



# The Broadsheet

Newsletter of the New Mexico Press Women

## November 2014

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### From the Desk of the President

Cheryl Fallstead



Summer tends to be a more relaxed time for our press women activities, with the rush of conference behind us and the deadlines for awards and scholarships still ahead of us. Some of our chapters take the summer off, providing time for a breather. But, with fall here, it's time to surge forward with preparation for our 2015 conference at Ghost Ranch and to maximize participation in our communications contests, Zia Award, and scholarship applications. We need to get our name in front of as many professional communicators as possible and make sure they know what we have to offer. They need to be aware of our three local chapters, what NMPW does and can do for them, and the possibilities of

being involved with NFPW.

We each have our roles to play in the organization, but one duty falls on each of us: spreading the word about press women. Invite communicators you know to attend a meeting, conference, or other activity. Publicize your events in the local newspaper or post fliers on bulletin boards. Use social media to share information. Bring new people into press women and get them involved. It is only in this way we will continue to grow as an organization.

With the addition of Diane Schmidt to our board as the new Communications Contest Chair, we have people in place for every essential activity. Let's work on getting

the word out early and often for our contests, scholarships, conference, and membership renewal.

I bid a fond farewell, for now, to Sherry Robinson as a board member as she hands the reins of the contest committee to Diane. Sherry will stay involved as a contest committee member and who knows? She may find another role to play on our board soon! Sherry has done an amazing job running the contest and she has my deep gratitude and appreciation!

## Albuquerque Press Women

Karen Wentworth, President



The board and interested members of Albuquerque Press Women held a strategic planning retreat in September to think about the future of the organization. We have decided to focus on two major goals for the year.

1. We will recruit new members, focusing on communicators who are in the mid- to second-career range. This is to avoid cannibalizing potential membership activity in the local Society for Professional Journalists chapter. Their focus is on beginning to mid-career journalists.

2. We would like to do an activity in the spring highlighting the ongoing access problems journalists are

having with state and local government agencies. We are not sure whether this will be a single event or a conference but we want to draw attention to the current actively hostile situations journalists are encountering in some agencies.

## Las Cruces Press Women

Cheryl Fallstead, President

The Las Cruces Press Women kicked off the fall season with something new for us: a poetry slam. We booked a room at a local restaurant, offered appetizers, and asked people to bring their poetry to share. We attracted some of our long-time members as well as several people totally new to the organization. Some were expert poetry performance artists and others were reading their poetry in public for the first time. It made for a fun evening and the chance to meet new people.

We are working on another way to provide service to our members with what we are calling "The Writers Block." It is a members-only critique group that will meet monthly. The main idea is to coach each other with query letters and articles as so many of our members are freelance writers, but we are open to working with authors ironing out a

chapter or poets wanting to share their work in a safe, small group. We just had our first session after two practice runs with only board members, and while nobody brought work to share, they had a lively discussion about journalism!!

Our December will be a presentation by Sherry Robinson and Alicia Delgadillo on the topic of non-fiction writing, specifically working with oral histories, historical documents and writing about Native Americans. We plan to hold a meeting each month through June, plus our Writers Block group, and maybe some special fun activities like another poetry slam.

## Northern Chapter

Anne Hillerman, who along with Emily Drabanski co-chairs the chapter, reports:

The Northern New Mexico Chapter meets every other month at Joe's Dining, where we get free meeting space in exchange for ordering lunch. Sessions consist of introductions of those in attendance, a brief business meeting and a speaker.

In September, Judith Fein discussed her adventures in switching from a mainstream publisher to doing it herself with her new book, *The Spoon From Minkowitz*. Meetings usually draw between 10 and 20 attendees, some of whom are members of the Northern Chapter and NMPW and some of whom are potential members interested in the topic.

The steering committee, which also consists of Deb Farson, treasurer, and Kay Lockridge, secretary, met October 26 to discuss plans for an end-of-year meeting and would be happy to help with the conference and find other volunteers if needed.

### Save the Dates!

## Don't Be An Apparition.

## Be At NMPW's Ghost Ranch Conference.



Conference chair Sherri Burr reports the date is set: April 24-25, 2015. The place is set: Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu.

If you've never been there, just remember all the films you've seen with scenes shot at this iconic New Mexican landmark: the *Loan Ranger*, *Cowboys & Aliens*, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, *3:10 to Yuma*, *City Slickers*, and *Red Dawn*, to name a few. Now you have a chance to see this ranch,

originally part of the 1766 Piedra Lumbre land grant from Charles III of Spain, nestled amidst 200-million-year old cliffs.

The 2015 NMPW annual conference will begin with a pre-conference tour of Georgia O'Keeffe's Abiquiu home. The conference will also include a Saturday afternoon

photographic tour of Ghost Ranch led by Don Strel, former director of the New Mexico Museum of Fine Arts.

Among the speakers who have already committed to the conference are Ellen Castello, Margaret Cheasebro, Loretta Hall, Anne Hillerman, and Sherry Robinson. The Friday reception and Saturday banquet speakers will be announced by January 15.

Registration also will begin January 15 when we'll have the full schedule and costs available for you.

So, mark your calendars, and who knows, you might even run into a fascinating fossil ... a *Coelophysis* or even a *Herrerasaurus*. Don't know what they are? You can find out at Ghost Ranch ... in April, when it's annual conference time.

## Media Liability Insurance

### The National Federation of Press Women Sponsors Affordable, State-of-the-art Media Liability Insurance

You may have missed this in the NFPW newsletter, but it's too important for us not to reprint the story:

Media liability insurance coverage is critical to members of the press. Anyone who is in the business of gathering and communicating information, regardless of the type of information or the medium of communication involved, incurs potentially significant liability exposures, particularly in this age of heightened media scrutiny.

Unfortunately, in the past, this coverage has been available only to large media entities such as publishing and broadcasting companies. Freelancers and other individual communicators and media professionals have been left to hope they are covered by the publications to which they contribute which frequently is not the case or else pay large premiums to purchase stand-alone media liability policies.

No longer. Chubb Specialty Insurance, a specialist in media liability coverage, has developed a media liability insurance program exclusively for the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW). The program is affordably priced and is administered by Waltery Insurance Brokers, a brokerage firm that has been providing media liability coverage for over 20 years.

#### What Coverage Will I Get Through This Program?

For only \$485 per year (including tax), NFPW members can obtain state-of-the-art media liability coverage with the following features:

- **A dedicated policy limit** of \$300,000 per claim and \$500,000 aggregate, which includes coverage for defense costs as well as settlements and judgments.
- **Comprehensive coverage** for all claims arising out of the gathering and communicating of information, including (but not limited to) libel, slander, invasion of privacy, and copyright infringement. This is significantly broader coverage than other media liability policies on the market.

- **Coverage for the legal costs incurred in challenging subpoenas** seeking confidential news-gathering information. This additional coverage will give you the financial wherewithal to resist intrusions into the confidentiality of the news-gathering process.
- **Punitive damages** coverage to the extent permitted by law.
- **Confidential sources** are fully protected. The policy allows you to protect the identity of confidential sources, even if this compromises the ability to defend a claim.
- **Worldwide coverage.** The policy provides coverage for press activities engaged in by you, and claims asserted against you, anywhere in the world.

## How Do I Sign Up?

**If you meet the following criteria, you are automatically eligible to participate in this program:**

- You are a member in good standing of the NFPW and have paid current NFPW dues.
- Your revenues from professional press activities last year did not exceed \$200,000 (before taxes).
- You have not been named as a defendant in a lawsuit arising out of your professional press activities within the preceding three years.
- You have been a professional working in the press or a related industry for a minimum of three years.
- ***Publishers of books, magazines, newspapers, or websites ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.***

**If you meet these eligibility criteria, all you need to do to obtain coverage is:**

- Complete the attached eligibility statement for the NFPW Media Insurance program.
- Send the eligibility statement, along with premium payment of \$485 (\$242.50 if between December 12 to June 11th), to Waltery Insurance Brokers.

Your coverage will become effective immediately upon Waltery's receipt of these materials. You will receive confirmation from Waltery that the materials have been received and that you are covered under this Program.

If you do not meet these criteria, you may still apply for coverage in this program, but your application will be individually underwritten, and a different premium may apply. You will be contacted by a program administrator upon receipt and review of your eligibility statement.

PLEASE NOTE the following important additional points about this program:

- This coverage is provided on a **claims-made basis**. Coverage applies only to claims that are first asserted after your coverage becomes effective and before the end of the policy period (June 12). The claim must also arise out of activities engaged in by you after your coverage becomes effective.
- This coverage is on a **duty-to-defend** basis. In the event of a claim, the insurance company has the right and the duty to select the counsel that will defend you.

Because the insurance company offering this program is a specialist in media insurance, it has a ready network of experienced media attorneys.

- This coverage applies **only to claims against you**. It does not extend to claims against third parties. Therefore, in the event that a third party, such as a publisher or broadcaster, is sued as a result of material submitted by you, this insurance will not extend to defense costs incurred by the third party, or judgments entered against the third party, even if you have agreed to provide indemnification.

### **Additional Information**

If you would like additional information about this program before making your decision, please contact Waltery Insurance Brokers at 800-638-8791.

*This is a general overview. Please refer to the Newsmedia Liability Insurance Policy, including Endorsements, for specific terms and conditions, and [contact Waltery Insurance Brokers](#) with any and all questions. Coverage is being offered on a surplus lines basis.*

## **2015 Communications Contest Draws Near**

Diane Schmidt, communications contest chair, reports:

We are about to announce this year's contest as soon as the electronic website is live, which we are expecting very soon.

We have a contest deadline of February 9, with an earlier February 2 deadline for hard copy such as books. Entry fees remain \$10 for the first entry, \$5 for each additional entry for members. Newsrooms can enter under one membership fee with a minimum ten entries.

You will be making your entry on the NFPW site ([nfpw.org](http://nfpw.org)), but the site is not yet live. When it is, we will announce the link. You will click on New Mexico and then click on register, which will call up a page where you enter your user name and password. The system will allow you to interrupt your entries and return to it later, provided you've SAVED. If you don't save, you have to do it start all over.

The system will require you to enter the division and category and then save. After that you enter the rest of the information. If that category requires a one-page statement, you will upload that as well.

If you have a question about the category as you're preparing your online entry, you can click on the web site [www.nfpw.org/pdf/2014NFPWContestCategories.pdf](http://www.nfpw.org/pdf/2014NFPWContestCategories.pdf) and see the 2014 category descriptions. They won't change for 2015. You can also contact Diane Schmidt, communications contest chair, at [dianeschmidt22@hotmail.com](mailto:dianeschmidt22@hotmail.com).

You can upload pretty much any kind of file. But let's say you have an entry with an elaborate layout that doesn't convert well to an online entry, or you have a book and don't have an e-version you can enter. You will still be allowed to send paper versions postmarked by the contest deadline.

You can view all your entries. You can make changes until you hit submit. Once you click submit, you're done.

You will pay your fees to national and can use a credit card or pay offline.

Entries will be judged by out-of-state media and communications professionals. All award places, including honorable mentions, receive a certificate. Winners of multiple awards may be honored for Overall Excellence and receive cash awards. The awards will be announced at the NMPW annual conference.

First place winners who are members of NMPW and the National Federation of Press Women will go on to compete nationally.

The system is fairly simple and flexible. NFPW is still working out a few bugs, and the FAQ page is still under construction.

For those of you with more than one entry, it'll help you to set up your own contest folder beforehand.

If you have questions, you can contact me or the NFPW contest chair Suzanne Hanney. Watch the NMPW website for updates.

## Zia Award Entries Sought

Jessica Savage, Zia Award program chair, reports:

New Mexico women writers are invited to submit their non-fiction books for consideration of the Zia Award, given each year at the annual conference luncheon by New Mexico Press Women.

The Zia Award was started by members in 1953 to honor an outstanding woman in New Mexico media.

Each year the award rotates to one of three categories: non-fiction, fiction, and children's literature. To accommodate this schedule, a book published in the last three years is eligible.

The 2015 Zia Book Award will be given to the author of a non-fiction book published in 2012, 2013 or 2014. Some suggested non-fiction categories include general, essay, biography, memoir, history, cookbook, humor, instructional, religious or inspirational, or photography.

Publishers or authors may submit a book entry. Membership in the association is not required, but the writer must be a woman. Authors must also live in the state or have a strong connection to New Mexico. However the book can be published anywhere.

A \$25 submission fee is required and helps to defray the costs of the contest and luncheon. Entries must be postmarked by January 17, 2015.

Book entries are considered a donation to the organization and are not returned. The books will be part of the annual silent auction, the proceeds from which fund NMPW's scholarships.

If selected for the Zia Award or as runner-up, awardees are requested to attend the award luncheon to read from their work.

For consideration please submit:

- A cover letter with contact information (include email) containing the following:

- Author's biography,
- Author's connection to New Mexico,
- Description of the book.
- A copy of the book,
- A check for \$25, payable to "New Mexico Press Women."

Mail the entry and information to:

Jessica Savage  
Zia Award Contest Chair  
1612 Ralph Dr.  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

## First Amendment Report: Supreme Court Term Just Underway

First Amendment Chair George Bach reports:

The 2014-2015 term of the Supreme Court began in October. So far, the Court has agreed to hear to cases involving the First Amendment.

In *Elonis v. U.S.*, the Court will decide the appropriate intent standard under the federal law that criminalizes threatening another person, 18 U.S.C. § 875(c). The issue is whether the First Amendment requires proof of a defendant's subjective intent to threaten or whether it is sufficient to show that a "reasonable person" would regard the statement as threatening.

In *Williams-Yulee v. The Florida Bar*, the Court will decide whether a rule of judicial conduct that prohibits candidates for judicial office from personally soliciting campaign funds violates the First Amendment.

The Broadsheet will announce the decisions when they are handed down.

## NMPW Officers and Committee Chairs

Here are the NMPW members serving on the board and as officers of chapters:

Cheryl Fallstead, President &

Las Cruces Press Women President

Bud Russo, Vice President & Broadsheet editor

Cassie McClure, Secretary

Loretta Hall, Treasurer

George Bach, First Amendment

Sherri Burr, 2015 Conference

Chris Burroughs, Public Relations

Ellen Castello, New Media

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Carolyn DeVore-Parks, Scholarships  
Emily Drabanski, Northern Chapter  
Anne Hillerman, Northern Chapter  
Leota Harriman, High School Contest  
Diane Schmidt, Communications Contest  
Diana Sandoval-Tapia, Communicator  
of Achievement  
Jessica Savage, Zia Book Award  
Karen Wentworth, President,  
Albuquerque Press Women

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