

NFPW

E-Letter

August 2024

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President's Message

On July 21, when my brother texted me that President Joe Biden had bowed out of the presidential race, I immediately turned on my TV. Then I switched on my laptop so I could simultaneously scroll X/Twitter and read newspapers to which I subscribe. I also proceeded with caution, for with the overwhelming number of sources that bounce around the internet and ricochet off social media (not to mention AI), it's not always easy to ensure that every item is legitimate or accurate. (I'm always suspicious of a tweet that starts with "Breaking" when the poster is not a journalist.)

That's why programs by NFPW affiliates like "Distinguishing News from Misinformation: Learn About the Media's Evolving Role in Political Campaigns and Elections in Advance of the 2024 Elections," hosted on May 30 by Alabama Media Professionals, are vital.

AMP partnered with the Hoover Public Library and the Alabama Humanities Alliance to invite, per the description on their website, "community members of all ages to hear scholars, local reporters and editors explain their processes, provide insight into ethical-journalism practices, provide an in-depth look at how current technologies are expected to affect the information landscape this year, and answer audience questions." They had 94 attendees in all, including the panelists, and were the subject of coverage by a local TV station. [You can read a recap and find a recording here.](#)



President's Message

My hat is off to AMP for providing such an important public service. They are a

fine example of the value of NFPW affiliates to their memberships and to their communities.

Julie Campbell
President, NFPW

First Amendment News

Priscilla Villarreal Trevino, who runs a bilingual Facebook page in Laredo, Texas, was arrested for "soliciting nonpublic official information" for asking questions of a police source. She was charged under a state law that makes it a felony to solicit nonpublic official information "with intent to obtain a benefit." In this case, Villarreal Trevino promoted the information on her Facebook page. The law was adopted to undercut corruption and insider dealing on government contracts, not to target the media. A Texas judge threw the case out. But it didn't end there. Villarreal Trevino sued, with an appeals court voting 9-6 that no obvious unconstitutional violation occurred in what happened to her. The case—which started in 2017—has now gone to the Supreme Court. The case will probably not be taken up until 2025, if at all. A Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter from Mississippi could go to jail for refusing to reveal confidential sources. Anna Wolfe of Mississippi Today won the top award for exposing how the state misspent \$77 million in federal welfare money. Wolfe and her editor have been ordered to turn over internal files and the names of sources as part of a defamation lawsuit filed by former Gov. Phil Bryant over stories about government corruption. The order has been stayed pending appeal. Stay tuned...

Marsha Shuler
FAN Co-Director

Affiliate News

For more information on these events and programs, please see the individual affiliate's website.

Alabama Media Professionals

Congratulations to Jane Newton Falany, who has been named one of 2024's Top 50 Over 50 by Positive Maturity. The Alabama organization enhances "the lives of older adults through social services and civic engagement," and the award recognizes "those individuals in our community who find opportunities to make a difference, become a catalyst in the world and leave it with no regrets." Jane, of course, is an award-winning writer and editor who has more than 30 years of experience, including 12 years as a freelancer. The author of the book "Leeds: Images of America," she has served as historian and treasurer of NFPW and as co-chair of the 2017 NFPW conference, and was twice named Alabama Media Professionals' Communicator of Achievement. Jane is NFPW's current publications assistant.

Arkansas Press Women

And congratulations as well to Dwain Hebda, who was named the Diamond Journalist of the Year by the Society of Professional Journalists. Dwain placed third in the 2024 NFPW Sweepstakes competition, his first appearance on that list. He is the founder and president of Ya!Mule Wordsmiths, editor-in-chief of AY Media Group and lead writer for Wheelhouse Publishing.

At Large

Noel-Marie Fletcher, of Washington, D.C., has written a book titled "Reporting

the Nuremberg Trials: How Journalists Covered Live Nazi Trials and Executions” (Pen & Sword History). It was published in June in the UK and will come out on August 30 in the US. Noel-Marie tells how the international press corps lived in a castle while covering the first trial of top Nazi war criminals and subsequent executions of 10. A long-time journalist and former foreign correspondent, she provides an insider’s look based on her extensive research and insights gathered from Nuremberg, including at Faber Castle (where the journalists lived) and in the courtroom. Noel-Marie says that her book underscores the importance of journalism in a free society.

Colorado Press Women

On August 24, in Estes Park, they’ll hear from Bobbie Heisterkamp, a prolific and renowned collector of historic postcards, and Teri Johnson, an educator and history storyteller, who will portray Flora Stanley, wife of F. O. Stanley, the Steamer inventor.

Illinois Woman’s Press Association

On September 7 and 8, join IWPA Under the Tent at Printer’s Row Lit Fest 2024, where they will be sponsoring a table. It’s a highlight of their year.

Kansas/Wichita Professional Communicators

On August 7, they’ll learn about “Latinos in Kansas” with Claudia Yaujar-Amaro, owner of AB&C Bilingual Resources and Planeta Venus. She’ll discuss fostering better communication with and outreach to the growing Latino community in Kansas; introduce Planeta Venus, a vital news outlet she established to serve Wichita’s Spanish-speaking community; and highlight the Tiny News Collective initiative through the Wichita Foundation, which empowers local news organizations like hers.

Virginia Professional Communicators

On August 1, they’re meeting for dinner and drinks on a rooftop bar in Richmond to catch up with each other and watch the sunset.

LET'S LINK UP!

NFPW is committed to leveraging our professional network to increase our outreach. And so we’ll use LinkedIn to attract more members, share the successes of our members, and provide information about the communications contest and conferences. [Connect via LinkedIn here.](#)

Send Your Information

We can’t communicate what we don’t know! Please send news about your affiliates and members for inclusion in the monthly E-Letters and in Agenda, which is published quarterly. Send items to president@nfpw.org. **The deadline for each E-Letter is the 15th of the month preceding.**

We Remember

*Affiliates, please remember to notify NFPW historian Amy Geiszler-Jones, algj64@sbcglobal.net, of the deaths of **current** affiliate/NFPW members so*

that NFPW may recognize those individuals in the organization's E-Letter, Agenda and annual memorial service. Deaths will be reported in the E-Letter and an extended obituary will appear in Agenda.

Calendar

Upcoming Events

- September 11-13, 2025 - NFPW Conference, Golden, Colorado

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.

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*"We draw strength, enrichment
and friendship from one
another."*

Stay Connected



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