

September 2016



NEBRASKA PRESS WOMEN

Burchell's White Hill Farm setting for fall conference

By *Glennis Nagel*

The Nebraska Press Women "Down on the Farm" fall conference is set for Saturday, Oct. 8, at Burchell's White Hill Farm, located just west off of Highway 10 between Kearney and Minden.

Yes, you'll be coming to the country for the conference. Jeans and boots (or comfortable shoes) are the fashion. The workshops and panel topics will show you how to create a sense of place when you write, give you tips and techniques for enhancing the composition of your photos, help you further refine your writing skills, and talk about ways to put your journalistic talents to use as a biographer.

This will be a hands-on learning conference, so bring your cameras and your preferred writing instru-



(Lori Potter)
(From left) Judy Nelson, Jill Clafin and Glennis Nagel recently enjoyed a visit on the Burchell's White Hill Farmhouse Inn, site of NPW's fall convention.

ments, whether they're pens and paper, iPads, laptops, notebooks or any combination of the above. (Note: Those using electronic devices, please remember to bring any cords, including extension cords, you think you might need.) And because there will be outdoor sessions in the afternoon (weather permitting), please do wear comfortable clothing (jeans or slacks) and comfortable shoes (sneakers or boots).

Also, this is a no pressure day to enjoy doing what you do and to further hone your skills.

While it will be helpful for participants to share what they write or photograph, no one will be required to do so.

And we think you'll enjoy the food!

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Potter and Nelson to host workshop during fall convention

By *Glennis Nagel*

Author Ernest Hemingway once said, "All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened and after you are finished reading one you will feel that all that happened to you, and afterwards it all belongs to you: the good, and the bad, the ecstasy, the remorse and sorrow, the people and the places and how the weather was. If you can get so that you can give that to people, then you are a writer."

Whether we are writing books, features, personality profiles, columns, scripts, blogs or something else, the question is how do we give our readers that insight and feeling of being there that Hemingway described?



Judy Nelson

Enhancing a sense of place through words and photographs is the focus of hands-on afternoon workshops at the fall convention. The workshop will be presented by longtime NPW members and veteran journalists Lori Potter of Kearney and



Lori Potter

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Convention registration form on page 3

Conferences offer opportunities to grow as a professional, network and more

President's Column: By Sherry Thompson

Children have returned to school and NPW fall conference planning is in full swing.

On the weekend after Labor Day, 10 NPW members attended the 2016 National Federation of Press Women conference in Wichita. There, they attended sessions focusing on leadership, the First Amendment, skills development and many other topics.

There also were celebratory events, including recognition of Nebraska Press Women's 70th anniversary. Several members received NFPW Communications Contest awards and two Nebraska students accepted their national High School Contest awards. Also, our Communicator of Achievement nominee Lori Potter was cheered on by the NPW delega-

tion during the NFPW COA banquet.

It was exciting that so many Nebraska members attended the conference, including two first-timers, to represent our affiliate. I hope you will consider being part of the NPW delegation for the 2017 national conference in Birmingham, Ala.

But first, NPW's 70th anniversary observance continues with our fall conference Oct. 8 near Minden....

Lori Potter and Glennis Nagel have put together a great program. We're hoping for a nice fall day, as we'll be outside for afternoon workshops during the "Down on the Farm" convention. The day opens with the NPW membership meeting and election of officers, followed by a panel discussion on writing your (or someone else's) life story. Our 2016 Com-

municator of Achievement will be named at noon, and the afternoon will focus on polishing the sense of place in your writing and photography. The conference is at Burchell's White Hill Farm northwest of Minden, with lunch served at the restaurant in a converted barn. Sounds like a wonderful place to be on a fall day in Nebraska!

I encourage you to take advantage of the conference opportunities to learn new skills, or brush up on current ones, network with other communications professionals, make new friends and just have fun.

Then, think about who you could invite to attend our fall conference. We love having guests, and it's a great way to introduce them to the benefits of belonging to NPW.

Speaking of membership, any new member



SHERRY THOMPSON

who joins between September and December will receive the rest of this year and all of 2017 for the price of a one-year membership. This is a great time to also promote the benefits of membership to your colleagues and other communicators in your area.

Check out articles in this newsletter for details on our fall conference and the membership special. Then, think about your colleagues at work and other communicators in your area you can invite – they may just be waiting for an invitation to get involved!

Nebraska Press Women Board of Directors

President: Sherry Thompson
Vice President: Cheryl Alberts Irwin
Secretary: Nancy Hansen
Treasurer: Lori Potter
Achievement Award: Barb Batie
Communication Contest: Terri Hahn
High School Contest: Bette Pore and LuAnn Schindler
Historian: Mary Pat Finn-Hoag
Member Services: Barb Micek

Membership: Judy Nelson
Newsletter: Mary Pierce
Publicity: Glennis Nagel
Legislative/First Amendment: Stephanie Geery-Zink
Parliamentarian: Beverly Wieler
Professional Development: Jill Claflin
Scholarship: Jill Claflin and Tammy Bain
Past President: Bette Pore

**2016 Nebraska Press Women Fall Convention
Burchell's White Hill Farm, Oct. 8
Website: www.burchellfarmhouseinn.com**

Conference Schedule:

8:30-9 a.m. – Registration

9-10 a.m. – Business meeting

10:30-Noon – The Art of Biography —

Panelists Jan Thompson, Dr. Carol Lomicky and Todd von Kampen will talk about the challenges and rewards of using their journalistic skills to craft biographies of three notable Nebraskans: a successful businessman, who will remain anonymous; Keith Blackledge, long-time editor of the *North Platte Telegraph*; and Ron and Carol Cope, Kearney civic leaders and philanthropists.

Noon-1:30 p.m. – Communicator of Achievement Luncheon

1:30-2 p.m. – Creating a Sense of Place – Author Judy Nelson of Lincoln

2-3 p.m. – Concurrent Workshops — Judy Nelson of Lincoln – writing and Lori Potter of Kearney – photography

3-3:15 p.m.– Cookie break

3:15-4:15 p.m. – Concurrent Workshops repeated

4:15 p.m. – Conference concludes

**Directions to
Burchell's White Hill Farm
on page 7**

2016 NPW Fall Convention Registration

Name

Address

Phone and email

Cost: \$40 ___ Food issues (Call 308-382-1323)

Checks payable to Nebraska Press Women. Mail check and registration form to Lori Potter, Kearney Hub, P.O. Box 1988, Kearney, NE 68848

Mail-in registrations must be postmarked by Sept. 23.

**You can also register online at nebraskapresswomen.org
Online registration deadline is Sept. 28.**



Burchell's White Hill Farm setting for fall...

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When you arrive for registration, coffee and muffins will be waiting.

The Communicator of Achievement luncheon will feature beef brisket

and chicken from a smoker, along with several sides and a choice of desserts. We'll also have an afternoon cookie break.

Panelists Jan Thompson, Dr. Carol Lomicky

and Todd von Kampen will talk about the challenges and rewards of using their journalistic skills to craft biographies of three notable Nebraskans: a successful businessman,

who will remain anonymous; Keith Blackledge, long-time editor of the *North Platte Telegraph*; and Ron and Carol Cope, Kearney civic leaders and philanthropists.

Meet the Art of Biography Panelists

Dr. Carol Lomicky

Carol is retired after serving on the University of Nebraska at Kearney Department of Communication faculty for 30 years. For the last six years, she was also associate dean of Graduate Studies and Research and director of the Institutional Review Board.

In 2005, she co-authored a textbook for undergraduates studying media law.

She is a hearing loop advocate in Central Nebraska, senior fitness exercise and yoga instructor at the Kearney YMCA, secretary of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, member of the Advisory Board of the Kearney Public Library, a member of the Merryman Performing Arts Center Board of Directors and the Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery Board (UNL).

As a favorite philanthropy project, she designs and sews 18-inch doll wardrobes and donates these (with American Girl dolls)



LOMICKY

to local auction fundraisers and to underprivileged girls.

Jan Thompson

Jan Treffer Thompson has been an instructor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney for 11 years. She teaches courses in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication and in the Department of English, including several in creative writing.

Previously, she was a staff reporter at the *Kearney Hub* where she wrote for *Bravo*, the weekly arts and entertainment publication. She also was a staff reporter for the *Scottsbluff Star-Herald*.

Todd von Kampen

Todd von Kampen, who returned to western Nebraska from Omaha in July, is a free-lance writer, researcher and musician with more than 30 years of newspaper experience in Iowa and his native Nebraska.

He grew up in Ogallala, where he worked at KMCX-FM



THOMPSON

(originally KIBC) during high school. He began his writing career at the *Keith County News* in Ogallala, and has since written for the *Des Moines Register*, *Scottsbluff Star-Herald*, *North Platte Telegraph* and the *Omaha World-Herald*.

As a freelance writer since 2010, Todd has regularly written for the *World-Herald* and the *Omaha Catholic Voice*. In addition, he has written two major research reports for Habitat for Humanity International.

In 2013, Todd self-published *All-Night Theater: The Music and Life of J.E. Thayer*, a book-CD collection featuring the

late Sidney physician who composed the music for the Frontier Revue in North Platte and the first five years of the Front Street Crystal Palace Revue in Ogallala.

His current project, *Ron and Carol Cope: A Nebraska Love Story*, is expected to be published in September 2017.



von KAMPEN

Nominations Sought for 2017 Women Journalists Hall of Fame

By Cheryl Alberts Irwin

Would you like to leave a worthy woman speechless – in a good way, of course? Speechless, because her admirers supported her induction into the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame. More than one of the past 18 recipients have indeed been speechless when they were notified that they would be inducted into the HOF. What an honor for them, and for the persons who nominated her and provided letters of support.

So many women, living and deceased, from all facets of the journalism profession are worthy to be a member of the HOF for outstanding careers and service to Nebraska. You know who they are. Begin, now, to consider who to nominate for 2017. Then, take action by reviewing the guidelines and nominating your candidate.

Nominees must have a Nebraska background by birth or work experience and have spent a significant amount of their professional careers in Nebraska. Deadline for submission is Jan. 20, 2017. Honorees will be recognized during the 2017 spring convention at North Platte.

NPW friends and members, as well as the general public, are encouraged to participate with nomination submissions for women whose careers included broadcast, print or online, news, advertising or public relations. Nominations submitted in 2016 will be con-

sidered again in 2017, so it is unnecessary to resubmit those nominations.

Nominations will be judged on:

- * Contributions to the profession.

- * Achievements within the profession.

- * Service to communities (local as well as Nebraska and/or regional/national). “Communities” refers to both the community in which she lives and works as well as to her professional community.

Nominations must give compelling reasons why the woman should be selected and must be accompanied by two letters of support, each of which addresses at least one of these criteria. See the Hall of Fame tab at <http://nebraskapresswomen.org> for linkage to the nomination form and guidelines.

Final selections will be made by the NPW Board of Directors. Speaking of which, every vote does count. Entire elections have been turned on their heads when everyone voted! So please, build in time to review the applications when they come, and then vote.

The hall was created by Nebraska Press Women in 2011 to recognize women journalists who have made a difference for their profession and their communities. Portraits of 18 women are in the Hall of Fame, located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Andersen Hall and home of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Past Marian Andersen Nebraska Hall of Fame honorees

2011

Bess Furman Armstrong

Wilma Crumley

Lynne Grasz

Marj Marlette

Beverly Pollock

Deanna Sands

2012

Mildred Brown

Harriet Dakin MacMurphy

Mary McGrath

2013

Clara Bewick Colby

Maxine Moul

2014

Gwen Lindberg

Leta Powell Drake

Elia Wilkinson Peattie

2015

Joan Rossiter Burney

Beverly Deepe Keever

2016

Mary Ann Koch Blackledge

Sharron Hollen

Potter and Nelson to host workshop during...

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and Judy Nelson of Lincoln, who also is the author of several books.

Nelson will present a "Sense of Place" overview and get everyone started in the writing process.

"A sense of place can be many things — a physical place, place in time, place in people's lives — and that applies to both writing and photos," Nelson said. "For instance, think of the photos from the 1930s of migrants leaving the Great Plains for California. Both sense of place and sense of time in their lives were written on their

faces, captured on film and in books such as John Steinbeck's 'Grapes of Wrath.'"

With the workshops' strong hands-on emphasis, participants will write and take photos. Bring your favorite writing tools, whether that's pen and paper, tablet or laptop, and the camera you use most often for professional work, family photos, leisure or artistic activities.

Workshops will feature time outside at the Burchell farm. Half of the participants will move directly into the rest of Nelson's

writing workshop and half will join Potter for photography.

After a break, the two groups will change places so that everyone has the opportunity to complete both workshops.

The photo workshop will include a few technical tips, but the focus will be on composition. What do you see through the viewfinder when taking photos to illustrate stories, capture family memories or just take pretty pictures? What are some things you can do to make images that convey a sense of place?

Meet workshop presenters Nelson and Potter

Judy Nelson

A long-time NPW member, Judy has worked as a newspaper reporter and editor, and as a writer and editor for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

She has taught beginning reporting as an adjunct at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has also taught numerous writing workshops, and is the author of several novels. Her work has received many awards for writing and editing.

Lori Potter

Lori is an award-winning writer-photographer-columnist for the *Kearney Hub*, where she specializes in agriculture and natural resources issues. She previously worked at the *York News-Time* and the *Alliance Times-Herald*. She has held leadership positions in NPW and was the National Federation Press Woman president in 2011-2013. Her many NPW and NFPW communications contest awards earned her national sweepstakes awards in 2008, 2012 and 2014.

NPW new member recruiting efforts underway

Good news, Nebraska Press Women members!

When you invite your friends and colleagues to join NPW as a new member starting Sept. 1, they get the rest of 2016 and all of 2017 for the price of a one-year membership. That's 16 months for the price of 12 for those joining in September. It's a win-win for new members and for

NPW.

Win #1: New members gain a professional organization where they can learn new skills and strengthen current ones while also gaining months on their memberships. It's an opportunity for them to win awards and have work critiqued; share ideas and experiences with a statewide community of profes-

sionals who understand the joys and challenges of communications; make friends, and more.

Win #2: New members bring diverse talents that enrich NPW, and a vital, vibrant, growing and sustaining NPW membership benefits everyone. It's just plain fun to be part of a dynamic group of people who are good at what they do, and

always looking to be better.

NPW's membership brochure is attached, and contains fee and enrollment information for new members to join both the National Federation of Press Women and NPW, or NPW only. Share this information with all the communicators you know. They -- and NPW -- are worth it.

Nebraska Press Women

Member News

Finn-Hoag NFPW assistant historian

Mary Pat Finn-Hoag of Norfolk has joined the National Federation of Press Women appointed board as the assistant historian. She is working with Katherine Keniston of Oregon, NFPW historian, on items such as the annual Memorial Service at conference and Membership Milestones.

Finn-Hoag has announced her retirement, effective in mid-October, after 44 years at the Norfolk Daily News. She is in charge of the weekly agriculture and youth pages, and also does general and feature reporting and photography.

NPW Member Beverly Merrick Passes Away

Beverly G. Merrick, 71, of Lexington, Nebraska, passed away July 31 at CHI Good Samaritan-Kearney.

Merrick originally joined Nebraska Press Women in 1996. After a lapse in membership, she reconnected with the organization last spring at our conference in Lexington and attended subsequent NPW gatherings, including the spring conference in Lincoln. Beverly had planned to attend the NFPW conference in Wichita in September, having received a first-timer grant.

A graduate of Kearney High School, Merrick went on to attain two Master's Degrees with honors in Journalism and English from Marshall University, as well as a PhD with honors in Mass Communications and Journalism from Ohio University.

She was a professor who taught at Ohio University, Georgia Southern University, University of South Dakota, New Mexico State University, and American University in Dubai.

Merrick is survived by three children, John Kevin (Amy) Childers of Albuquerque, NM; Pamela (Greg) Wells of Chillicothe, OH; and Jessica (Mark) Gomez of Albuquerque, NM; 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Condolences and/or memorials can be sent to the family, addressed to Merrick's daughter:

Jessica Gomez
9104 Orlando Place
Albuquerque, N.M. 87111



NPW fall conference Oct. 8 at Burchell's White Hill Farm

Directions to the farm:

Burchell's White Hill Farm is located at 1578 30th Road, northwest of Minden.

From I-80 – Take the Minden exit, #279. Drive 8 miles south on Highway 10 to Q Road (which is marked by a road sign). At Q Road, turn west and drive 2 miles, then turn south for 1/4 mile.

From Minden – Take Highway 10 4 miles to Q Road. At Q Road, turn west and drive 2 miles, then turn south for 1/4 mile.



Nominations Committee Announces Slate of Officers

By Jill Claflin and Ruth Brown

The Nebraska Press Women president, vice president and treasurer each agreed to be nominated for a second consecutive two-year term in office, giving members the opportunity at the fall conference to vote for a leadership team that's ready to carry on the ambitious initiatives launched during the past two years.

"We are delighted to inform the membership that president Sherry Thompson, vice president Cheryl Alberts Irwin and treasurer Lori Potter agreed to serve again," said Ruth Brown, chair of the nominating committee. They will be joined by Bev Wieler, current parliamentarian and the slated candidate for secretary. Brown said that the nominating committee believes this is an opportunity for the organization to quickly and smoothly advance the agenda developed over the last two years.

The election will be conducted during the business meeting at the fall conference on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Burchell's White Hill Farm near Minden.

Thompson, an independent communications consultant from Omaha, championed development of a strategic action plan for NPW's future during her first term as president. It focuses on increasing membership; providing valued and relevant programs, member services and networking opportunities; and increasing NPW's visibility. Thompson was honored as NPW's Communicator of Achievement in 2012. She played a huge role in planning and fundraising for the 2011 NFPW Conference that Nebraska and Iowa co-hosted, was NPW treasurer for two terms and was vice president for one term. Before moving to Nebraska, Thompson served on the boards of the Louisiana Press Women and the Illinois Women's Press Association.

Irwin, a communications professional at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, co-chaired NPW's successful and well-attended convention this spring in Lincoln. As vice president, she served on the



THOMPSON



IRWIN

committee that worked on the NPW action plan, and she coordinated the nomination, election and recognition of new members of the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame. Prior to her election as vice president, Irwin served two terms as membership chair, a term as Communicator of Achievement chair, helped with the 2011 NFPW conference in Nebraska and Iowa, and organized the 2009 fall convention in Gothenburg. Irwin was honored as NPW's Communicator of Achievement in 2006.

Potter, Kearney Hub reporter and columnist, has held nearly every leadership position in NPW, including two terms as president. She also is a past president of the NFPW where she held other offices and directorships prior to her election. As NPW treasurer for the past two years, Potter led the review of NPW investments and future financial needs of the organization. She is a member of the board's finance committee and is the action team leader for membership in the strategic plan implementation. She is a two-time NPW Communicator of Achievement, recognized in 1995 and 2015.



POTTER

Wieler, a reporter at the West Point News, joined NPW in 2012, and since then has regularly written post-conference news stories for the NPW newsletter. She also served as co-chair with Bette Pore of the high school communications contest and later was appointed NPW parliamentarian, a post that she held for the past two years. As such, Wieler was responsible for assuring that meetings ran efficiently and that all policies and proper procedures were followed. As secretary, Wieler will record minutes of board meetings and of the general membership meetings; she will also maintain NPW's file of official minutes.



WIELER

"This is a strong lineup of talented and dedicated women," said Jill Claflin, committee member. "We know the skills they bring, and we are excited to see what they accomplish over the next two years."