



E-Letter

September 2020

In This Issue:

- Remembering RBG
- Arkansas in 2021: The 'Natural' Choice
- Smile for the NFPW Education Fund
- Call for Submissions

- Survey Request
- Member News
- Send Your Information
- Leadership Blogs
- We Remember
- Calendar of Events

Remembering RBG

While raising three boys, I discovered they speak their own language — usually quotes from movies and TV shows they have watched. I don't know whether this is a universal truth or just a Larson truth. But it does explain why the year 2020 reminds me of the scene in the movie *A Few Good Men* when Tom Cruise as Lt. Daniel Kaffee finds out that Jo Galloway, a JAG officer played by Demi Moore will be going to Cuba with him and co-counsel. Kaffee isn't happy and says, "The hits just keep on comin'."

That sums up 2020 for me. And the latest hit came on Sept. 18 when we first heard that Ruth Bader Ginsburg, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, died of cancer.

Immediately newspapers, magazines, TV shows and our own social media feeds were filled with stories about Ginsburg, her extraordinary legacy and our deep sense of loss.

Our own Marilyn Saltzman of Colorado Press Women wrote a tribute to Ginsburg, with whom she closely identified. As Marilyn wrote, "Your Honor, I am honored to share some of your characteristics: We're both five-feet, left-handed, Brooklyn Jewish girls, educated in public schools and a Conservative synagogue. You have lit the way in showing me what girls like us can become as women, the difference we can make in the world."

I encourage you to take a moment to read Marilyn's "A thank you note to the Notorious RBG" [here](#).



President's Message

In all my reading about Ginsburg, however, a quirky article in my local paper caught my eye.

In December 2019, Kansan Annika Wooton represented the Sunflower State in the Miss America pageant. For the talent competition, Wooton chose to create a "speed painting" of Ginsburg. You can read the full article [here](#).

What I enjoyed the most was the spoken-word poem that Wooton and writer Emily Wilkinson created to play while Wooton painted. It was written around some of Ginsburg's quotes.

The poem is beautiful and is presented in a separate YouTube video that features 17 women and girls from The Collegiate School in Richmond, Virginia, which is Wooton's alma mater. It is below my signature, and I hope you will watch it and be inspired.



Gwendolynne Larson
President, National Federation of Press Women



Arkansas in 2021: The 'Natural' Choice

Do you find yourself humming "On the Road Again" and wishing you were traveling somewhere new and exciting? Do you want to be anywhere except home, waiting for the pandemic to pass?

After months of staying close to home to keep ourselves and our neighbors safe, we all may have a bit of travel envy. Well, the next-best thing to going on a trip is planning one, so why not plan now to come to Arkansas in June for the 2021 NFPW Conference?



Here's a video from the Division of Arkansas Tourism to help you get started. It's a virtual tour of the state, just images and soft music that will give you an idea of why Arkansas is called The Natural State. You'll get a glimpse of the Old Mill in North Little Rock, one of the places on the pre-tour schedule, and see some of our beautiful rivers, waterfalls, and lakes. The video is 4½ minutes long, so make some popcorn, pour a refreshing beverage and enjoy!

If you are short on time, check out this [30-second overview](#), which packs a lot into a short time. But there is so much more to see and do in Arkansas. Check out the videos and the [state's tourism website](#) for all the information you'll need to extend your trip and enjoy more of The Natural State.

In addition to a chance to hit the road again, the 2021 NFPW Conference will offer you inspiring speakers addressing trending topics plus a chance to see old friends, meet new people, develop new skills, and expand your network of professional communicators.

Your Arkansas planning team is doing all it can to offer you a valuable conference experience in a safe environment. Watch for conference updates in future NFPW newsletters and start exploring Arkansas today!

To help you plan:

- Conference dates are June 10-12, 2021.
- Pre-conference tours are planned on June 9 and the morning of June 10.
- A post-conference tour to northwest Arkansas begins on Sunday, June 13, and ends on Tuesday, June 15.
- The [Wyndham Riverfront](#) is the conference hotel.
- The nearest airport is [Clinton National Airport](#), which is served by: American, Delta, United, Allegiant, Frontier, and Southwest.
- Little Rock is near the center of Arkansas and the conference hotel is near the intersection of Interstates 30 and 40, on the north side of the Arkansas River.

Smile for the NFPW Education Fund

Need an excuse for some retail



You shop. Amazon gives.

therapy? Shopping online for holiday gifts? Remember NFPW when you do....

AmazonSmile makes it easy to support the National Federation of Press Women Education Fund when

purchasing items online. When looking to order items online, go to smile.amazon.com, join AmazonSmile and select NFPW Education Fund as your favorite charity. A percentage of your eligible purchases will go to NFPW. This is at no cost to you, but ends up supporting the NFPW high school communications contest, first-timer grants and other worthy causes. Help us spread the word and support this 501(c)3 program.

Call for Submissions

The next NFPW Agenda magazine publishes in January, and Cathy Koon and Gwen Woolf have great plans for the issue. Of course, you'll hear more information about the 2021 NFPW Conference in Little Rock, and January is traditionally our First Amendment issue.

We'd also like to hear about your experiences with:

How you've coped with the COVID-19 pandemic — at work and in your personal life.

- Did you take a vacation? Where? How?
- How did your newsroom cover the pandemic in your community? Did you have difficulty gathering facts and statistics?
- How do you plan to handle holiday gatherings?

New Year's Resolutions — will you make any for 2021? If so, what are they? If not, why not?

All submissions are due by Dec. 10, 2020, to Cathy Koon, cakoon52@cableone.net. A word count of 400 to 500 works well.

Survey Request

Jeremy Sarachan, chair and associate professor of media and communication at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, would like your help with a survey he hopes to through an AEJMC conference presentation.

He wants to discover the most common approaches to give credit for internships and students organizations such as student newspapers, television stations and student-run agencies. If you'd like to help, take the survey [here](#).

Member News

Three members of Wichita Professional Communicators, Kansas Professional Communicators and NFPW earned more honors for their work. **Belinda Venters, Darcy Gray** and **Jennifer Eaton** all competed in the NFPW contest also. [Learn more...](#)

Cheryl Fallstead of New Mexico Press Women is leaving education, according to her social media post: "Life change announcement! Soon after we moved here, I started teaching for our local community college, continuing my 12

years in education in California, while I also started doing freelance writing, photography, and editing. I've enjoyed it very much, but my life has taken an unexpected and exciting turn. A year ago I took over as editor and publisher of Neighbors magazine, which was still a part-time effort. This year, the magazine was purchased by the great people at Hutton Broadcasting and we have so many amazing projects going on, I'll be doing that full time! So, farewell to education and hello to diving deep into a wide variety of media work!"

Wilma Moore-Black, president of Wichita Professional Communicators, past president of Kansas Professional Communicators and past COA chair for NFPW, was featured in the alumni magazine of her alma mater, Newman University in Wichita. [Learn more...](#)

NFPW President Gwen Larson freely admits to what her sons accuse her of: lurking on social media, which is where these three items appeared. You can send her items about yourself directly by emailing president@nfpw.org.

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.**

Leadership Blogs

Check in with past NFPW presidents as they share thoughts, history and profile members.

[View the Blogs](#)

We Remember

Do you have a member obituary to share? Send your information to Amy Geiszler-Jones, NFPW historian, at algj64@sbcglobal.net. Please send a link to an online obituary, a photo and any additional information you'd like to share.

Calendar

Upcoming Deadlines

- December 10, 2020 — Content due for January 1 Agenda*

* Agenda items should be about 400 words and can be submitted as Word documents. Most documents can be accepted with the approval of Cathy Koon, Editor. Submit to cakoon52@cableone.net.

Upcoming Events

June 10-12, 2021 — NFPW Communication Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas

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.

NFPW OFFICE
140B Purcellville Gateway Drive
Suite 120
Purcellville, VA 20132
571.295.5900

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

Stay Connected

