



# The Broadsheet

Newsletter of the New Mexico Press Women

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anything we read, and accelerating influence of technology, **as communicators, we need to huddle.**



The 2026 **NMPW Conference** on **May 1–2, 2026**, at Isleta Resort, is that opportunity. Our theme is “Resilient Communicators: Thriving in Challenging Times.”

We have two professional development sessions the afternoon of **Friday, May 1**, that will allow attendees to continue to sharpen the saw of our experienced and novice communicators alike.

On **Saturday, May 2**, we have a panel about “New Models and Frameworks for Journalism” with moderator **Gwyneth Doland** (UNM Communications Professor of Practice) and a panel about “First Amendment, Democracy and the Law”

## President's Message

By Regina M. Griego

Happy New Year — welcome to 2026!

“Like it or not, we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty; but they are also the most creative of any time in the history of mankind.” — Robert F. Kennedy (1966). I think this can be said of today, only turbocharged. With the suppression and manipulation of the media and communicators, skepticism about

moderated by **Dede Feldman** (former legislator and author). She will take on the issues of suppression, manipulation, and self-censorship.

**Tom Tenorio**, an artificial intelligence and systems expert practitioner, will join me to deliver a hands-on workshop titled “AI: Communicator’s Friend or Foe.”

As usual, the lunch on Saturday will be an opportunity to honor our **Zia Book Award** winners and scholarship recipients, and we will celebrate our **Communicator of Achievement** (COA) winner and **Communications Contest** winners at the banquet on Saturday evening. We are looking



forward to our banquet speaker, **U.S. Representative Melanie Stansbury**. She has been speaking out on our behalf about all the “interesting times” we are living in.

While we are taking on heavy topics, we also plan to have a little fun. The Friday evening reception will be a nod to the Kentucky

Derby, and we invite members to wear your best (or best approximation of) derby hats. We will have an entertaining and informative speaker, **Kelly Wendorf**, Founder and CEO of EQUUS. It is an opportunity for collegiality, learning, exploring, and solidarity.

### **Communicators unite!**

Our contests are off to a good start. Many children’s book authors have submitted their work for the coveted and uniquely New Mexican Zia Book Award.

The **Professional Communications Contest closes February 18, with the book deadline February 4**. The at-large NFPW High School Communications Contest is asking for high schools to enter their bloggers, website designers, podcasters, journalism students, and all forms of communicators into the contest to give them encouragement and show off the talent of New Mexico students. Let’s make the best showing ever at the **National Federation of Press Women** (NFPW) Conference on **September 24–26** in Ellicott City, Maryland, by submitting entries in the many communications categories that are offered in the Professional and High School Communications Contest!

The deadline for NMPW’s two endowed scholarships that we award annually is **January 30**. We give these scholarships to New Mexico residents attending schools in the United States or out-of-state residents attending New Mexico schools. The **Anne and Tony Hillerman Scholarship** assists students enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program related to journalism or communications. The **Rosenstiel Scholarship** assists graduate students who are studying in the fields of journalism, communications, or law and are interested in

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journalism, the First Amendment, or other constitutional Bill of Rights issues.

These scholarships are administered by the Albuquerque Community Foundation under the [New Mexico Press Women Scholarship Fund](#).

The Communicator of Achievement (COA) Award is the highest honor bestowed by NMPW and the NFPW, on members who have distinguished themselves in and beyond their profession. The deadline to submit your nomination is **February 15, 2026**. All nominees must be living members, in good standing for at least two years in NMPW and NFPW. The 2026 NMPW COA will be honored for exceptional achievement in the communications field, as well as service to NMPW/NFPW and to the community. Please consider entering yourself or an outstanding colleague. For nomination guidelines, contact chair **Ruth Thaler-Carter** ([Ruth@writerruth.com](mailto:Ruth@writerruth.com)).

The 30-day New Mexico legislative session began on **January 20**. I attended the State of the State and sat in the gallery with my Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense red shirt on. NMPW is supporting the “Prohibiting Book Banning at Public Libraries” ([House Bill 26](#)). **Kit Rosewater**, chairperson of the Freedom to Read New Mexico coalition, has written an article for this *Broadsheet* explaining the bill and the need for action.

I have found, by sitting and waiting for committee meetings to start or in committee

meetings listening to the legislators, that democracy can be frustrating, sometimes infuriating, but we must participate. We strongly encourage those who are passionate about the freedom to read to contact your legislators and the governor with your stories and opinions. You can [contact](#) the governor's office, preferably before January 20.

The 2026 NMPW Annual Meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on **May 2**, wrapping up the conference. Please join us — we have some big topics to cover, including voting on a revision to the NMPW Bylaws, a Code of Conduct Policy, and a Conflict of Interest Policy. We will also be voting on a new slate of NMPW officers, including president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. You or someone you believe would be a good candidate for any of these positions can [apply](#).

The NMPW Board is excited about 2026 and all that we are planning. We hope you will join us. Thank you to those members who have renewed their membership. Please pay your [membership dues](#) for 2026 if you have not already done so. If your membership lapses, you have a grace period to renew until **January 31, 2026**.

I sincerely appreciate all our members and your continued resilience.

*Regina M. Griego*

President – NMPW



**2026 Communications Contest**  
Final Deadline February 18, 2026



Work must be published or broadcast between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025

## Reminder

NMPW operates on a calendar year, so we encourage you to pay your **2026 dues by January 31, 2026**, and that payment will cover you for all of 2026. You can also join both NFPW and NMPW through the NFPW portal.

If you are currently an associate member of NMPW, then you have already paid the \$20/year membership fee, and if a student, the \$10/year fee.

*For more info about NMPW membership, please check our [website](#).*

## New Mexico Press Women Contests

### Professional Communications Contest

The state contest is the first tier in the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) contest. Entries are submitted through the NFPW's Communications [Contest portal](#).

There are 63 categories in a wide range of communication categories, including writing, books, photography, graphics and design, radio and television, web and social media, advertising, public relations materials, communication programs, speeches, information for the media, and collegiate/education.

The NMPW's Communications Contests are judged at the state level. First-place winners in the state-level contest are eligible to move to the national level of judging. NMPW also gives out cash prizes to high point winners.

You must be a member in good standing with the NFPW to move to nationals. If you are not a member of our organizations, please join us in having an impact and being inspiring during the current uncertain media and communication climate.

The book entry deadline is noon on February 4, with a final noon February 18 deadline for all other entries. State -level contest winners will be announced at the annual NMPW conference, planned for May 1–2, 2026, at the Isleta Hotel and Resort.

## New Mexico Press Women's Zia Book Award

Every year since 1953, the NM Presswomen has honored an outstanding New Mexico woman author with its prestigious Zia Award. This year, the award will be given to the author of the best children's book who has significant ties to the state. Entries will be accepted through **January 29, 2026**.

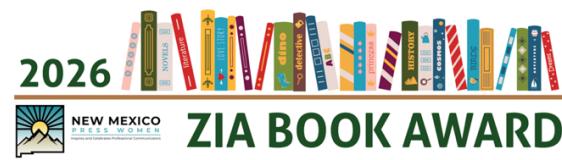
The Zia Awards program operates on a three-year cycle and awards books in three categories: fiction, nonfiction, and children's literature. This year, the award is open to children's authors whose books were published in 2023, 2024, and 2025. Entries should have a strong connection to New Mexico through their settings, characters, and/or themes.

Submissions can be made by the author or someone else on behalf of the author, such as a publisher. Membership in NMPW is not required, although it provides a discounted entry fee. The writer must be a woman who lives in or has a strong connection to New Mexico. The book may be published anywhere.

The entry fee is \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members; you may also join NMPW at the time you enter but membership is not required for eligibility. Please refer to our website [Zia Award Contest](#).

To be eligible to receive the award, the selected finalists must be available to read at the annual award luncheon during the **NMPW 2026 Conference on Saturday, May 2, 2026**.

Contact: Dede Feldman, 505-220-5958 or [dedefeld@comcast.net](mailto:dedefeld@comcast.net) for questions.



**2026**  
**ZIA BOOK AWARD**



**CHILDREN'S AUTHORS**

Every year since 1953, the NM Presswomen has honored an outstanding New Mexico woman author with its prestigious Zia Award. This year, the award will be given to the author of the best children's book who has significant ties to the state.

To Submit for Contest: [Scan to Learn More](#)

- Writer must be a woman with a connection to New Mexico
- Outstanding author published after 2023
- Book can be published outside of New Mexico
- Submit entry with cover letter and authors bio
- Book submission can be from the author or not
- Entrant must be available at NMPW Annual Award Ceremony on Saturday May 2, 2026 at Isleta Resort & Casino in Albuquerque



Contact Dede Feldman at (505) 220-5958 [dedefeld@comcast.net](mailto:dedefeld@comcast.net)

Late Entry: Non-Members \$50 | Members \$35  
Early Entrance Fee: Non-Members \$30 | Members \$30 before December 31, 2024



NMPW Graduate and Undergraduate Scholarships applications close on January 30. There are two [scholarships](#) for \$1,000. Share with a student today!

## Highlights of first Northern New Mexico Communicators Salon

By Catherine Lynch, Communications Contest Co-Chair

On December 6, our Salon Series returned—and once again proved why gathering in shared creative space still matters.

Hosted by Julia Goldberg of *Source New Mexico*, the evening brought together a remarkable panel of authors: Katie Arnold, Marin Sardy, Carmella Padilla, and Gina La Cerva. Each writer brought a distinct voice, perspective, and body of work to the conversation, creating a dynamic exchange that was thoughtful, generous, and engaging.

We are especially appreciative of **Sky Cinemas** for hosting and providing a welcoming space for this meaningful exchange. Their support helped create an environment where conversation and creativity could flourish.

The Salon Series was introduced by our President, Regina Griego, who reminded us why we launched this effort in the first place. December's gathering marked our second Salon, and its success affirmed what we hoped from the beginning: that these intimate, idea-driven events can foster real connection among writers, artists, and communicators. We look forward to continuing this series with our **New Mexico Press Women members**, strengthening community through shared conversation and collaboration.

Historically, salons have played a vital role in nurturing independent artists and thinkers.



Katie Arnold, Marin Sardy, Carmella Padilla; Salon Speakers



Julia Goldberg, Source New Mexico

Originating in Paris in the 17th and 18th centuries, salons were often hosted in private homes, where writers, philosophers, painters, and political thinkers gathered to exchange ideas freely—sometimes radically. These spaces offered refuge from rigid institutions and provided a platform for voices that might otherwise go unheard. Salons helped shape literary movements, artistic innovation, and even social change.

That history feels especially relevant now.

We are living in a time when communication itself feels increasingly fragile—fragmented by polarization, misinformation, and shrinking spaces for nuanced conversation. In this climate, bringing authors, artists, and communicators together is not a luxury; it's a necessity. Salons create room for listening as much as speaking, for curiosity over certainty, and for community over isolation.



**Carolyn Carlson, NMPW Communications  
Contests Co-Chair**

The December Salon embodied that spirit. Guided by Julia Goldberg's thoughtful hosting, the panelists explored their work and experiences with honesty and openness, sparking meaningful dialogue among attendees. It was a reminder that when we gather with intention, creativity thrives—and so does understanding.

As we continue the Salon Series, we do so with renewed appreciation for the power of conversation and the enduring value of shared intellectual and creative space. In challenging times for communication, salons offer something quietly radical: a place to come together, think deeply, and connect—writer to writer, artist to artist, and human to human.

## Freedom to Read New Mexico

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By Kit Rosewater, Freedom to Read New Mexico Coalition Chair

Freedom to Read New Mexico is a nonpartisan coalition of parents, grandparents, educators, librarians, community leaders, authors, and allies who are committed to protecting the First Amendment freedom of speech and freedom of the press, including the right to read. We support the availability and celebration of diverse voices on our library shelves and in our classrooms. We believe that books empower readers, promote literacy, and instill compassion and understanding about ourselves, others, and our collective history. We advocate for our educators and librarians who work diligently to ensure access to library materials.

As a coalition, we are actively working to establish anti-book-ban legislation across New Mexico. We additionally call upon our community of supporters to be both a visible and vocal presence whenever authors and educators are targeted through book banning, soft censorship, and obstructive efforts disguised as “parental rights” that take rights away from other families.

As chairperson of this coalition, my role was the direct result of soft censorship within New Mexico. I grew up in New Mexico and am proud to be raising my family here now. I am also a traditionally published children's book author. My books contains LGBTQ+ characters, and I personally identify as queer. Last September, I was invited for an author visit at a public elementary school in Albuquerque. I have a master's degree in Children's Literature and I used to be an English teacher; both of these experiences inform my role as a visiting author.

This particular visit was a writing workshop on adaptation. It in no way showcased my books or discussed my sexual identity. Regardless, a small group of conservative parents at the school discovered I wrote about LGBTQ+ themes and decided I was a harmful influence on children. What followed over the next five weeks was a vicious harassment campaign against me, targeted primarily at the librarian who had invited me.

This harassment escalated in threats of outside groups planning to attend the event and protest my presence at the school. The harassment was so thorough that the school librarian phoned me in tears nearly every week. One week before the event was scheduled to take place, I cancelled my visit to protect the students from witnessing and/or experiencing vitriolic harassment at the event itself.

After the dust settled on this hateful campaign to keep me out of a school library simply due to my sexual orientation, I connected with Regina Dickens, the founder of Grandparents and Allies for Truth--a local group of supporters that formed in direct opposition to Moms for Liberty. I learned that Grandparents and Allies for Truth were already working on three pieces of legislation to protect the freedom to read, as well as safeguarding library programming such as author visits.

Together, we worked to bring eight additional organizations to the coalition table. Our coalition membership now includes the New Mexico Library Association, the New Mexico Rural Library Initiative, the New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries, the American Indian Library

Association, the Albuquerque Teachers Federation, the Albuquerque Liberation Center, the League of Women's Voters in Central New Mexico, and the national organization Authors Against Book Bans.

As a coalition, we have fine-tuned our mission and calls to action. We have worked with Senators Harold Pope and Antoinette Sedillo-Lopez, and Representative Cates on editing and finalizing our three pieces of legislation. We have connected with Freedom to Read coalitions around the country, and have been mentored and guided by states such as Rhode Island and Colorado in their success with passing protective legislation that takes a firm stance against book bans and censorship.

Our proposed bills limit those who can challenge a book in a library to someone specifically connected to that community--regarding K-12 schools, this would mean only a student or parent at a school may challenge a book in that school. We also specify that a challenged book must be considered as a whole, and cannot be reduced to select excerpts. Beyond the specific wording in our bills, they carry a larger legacy of representing a state that highly values the right and the freedom to read. While a parent may make decisions on behalf of their own children's access to vetted reading material, we believe parents should not have the right to make those decisions on behalf of other families and their children.

The upcoming New Mexico legislative session, which began on January 20th, is primarily a budgetary session. This means that in order to be heard at the session, Governor Lujan Grisham would need to place our legislative proposals on her call list. As partners of NMLA and NMRLI, we support the current budgetary measures for the library GO Bond and the New Mexico Rural Library funds. We also believe it is more vital than ever that we get our bills heard on the floor at this upcoming session.

Fourteen of eighteen blue states have already passed some form of Freedom to Read legislation--New Mexico is only one of four remaining blue states that have not. And with an upcoming governor election and our state's political future in the air... **we need to secure these protections for reading in our state while we still can.**

While formal book bans and book challenges are not commonplace in New Mexico, instances of soft censorship rage across our state like wildfire. Where a vocal minority objects to an author visit at a school and it quietly goes away. Where an adult takes a book out of its proper place on the shelf and hides it from student access. Where a librarian is too nervous to create a display showcasing diversity in fear of disgruntled parents issuing swift professional backlash. These things are already happening. They have been happening, and they will keep getting worse if we do not formally address the matter of censorship in our state legislation.

We are encouraging those who are passionate about the freedom to read to contact the Governor with your stories and opinions. Contact your legislator and say you support **HB-26, Prohibiting Book Banning At Public Libraries.**

You can also learn more about the Freedom to Read coalition, and sign up as a [supporter](#).

## Member News



### James Tritten

The FY26 Arts & The Military Mini Grants Program has awarded SouthWest Writers (SWW) a new grant, to take place from 1 January 2026 until 15 June 2026. Veterans and family members who were published in *Holes in Our Hearts* (2023) or *Unbreaking the Circle* (2025), or who participated in the 2024 online memoir course, will conduct in-person public readings of their published writing from those programs that feature their healing journeys. Speakers will discuss how writing contributed to their healing.

If you would like to help host one of these outreach efforts, or for more information, [click here](#). If you are one of the published authors who would like to read at one of these locations, click on the same link and scroll down to see the venues we are working [updated frequently].



## Chapter News

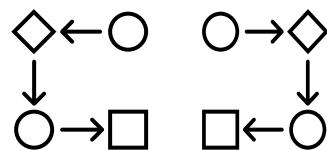
### Albuquerque Press Women Friends (APWF) – February 9, 2026

APWF will be meeting at 11:45 a.m. on Monday, February 9 where our invited speaker Perry Radford with NM Voters First and Molly Swank with Common Cause discuss ranked choice voting and other voting issues in New Mexico.

APW&F meets at 11:45 a.m. on the second Monday of each month, except July and August.

Currently, APW&F meetings are held in the back meeting room at Weck's in Albuquerque on Holly Avenue NE between Wyoming and Louisiana. The official address is 7301 Paseo del Norte, but the restaurant and its parking lot face Holly, not Paseo del Norte.

Attendees may order breakfast or lunch items and receive separate checks. APW&F members pay \$10/year for dues, and guests paying \$5/meeting are welcome to attend.



## Board Members

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Reach any NMPW board member by email [here](#) or [here](#). Place the board member's name in the subject line.

### **NMPW Board Officers:**

**President:** Regina M. Griego

**Vice President:** *vacant*

**Secretary:** Susan Walton

**Treasurer:** Linda Lockett

### **NMPW Board Members:**

**Communications Contest Co-Directors:** Catherine K. Lynch and Carolyn Carlson

**Communicator of Achievement Director:** Ruth E. Thaler-Carter

**Zia Book Award Director:** Dede Feldman

**High School Contest Coordinator:** Margaret Cheasebro

**Historian:** Arianna Andreatta

**Public Relations/ Social Media Director:** Rosa Armijo-Pemble

**Broadsheet Director:** *vacant*

**Scholarship Director:** *vacant*

**Website Director:** Astrid Winegar

### **Chapter Representatives to the Board:**

**Albuquerque Press Women Steering Committee Representative:** Linda Lockett

**Southern Region Member-at-Large:** Denise Chávez

**Northern Region Member-at-Large:** *vacant*