



NPW NEWS_eLETTER

NPW fall convention is set for Oct. 20 in Grand Island

by Terri Hahn

The historic Hargis Mansion in Grand Island will be the setting for the 2012 Nebraska Press Women fall convention set for Saturday, Oct. 20. With election of new officers and the announcement of the 2012 Communicator of Achievement, along with speakers and workshops, the day is shaping up to be a busy one.

This will be the first fall conference to adopt a new format since NPW members voted on it a couple of years ago. Designed to be a “drive-in, drive-out” event, all activities will be finished by mid-afternoon, with no evening banquet planned. The idea is to encourage more members to attend the fall meeting, as an overnight stay won’t be necessary.

Weekend activities will start with an NPW board meeting at 6 p.m. Friday at the El Tapatio Mexican restaurant, 2610 S. Locust, just a couple of blocks from our hotel. The back party room has been reserved and board members will order off the menu. All members are invited to attend the Friday meeting. After the meeting, the

hospitality suite will be open at the Rodeway Inn, 3205 S. Locust (more about the hotel later) for anyone who wants to stop by.

Registration starts at 8:30 A.M. Saturday at the Grand Island Woman’s Club, 1109 W. Second (which is Highway 30 going through Grand Island). A breakfast buffet of mini cinnamon rolls, bagels, muffins, etc., will be available, along with fruit, coffee and juice. The general membership meeting starts at 9 A.M. and will include electing new officers for a two-year term. The rest of the day’s schedule includes a workshop, luncheon speaker and panel discussion, along with lunch and the COA announcement. Tours of the mansion will be offered after the afternoon session.

Scheduled speakers include George Ayoub and Jean Lukesh.

Ayoub will offer ideas for “Personal Columns and Blogs,” beginning at 10:45 A.M. He is a senior writer and columnist for The Grand Island Independent, where he has written for 18 years.



Located at 1109 W. Second St., the Andrew M. Hargis House has been home to the Grand Island Woman’s Club since 1953. Built in 1898, the mansion is an example of the Queen Anne style and also incorporates Neo-Classical Revival detailing in its design. Most of the house retains its period details and the club has been working steadily over the years to restore the place, one room at a time. One of its main features is a stained-glass window on the west side of the house (it’s boxed in to protect it and can only be seen from the inside). Hargis founded the Grand Island Business and Normal College in 1885. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Reflections on the past four years: Just say 'Yes'

Giving time and effort to a worthy cause is never one-sided; it gives back to you.

In my four years as president of the Nebraska Press Women, I have gained new friends, deepened friendships with those I knew, networked inside and beyond our state's borders, traveled to new places, sharpened my leadership skills, and learned new skills, like pitching sponsorships, negotiating agreements, and maintaining websites.

This opportunity exists for each of you; just say "Yes" the next time you are asked to contribute your time to Nebraska Press Women.

It is with pride that I look back over the past four years of my presidency. I am amazed at how much we accomplished as a group, working to serve the profession and to make our Nebraska Press Women organization more visible. Following are a few of our many accomplishments:

- celebrated 65 years of service with Anniversary Awards Luncheon
- launched the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame and inducted nine women into it
- co-hosted successful NFPW Conference with Iowa Press Women
- Lori Potter elected president of the National Federation of Press Women and Barb Micek served on the NFPW board
- Terri Hahn honored as the NFPW Communicator of Achievement runner-up



Ruth Brown

- Marianne Beel Memorial Scholarship created and fully funded
- NPW Meet & Greets held in Omaha and Lincoln
- conventions held in Central City, Council Bluffs, Gothenburg, Lincoln, Red Cloud, Halsey, Peru, and now Grand Island
- Barb Micek, Martha Stoddard, Terri Hahn and Stephanie Geery-Zink honored as NPW Communicators of Achievement
- hundreds of awards presented to both high school and professional communications contest winners
- website redesigned and Facebook page created.

If you helped in any way, you, too, should feel a sense of pride in accomplishment. Now just think of what we can do in the next four years with your help. Remember, just say "Yes." The learning opportunities, fun and friendship will follow.

NPW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Ruth Brown

Vice President

Bette Pore

Secretary

Mary Pierce

Treasurer

Sherry Thompson

Achievement Award

Martha Stoddard

Communications Contest

Barb Micek

High School Contest

Betsy FrederickHerrman

Historian

Mary Pat Hoag

Member Services

Lori Potter

Membership

Cheryl Alberts Irwin

Newsletter

Carole Meyer

Publicity

Terri Hahn

Legislative/First Amendment

Diane Wetzel

Parliamentarian

Judy Nelson

Scholarship

Barb Batie

Past President/NPFW 2011 Convention

Stephanie Geery-Zink

www.nebraskapresswomen.org

NPW to elect new officers at fall meeting

by Ruth Brown

New officers of Nebraska Press Women will be elected at the organization's Saturday, Oct. 20, business meeting in Grand Island. The officers will serve a two-year term. The nominating committee, composed of Glennis Nagel, Sara Giboney and Barb Batie, chair, submit the following names. Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the election of officers.

BETTE PORE of Grand Island is the nominee for NPW president.

Pore is copy editor at The Grand Island Independent, a position she has held since 2002. A



Bette Pore

member of NFPW since 1994, Pore was president of South Dakota Press Women as well as SDPW communications contest director and newsletter editor before moving to Nebraska.

Since joining NPW, she has served as high school contest director from 2003 through 2006, professional communications contest director from 2006 through 2010, and vice president from 2010 through 2012. As vice president, Pore organized the first two induction ceremonies into the new Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame. She is also updating the leadership manual for distribution to new officers and board members on Oct. 20.

SHERRY THOMPSON of Omaha is the nominee for NPW vice

president. Thompson is the communications director and program manager for the Women's Fund of Omaha in addition to being a freelance writer and editor.



Sherry Thompson

She has an extensive background in communications, including newspaper and magazine writing and editing, employment communications, corporate relations and public relations.

A member of NFPW since 1983, Thompson was active in the Illinois Women's Press Association where she was newsletter editor and also in Louisiana Press Women before joining NPW. Thompson was NPW treasurer from 2008 through 2012 and was also co-chair and treasurer for the 2011 NFPW Conference that was co-hosted by Iowa and Nebraska Press Women.

MARY PIERCE of Ogallala is the nominee for NPW secretary. Pierce is the news editor of the Keith County News. A member of NPW since 1988, Pierce served



Mary Pierce

as the high school contest director as well as professional communications contest director before beginning her term as NPW secretary in 2010. Pierce won first place in the 2011 NPW communications contest sweepstakes, second place in 2012, third place in 2010, second place in 2009, and consistently scored well in previous years at both the state and national levels.

STEPHANIE GEERY-ZINK of Lincoln is the nominee for NPW treasurer. Geery-Zink is the development director at the Lincoln Community Playhouse and is also a freelance journalist. A member of NFPW since



Stephanie Geery-Zink

1998, she has served as NPW secretary, vice president, president and past president. While serving as president, she took over the duties of treasurer when that officer resigned.

In addition, Geery-Zink was one of NPW's two representatives on the 2011 NFPW Conference Planning Committee, taking charge of obtaining, organizing and scheduling speakers for the three-day event. She recently returned from Scottsdale, AZ, where she was Nebraska's nominee for Communicator of Achievement at the 2012 NFPW Conference. Geery-Zink is also president of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln which is embarking on a capital campaign to raise funds for a building addition.

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In addition to column writing, he also works on major projects and develops content for the paper's website, theindependent.com. He is an adjunct professor at Doane College, teaching political science, ethics and persuasion.

He is the author of two novels, both first serialized in *The Independent*, and is currently working on a book of his columns. His other bio information includes growing up in Grand Island, a couple college degrees, a decade living in Los Angeles, 41 years of marriage, 19 years of fatherhood, and about 3,000 columns filed on deadline. One of his books will be available for purchase at the convention.

Lukesh will offer ideas for "Writing in a Reader-Friendly Way—or Everything I Know I Learned From Reading Cereal Boxes and Mad Magazine."

She is a retired educator who spent many years with Grand Island Public Schools. She regularly writes the "Nebraska Trivia Quiz" and an occasional article for *Nebraska Life* magazine, as well as a few op-ed articles for *The Grand Island Independent* and the *North Platte Bulletin*. A Mari Sandoz Award winner, she is the author of three Nebraska history biographies, a historical/literary biography, a children's picture book, and a popular Nebraska studies textbook. Her writings have won five national, two state and two literary arts book awards.

A graduate of Denver University Publishing Institute, she worked for years for various small presses and periodicals as a freelance author, editor and publisher—

her avocation. Her vocation was as a longtime (but now retired) school librarian and teacher with several degrees and endorsements, including two master's degrees (English education and history education) and a doctorate (Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction).

A past president and soon-to-be a life member of the Nebraska Writers Guild, Lukesh is a member of several national writing organizations, including Sisters In Crime, a national organization of women mystery writers; the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators; Western Writers of America; the Text and Academic Authors Association; Women Writing the West; and several library, reading and history organizations. She is currently writing her next three Quick Reading Nebraska history biography books—while several more manuscripts languish in her computer, waiting for the chance to engage with readers.

Lukesh will have several of her books available for purchase, including "The Nebraska Adventure," a Nebraska studies



Author and historian Jean Lukesh will be the luncheon speaker at the Nebraska Press Women Fall Convention set for Oct. 20 in Grand Island. *Photo courtesy of The Grand Island Independent/Barrett Stinson*



George Ayoub, senior writer and columnist at The Grand Island Independent, will offer tips for writing "Personal Columns and Blogs," at the NPW Fall Convention in Grand Island. *Photo courtesy of the Grand Island Independent*

textbook; "Lucky Ears: The True Story of Ben Kuroki, World War II Hero," "Sky Rider: The Story of Evelyn Sharp" and "Wolves in Blue: Stories of the North Brothers and Their Pawnee Scouts." Most of her books sell for \$10 to \$15, with the exception of the textbook, which if \$40 (available in limited quantities).

A panel discussion focusing on covering local government, public records and open meeting laws is scheduled for Saturday afternoon. While the panel lineup is still being finalized, members will include representatives of area newspapers and television stations.

Lunch will feature a pasta bar provided by Megan Yutesler of Meg's Catering in St. Paul. Two pastas, two sauces, a creamy chicken lasagna, salad and bread

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Nebraska high school students win 5 national awards

by Ruth Brown

Nebraska high school journalism students captured five awards in this year's National Federation of Press Women Communication Contest. Awards were presented at NFPW's annual conference Youth Luncheon, Sept. 22 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Omaha Westside students earned three awards and Hastings High School students earned two awards in the national contest.

Hastings High students won a first-place award and one third-place for their work. Shane Samuleson won first in the video news category with "Skills USA" and attended the NFPW Conference luncheon with his mother to receive the award. Kelli Poplau won third place in the year-book category for "Our Face Place."

Omaha Westside students took two second-place awards and a third place for their work. Skylar Harris

placed second in the review category with a piece titled, "Doomsday Playlist: Listen Before you Die." Sophie Goldberg won second place in the single-page layout category for "Page 1" and Amelia Jensen won third place in the feature photo category with her photo, "Scott volunteers many hours at the site of the community garden, planting flowers, plants and vegetables."

Betsy Herrman, NPW high school contest director, said students from five high schools submitted 96 entries published in 2011 into the Nebraska Press Women High School Communication Contest.

First-place entries were forwarded to the national contest, including seven from Omaha Westside students, six from Hastings High School, two from Marian High and one from Grand Island Senior High.

15 members receive 39 national contest awards

by Ruth Brown

Fifteen NPW/NFPW members received a total of 39 National Federation of Press Women Communications Contest Awards at the conference awards banquet on Saturday, Sept. 22, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Of those, 14 were first place awards, 10 were second place, 11 were third place, and 4 were honorable mention.

Winners were as follows:

Barb Batie, first place in Informational Column and third place in news reporting for publication supplement;

Ruth Brown, first place in research;

Carla Chance, first place in both color ad for retail product or service and in single-sheet original poster, third place in advertising campaign, and honorable mention in both poster campaign and in web content written for corporate site;

Jennifer Chick, second place in both web content written for special interest site and in news photography in daily newspaper; third place in both specialty articles for food and for crafts; and honorable mention for four-color print newsletter;

Terri Hahn, first place in both daily newspaper page layout and single page edited by entrant/lifestyle or entertainment;

Betsy Herrman, third place in government or politics special article;

Ruth Brown



Shane Samuelson of Hastings traveled to Scottsdale with his mother, Marsha, to accept his first place award in videography in the NFPW High School Communications Contest. Shown with them (right) is Lori Potter, NFPW president.

Fall 2012

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2012 NFPW CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Lori Potter



Barbara Micek, Lori Potter and Mary Pat Finn-Hoag visit the Grand Canyon during the 2012 NFPW Conference pre-tour.

Ruth Brown



Lori Potter wins NFPW contest sweepstakes. Presenting the award is Swen Woolf, NFPW contest director.

Ruth Brown



Mary Pat Finn-Hoag (left) received a certificate in Scottsdale from NFPW President Lori Potter for her 35-year membership in NFPW. Barb Batie (right) was honored for her 30-year membership. Also honored from NPW but not present to receive their awards were Judy Nelson, 40 years, and Cheryl Alberts-Irwin, 25 years.

Lori Potter



Nebraska COA nominee Stephanie Geery-Zink is shown at the NFPW Conference in Scottsdale with her gift. Judges chose past NFPW president Cynthia Price as the 2012 NFPW Communicator of Achievement. No runner-up was named.



Nebraskans at the NFPW 75th anniversary-COA banquet with their cupcakes are (front row from left Mary Pat Finn-Hoag, Barb Batie, Barbara Micek, and back row from left NFPW President Lori Potter, new Nebraskan Mary Jane Skala, Nebraska COA Stephanie Geery-Zink and NPW President Ruth Brown.



Cupcakes with NFPW purple frosting were served at the NFPW 75th anniversary banquet Sept. 21 at the Hotel Valley Ho in Scottsdale, AZ.

National awards

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Cheryl Alberts Irwin, second place in newsletter regularly edited by entrant;

Heather Johnson, third place in both enterprise reporting and special series;

Sara Leimbach, first place in web design, collegiate category;

Carole Meyer, second place in electronic newsletter;

Glennis Nagel, first place in four-color magazine;

Judy Nelson, second place in newsletters regularly edited by entrant;

Mary Pierce, third place in feature photo in non-daily newspaper;

Bette Pore, first place in both single page regularly edited by entrant and publication edited by entrant/non-lifestyle or entertainment, second place in section edited by entrant, and third place in headline writing;

Lori Potter, first place in business article, agriculture article, sports photo and photo essay; second place in environment article, general column, personal column and feature photo; third place in both science article and single photo on the web; and honorable mention in education article.

NEW MEMBER

Hilary Stohs-Krause, web/multimedia editor, radio reporter for NET News (Nebraska NPR/PBS), 1800 N. 33rd St., Lincoln, NE 68503, 402-472-6762, hstohs-krause@netnebraska.org. Home: 1405 S. 16th St., Apt. 1, Lincoln, NE 68502, 414-303-9052.

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will be offered, with coffee and peach tea. (Note: If you require a special diet, please contact me by Oct. 1 so I can make arrangements with Meg.)

Registration for the day is \$40 for members before Oct. 12 and \$45 after that date. Registration for non-members is \$45/\$50. If you are registering late, please call me ASAP. We have to have the final count to the caterer by Monday, Oct. 15.

For more information, contact me at (402) 747-4191 or email to terrihahn41@gmail.com. (NOTE: I will be out of the office from Oct. 8–14, so please don't email me at work or call my work number during that time.)

First-timers register free for convention

First-time NPW convention attendees will again be offered free registration. This offer is for members only, so if you have wanted to go to convention but haven't made it yet, come to Grand Island on Saturday, Oct. 20.

If you know members who haven't been to an NPW convention, encourage them to take advantage of this offer. It may be for a limited time only because it is up for review at the mid-winter board meeting.

Just have them print "FIRST-TIMER" on the Registration Form in this newsletter and send it to treasurer Sherry Thompson, 5415 S. 174th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68135.

NPW FALL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Nebraska Press Women 2012 Fall Convention

Saturday, October 20

**Grand Island Woman's Club
1109 W. Second St.
Grand Island**

8:30 – 9 A.M.: Registration

9 A.M.: General membership meeting and election of officers

10:45 – 11:45 A.M.: "Writing Personal Columns and Blogs," George Ayoub, senior writer and columnist, Grand Island Independent

Noon: Lunch, featuring a pasta bar from Meg's Catering

12:30 P.M.: "Writing in a Reader-Friendly Way—or Everything I Know I Learned From Reading Cereal Boxes and Mad Magazine," Jean Lukesh, historian, author and retired educator

1:15 P.M.: Communicator of Achievement announcement

2 P.M.: "Covering local government, public records and open meeting laws," panel discussion

3:15 P.M.: Mansion tours, conducted by the Grand Island Woman's Club

Great time to join; tell your friends

Fall is a great time to join NPW because you become a member for this year and also for next year. That goes for state-only memberships of \$30 as well as for combined NPW/NFPW memberships of \$94.

An added incentive this year is the First-Timers' free registration. New members can come to the fall convention in Grand Island on Saturday, Oct. 20, at absolutely no cost.

Tell all your Nebraska friends in the communications industry—women and men, journalists and broadcasters, free lancers and part-timers as well as those who are fully employed—now is a great time to join NPW.

New NPW members can send their dues along with their convention registrations to treasurer Sherry Thompson, 5415 S. 174th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68135, or they can pay online at nebraskapresswomen.org by clicking on Membership and Join Now. Combined NPW/NFPW memberships can be paid at nfpw.org and clicking on Join.

Hotel Information

A block of 10 rooms has been reserved at the Rodeway Inn, 3205 S. Locust. Rooms are \$68.85 (includes taxes) and are available with one king or two queen beds. Reservations must be made by Oct. 6 to get the special rate; call (308) 384-1333. Be sure to mention NPW when making your reservations (and be sure to ask if any rooms with a lake view are available).

Thank You

Thank-you just doesn't seem enough to express appreciation for my Nebraska Press Women "sisters" who sent cards and emails, made phone calls, offered prayers or provided other kindnesses during my difficult summer.

Your expressions of sympathy after my brother Glen died on July 17 meant a great deal to me. President Ruth Brown and her husband Eric attended the funeral to represent my entire extended NPW family.

Glen had a positive outlook for the entire 13½ years after his diagnosis of multiple myeloma, which also had taken our dad in June 1996. He was doing OK — looking forward to fall weekends in Memorial Stadium — until he caught a couple of bugs that overwhelmed his fragile immune system.

My NFPW president's duties in preparing for the 2012 conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., also have been a challenge. I'm thankful for a wonderful national board, the support of my affiliate and friends who have offered words of encouragement.

I'm especially trying to follow Mary Pat Finn-Hoag's words: Just breathe.

Sincerely,
Lori Potter

MEMBER NEWS

Lori Potter, a staff writer-photographer-columnist at the Kearney Hub, received the American Coalition for Ethanol's Excellence in Media award Aug. 9 at the annual ACE conference in Omaha.

Also this summer, she successfully tested in June for her fourth-degree black belt in taekwondo, with the belt officially awarded on Aug. 6.

Ruth Brown was promoted to full professor in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Jennifer Chick moved to Minneapolis where her husband got a new job.

October 20, 2012 NPW Fall Convention Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Full day registration: Member: \$40 before Oct. 12, \$45 after Oct. 12 _____
Non-member: \$45 before Oct. 12, \$50 after Oct. 12 _____

Registration deadline: Friday, Oct. 12. If registering late, please contact Terri ASAP at (402) 747-4191 or terrihahn41@gmail.com. (NOTE: Terri will be out of the office from Oct. 8-14, so please don't email or call her at work during that time.)

Diet Restrictions: If you require a special diet for lunch, please contact Terri by Oct. 1.

Make checks payable to: Nebraska Press Women. (If sending a corporate check, please indicate who it is for and enclose a registration form for each person the check covers.)

Mail to: Sherry Thompson, 5415 S. 174th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68135. Sherry needs to receive it by Oct. 13.

'Miss Representation' challenges media's portrayal of women

by *Sherry Thompson*

- Girls between 11 and 14 see an average 500 ads a day.
- 89% of Americans are comfortable with women in leadership—but only 18% of leadership positions are held by women.
- 80% percent of 10-year-old American girls say they have been on a diet. The No. 1 magic wish for young girls age 11-17 is to be thinner.

Alarmed by statistics like this? And the way women and girls are misrepresented in the media? Attend a 7 p.m. October 10 showing of "Miss Representation," followed by a panel discussion. The documentary by Jennifer Siebel Newsom features stories from teenage girls and provocative interviews with politicians, journalists, entertainers, activists and academics.



Jennifer Siebel Newsom

The screening at UNO's Strauss Performing Arts Center is presented by the Women's Fund of Omaha in collaboration with the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Tickets are \$10 or \$5 for students. Find out more and order tickets at www.omahawomensfund.org.story

Corrections

With regret, I must inform you of two corrections to the last issue of NPW NEWSeLetter.

The caption under the group shot of the Press Women should read: "Nineteen members attended the business meeting at the spring conference April 14 in Peru."

The caption for the Hall of Fame photo should read: "NPW vice president Bette Pore (center) presented Hall of Fame awards to Marguerita Washington (left), who accepted for her aunt, Mildred Brown, who is deceased, and to Mary McGrath (right) during the second annual Hall of Fame induction."

Carole Meyer, editor



The Nebraska Press Women Newsletter is published and sent electronically four times a year. Send e-mail address updates and member news to editor Carole Meyer, cmartist@inebraska.com. Please use NPW as the Subject.

CALENDAR

Oct. 6 — Deadline to reserve a room at Rodeway Inn, Grand Island, for NPW Fall Convention/Board Meeting. Call 308-384-1333 and mention NPW.

Oct. 12 — Deadline to register for NPW Fall Convention in Grand Island: \$40 for members; \$45 for non-members. (Late registration adds \$5 to both categories.) Send checks to Sherry Thompson, 5415 S. 17th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68135.

Oct. 19 — 6 P.M. NPW Board Meeting at El Tapatio Mexican restaurant, 2610 S. Locust, Grand Island.

Oct. 20 — NPW Fall Convention, Registration 8:30–9:00 A.M. at Grand Island Women's Club, 1109 W. Second St.