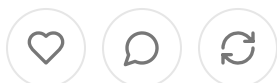


# The President's Message

NMPW Board Meeting and Setting a Direction By Regina Griego, President

AUG 05, 2024



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NMPW President Regina Griego

Hello, members of the New Mexico Press Women (NMPW). I chaired my first board meeting on June 29, 2024. We engaged in filling necessary board positions, reports from the treasurer, the historian, the vice-president, and our chapter representatives. We are healthy from a financial perspective and all is well with our NMPW organization. We have very strong participation and regularly scheduled meetings held by the Albuquerque Press Women's (APW) and Northern New Mexico Press Women's (NNMPW) chapters.

The board approved a revision on our Procedure Manual. Loretta Hall led the effort and had several modifications she knew needed to be made. I looked at it through the eyes of a newcomer and suggested several changes coming from my background in Requirements Engineering. After reviewing changes with those most affected by them, we asked for input from the board and ultimately the board approved the new

Procedures Manual with minor changes suggested at the board meeting. You can find the [Procedures Manual](#) on the website.

At a more strategic level we approved three initiatives, changes to the way the Broadsheet is produced and distributed, standing up a Tech Committee whose goal is to decide on the portfolio of tools and applications we use and their role in the operations, communications and marketing of NMPW, and lastly moving ahead with developing a bid process to upgrade our website.

These items align with my vision for NMPW moving forward which is to enhance our visibility, provide valuable information to our members, and integrate social media, the Broadsheet and our website for outreach to new members, contest entrants, and other people we touch in our activities at the state and chapter level.

The ultimate goal is to grow our membership and widen an annual-conference questionnaire, our demographics so we stay healthy as an organization. I would love your input as members in this effort, please e-mail me at [president@newmexicopress.org](mailto:president@newmexicopress.org). Please respond to a survey on the upcoming annual conference [here](#). Refer to Léonie Rosenstiel's article on the changes to the Broadsheet. For more of this article, [click here](#).

## Broadsheet Modernization in Progress

By Léonie Rosenstiel



Above: Léonie Rosenstiel, NMPW VP

Over time, it has become impossible for readers, most of whom are using cell phones, to access The Broadsheet without downloading it onto a computer. This process is cumbersome and annoying. Publishing a newsletter in pdf format created this problem. As various committees of the Board considered this issue, we also realized that the website and The Broadsheet often contained the same articles. We realized, too, that members seemed not to read long-form items as often.

Several years ago the NFPW adopted a cell-phone-friendly format, in addition to shortening its newsletter.

At the June Board meeting, we voted to modernize The Broadsheet, so that its format is similar to the NFPW Bulletin. This would make the publication cell phone friendly.

We also decided to change our procedures so that there's better coordination between The Broadsheet and the NMPW website, and we avoided duplicating material. Short articles (no longer than about 350 words) will continue to appear in The Broadsheet. Longer articles will be teased in The Broadsheet, and have their entire text posted on the website. Committee chairs and Chapter representatives will write about the workings of their own committees.

The Broadsheet will continue to publish both member and chapter news. We plan to do this on Substack. Creating a newsletter on Substack will also allow us to track the open rates, so that we know who is opening the newsletter.

This procedure will require a Substack learning curve and close coordination between The Broadsheet and the website, so website links are live when The Broadsheet is published. Please bear with us, and please let us know if you encounter any problems accessing material while this work is in progress. We hope to have any glitches fixed before the next contests start.

## **Honoring Denise Chavez in Las Cruces**

By Regina Griego



Pres. Regina Griego with Denise Chavez

Denise Chavez the beloved Chicano Literature author who studied under Rudolfo Anaya won a NMPW Award as Courageous Communicator for her authorship which showcases the breadth and depth of Hispanic Literature. Unfortunately at the last minute she was unable to attend the 2024 NMPW 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference.

I made a commitment to her that I would take her the award in person. I drove down early and attended her open House & Tardeada at Casa Camino Real Bookstore & Art Gallery owned by Denise and her husband.

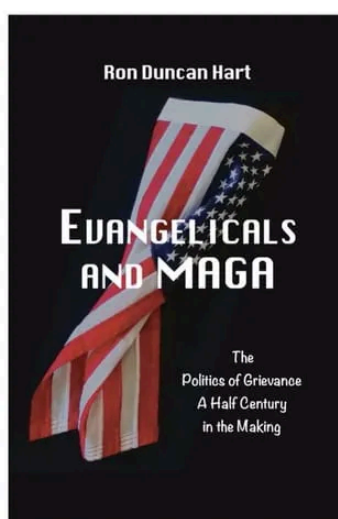
On May 29, 2024, Denise hosted a splendid book launch for her new book *Street of Too Many Stories*, a book that sets the scene as polyvocal narrators recount, examine, and analyze the complexities of life found among four families who live on Encantada Street as well as those who take care of them. In the classic style of magical realism the witness is the street and it brings to life the residents' daily experiences.

In the evening a book reading was held at the iconic Nopalito's Restaurant hosted by the owners. The ceremony began with me presenting the Courageous Communicator Award. Denise was generous with praise of NMPW and my presence at her big event. Josie Méndez Negrete, the owner of Concimiento Press, who published *Street of Too Many Stories* introduced Denise to about sixty people in attendance before Denise did the readings.

People listened raptly as Denise is also an actor and director of stage productions highlighting Chicano culture. I was so happy to represent NMPW at this enchanting event and I am hopeful that Denise can join us for our 2025 NMPW Conference.

## Reviving Jewish Journalism in the Southwest: The New Mexico Jewish Journal Story

By Diane Schmidt, long-time NMPW member and Editor, New Mexico Jewish Journal



In 2022, after 50 years of publication, New Mexico's only Jewish paper ceased publication with the closure of the Jewish Federation, leaving New Mexico without a statewide, independent and dependable source of information, news and communication for the Jewish community. A diverse group of journalists, writers, and community leaders met for a series of brainstorming sessions to respond, resulting in the creation of a new statewide publication, the New Mexico Jewish Journal.

They planned The Journal to be a stimulating, lively commons which will present community news and grow to include arts and culture reviews and essays, columnists, opinion pieces, and articles on a broad range of interest to the Jewish community. We hope to include curated sections for literary stories, poetry and art, for student contributions, an intergenerational project, and annual contests. The electronic format, published quarterly, provides a nimble opportunity to rebuild communications

among the diverse and scattered pockets of Jewish life across New Mexico, Southern Colorado and the El Paso region, supporting and enhancing Southwestern Jewish communities, helping them renew and celebrate their growth.

## 2024 NFPW Conference on Gateway to Success

By Regina Griego



### The Candle Light Ceremony at NMPW Conference

It was a pleasure to represent NMPW at the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) Conference held in St. Louis on September 20-22, 2024. At the members meeting on Thursday, I participated in a candle light ceremony for members who have passed away in the last year. We honored our two recently-deceased members Colleen Keene and Valorie "Vicky" Ramakka.

That evening we went to the St. Louis Artist Guild (a beautiful space, featuring local artists) for the opening reception, which was a beautiful space where local artists were featured. We were treated to local wines, beers, and food from the area. It was delightful to meet again with the eclectic group of members from various states.

Friday's keynote was "History in the Headlines" featuring Lynne M. Jackson and Dr. Jody Sowell. Lynne M. Jackson, the great-great-granddaughter of Dred and Harriet Scott and founder and president of the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation, talked about the 1857 Dred Scott v. Sanford decision. A precursor to the American Civil War, the decision is largely considered to be one of the worst ruling ever by the U.S. Supreme Court. Dr. Jody Sowell, president of the Missouri Historical Society, gave a very visual presentation on little-known fun and important facts about St. Louis.

A panel called "AI: Partner and Pestilence" discussed the role of AI and its possible repercussions. There were several interesting workshops in the afternoon and Friday culminated in the Communicator of Achievement (COA) Award Banquet. The 2024 NFPW Communicator of Achievement Award winner was Gwen White from North Carolina and the runner up was Sharon Almirall from Colorado. Gwen's speech was funny and folksy, she has many years in the NFPW including being past president. To read more of this article, [click here](#).

## Communicator of Achievement (COA)

In December, we will begin accepting nominations for the 2025 NMPW Communicator of Achievement. This is our state organization's highest honor, and our honoree will then be nominated for the designation of Communicator of Achievement of the National Federation of Press Women. A summary of the requirements is posted on our [website](#). Details may change slightly before the 2025 contest opens. It's not too early to start thinking of nominating yourself or another qualifying member. Contact the new COA chair, Loretta Hall, with questions at [loretta@authorhall.com](mailto:loretta@authorhall.com).

## New Mexico Prizewinners at the NFPW Awards

By Léonie Rosenstiel

In 2024, New Mexico Press Women entered 33 First Place New Mexico winners' works into the NFPW competition. These entries had been written by 27 different members.



Of these, 11 New Mexico entries won First Place Awards. [Click here](#) for a list of all the winners, and the names of their winning creations.

## Member News

Léonie Rosenstiel, NMPW vice president, is pleased to announce that her book [Protecting Mama](#) has just won first place in the Aging category from the Indie Book Discovery Awards (IBDA). This book also won First Place in the Aging category at the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards. Her most current book, [Legal Protection](#), is newly available to bookstores through Ingram Spark, as well as via Amazon. Léonie also contributed a chapter to Jack Canfield's next book, *Unlocking Success*.

**Diane Schmidt**, past Communications Contest chair, is now the founder, publisher and editor of New Mexico Jewish Journal, a new publication. She is available to give talks about the issues and strategies employed as it formed and published its initial editions. Contact: Diane Joy Schmidt [editor@nmjewishjournal.com](mailto:editor@nmjewishjournal.com)

At its annual state conference in April, the Historical Society of New Mexico awarded **Denise Tessier** its prestigious Edgar Lee Hewett award for "outstanding service to the people of New Mexico, as related to New Mexico history." Its awards committee was impressed with her nearly 29 years "of dedicated service to the East Mountain Historical Society," during which time she served on the EMHS board and as president, produced (for 24 years) its award-winning newsletter, contributed to the book *Timelines of the East Mountains*, wrote numerous New Mexico history articles, gave history talks to HSNM and other groups around the state and promoted the history and cultural heritage of the East Mountains area..

Tessier, who served on NMPW's board for 25 years, served as NMPW historian for 20 years and co-wrote, with member Sandy Schauer, *A History of New Mexico Press Women 1949-2009*. She is also author of another history book: *Kappa Kappa Gamma Through the Years*.

## Chapter News



## **Albuquerque Chapter**

By Merilee Dannemann

Albuquerque Press Women and Friends is taking off for the summer as we do every year. Our next scheduled monthly event will be our September lunchtime meeting: Monday, Sept. 9. Unless there is a change over the summer we will continue to meet at Weck's on Paseo del Norte, beginning at 11:45 AM.

We are very pleased to have as our scheduled speaker Peter Simonson, Executive Director of ACLU of New Mexico. We have asked him to focus on the ACLU's involvement with prison reform and immigrant incarceration.

## **Northern New Mexico Chapter**

By Pat Hodapp

The NNMPW Chapter will be hosting its annual networking social

Event on August 3rd from 1:00-3:00pm for members. Members are welcome to bring one guest. Additional guests may be arranged when making a reservation.

The event will be held at a lovely Southwestern eastside home of a member.

An invitation will be forthcoming to members.

## ***NMPW Officers***

*President:* Regina Griego

*Vice President:* Léonie Rosenstiel

*Secretary:* Lynne Hinton

*Treasurer:* Linda Lockett

## ***NMPW Board***

*Broadsheet Editor:* Léonie Rosenstiel

*Communications Contests Chair:* Catherine Lynch

*Communicator of Achievement Chair:* Loretta Hall

*High School Contest Coordinator:* Margaret Cheasebro

*Historian:* Arianna Andreatta

*Immediate Past President:* Sherri Burr

*Member at Large:* Loretta Hall

*Public Relations Chair:* Léonie Rosenstiel

*Scholarship Chair:* Brandon Larrañaga

*Social Media Chair:* Andrea Robbin

*Website Coordinator:* Pamela Ofori-Boateng

*Zia Book Award Chair:* Jennifer Hull

### **Chapter Representatives:**

*Albuquerque Press Women Steering Committee Representative:* Linda Lockett

*Northern Chapter Representative:* Patricia Hodapp

### **Northern New Mexico Board Press Women Officers**

*President:* Pat Hodapp

*Vice President:* James McGrath Morris

*Secretary:* Ree Sheck

*Treasurer:* Kay Lockridge

## Albuquerque Press Women Steering Committee

Merilee Dannemann

Loretta Hall

*Treasurer:* Linda Lockett

Sherry Robinson

Karen Wentworth

To contact any board member or officer, feel free to email:

NewMexicoPressWomen@gmail.com with the person's name in the subject line.

## Discussion about this post

Comments

Restacks



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