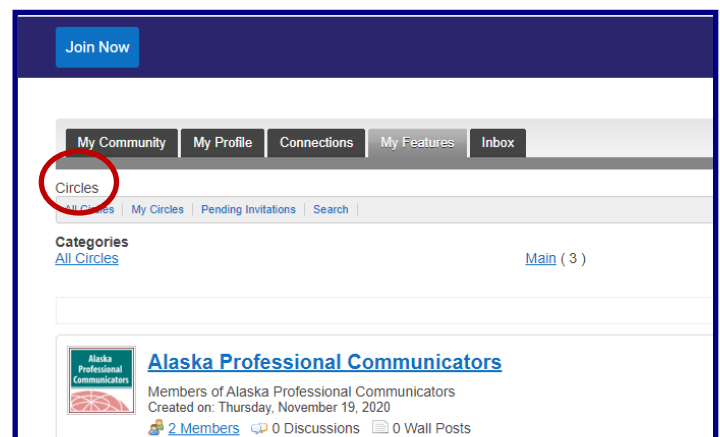


7. Click to save the settings and you are done!

Circles

Circles are a feature great for affiliates to utilize, or you can create a circle to start a community for a special topic. Some affiliates have already started circles, and any member can create one by clicking on the “Create” button at right.

If you have any questions related to membership or the member features on nfpw.org, please email Cate Langley at info@nfpw.org.



Just a thought . . .

By Cathy Koon
Media Network Idaho, Agenda Editor

Gwen Woolf stepped down as my publications assistant after the last issue of Agenda. She said it was time to allow someone else the chance to serve NFPW.

I want to thank her for her hard work, her professionalism and her dedication to Agenda and NFPW. She is part of my NFPW family, and I cherish her friendship.

Jane Falany has stepped into the position, and she has already proven she is up to the challenge. She suggested an issue dedicated to news literacy, based on a conference workshop she attended in June. The call for content for just such an issue is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

I recently had conversations with several NFPW members about how we can strengthen NFPW and maintain its relevance in the changing world of mass communications. Our credibility has been challenged by the politics of the past several years and the rise of social media.

Lo and behold, when I received Karen Rowley's column, she speaks about the same concerns. She talks about the need to bolster our membership and to get members more involved in the organization.

As part of the effort, I would like for us re-evaluate our publications and how they can work better together to promote NFPW and keep our members better informed about the organization and about our jobs as communicators.

On a personal level, I am disappointed in the open rate for Agenda. That is the number of members who actually open the email after it arrives in their inboxes. I'm told a 24 (plus or minus) percent open rate is pretty good. But it says to me is that only one in four members is taking time to open an email and see what NFPW is doing, what other members are accomplishing.

Admittedly, I didn't always open my Agendas when they arrived. When I first joined, Agenda was a slick, printed newsletter mailed to members. It often focused on the nuts and bolts of publishing and reporting. It's been an online publication since before I took over.

This publication is a voice for NFPW and a forum for its members and officers. It's considered one of the perks of joining this organization, which will celebrate its 85th year in 2022. Thanks for tuning in. I hope you'll like or share if you like what you see. You are already subscribed. Oh, wait that's YouTube. Share it anyway. Send a link to anyone who might be interested in NFPW.

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 $4.075 \times 2.476 = \$10$

Discounts are available for multiple runs of the same ad.

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.

NFPW Headquarters

Cate Langley, Executive Director
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Suite 120
Purcellville, VA 20132

Phone: 571-295-5900
info@nfpw.org

