

Nebraska Press Women

nebraskapresswomen.org

Summer 2014



Fall conference slated for Oct. 4 in York

By Terri Hahn

YORK - A chance to show your creative side, and to take not one, but two walks down memory lane are on the agenda for the Nebraska Press Women Fall Conference set for Saturday, Oct. 4, at the York Country Club.

Twyla Hansen, Nebraska's state poet, will be the featured speaker at the conference.

Leta Powell Drake, a recent inductee into the Ne-

braska Women Journalists Hall of Fame, will talk about her new book, "The Calamities of Kalamity Kate: A History of Nebraska's Children's TV Shows."

And, after the new Communicator of Achievement is announced during the noon luncheon, the group will travel to the Wessels Living History Farm south of York for a tour.

Hansen will present a workshop that is part of the Nebraska Humanities speakers program. "For the Love of Words: Poetry, Prose and the Creative Writing Process" features a combination of readings and writing exercises to prompt spontaneous writing by the participants. The emphasis is on process, not product. Time permitting, par-

ticipants will read what they have written, and a Q&A and discussion will follow.

Hansen has published six books of poetry, including "Dirt Songs: A Plains Duet" (with Linda Hasselstrom), which won the 2012 Nebraska Book Award and was a finalist for both the 2012 High Plains Book Award and WILLA Literary Award.

She has five previous

When: Oct. 4
Where: York
Country Club

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NPW officer elections to be held during fall conference

by Judy Nelson

Members of Nebraska Press Women will vote for NPW's four elected officers during the Oct. 4 fall conference, and are fortunate to have four talented NPW members who have agreed to be candidates.

Each candidate was asked to provide information including her current job title, past job experiences, current and past NPW and National Federation of Press Women board and officer positions, NPW/NFPW awards and honors, and a statement on why she agreed to be a candidate for office.

The candidates and their responses are:

President:
Sherry Thompson

Currently the Communications and Research Manager for the Women's Fund of Omaha, Thompson has worked as a freelance writer and editor for newspapers and magazines, employee communications and corporate communications.



SHERRY
THOMPSON

She also served as a writer for Bailey Lauerman and as managing editor for the River Parishes Guide in Boutte, La.

Thompson is NPW's current vice president, and before that served two terms as treasurer and one term as publicity chair. When she lived in Illinois, she was the newsletter editor for the Illinois Women's Press Association, which is Illinois' NFPW affiliate. She was the high school contest chair for Louisiana Press Women while living in Louisiana.

Thompson served as co-chair for the 2011 NFPW

conference in Nebraska and Iowa. She has received both NPW and NFPW first-place contest awards, and is NPW's 2012 Communicator of Achievement.

"Being an NFPW member of affiliates in Louisiana, Illinois and Nebraska has provided me with opportunities to network with others professionals, gain new skills through serving in officer and board positions, take advantage of professional development opportunities, explore new areas and make new friends," Thompson

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President's Column

With the change of the seasons comes the time to elect new officers for Nebraska Press Women. And we have an excellent slate of candidates who were willing to say "Yes" when asked to lead the organization through the next two years.

I hope several of you who haven't been on the NPW board will be willing to join the board, taking on new responsibilities and becoming more involved in your organization. Nebraska Press Women will only grow if all of its members rise to the occasion and contribute their unique talents and perspectives to make it stronger.

Most of NPW's board members have been on the board for many, many years. Their experience and knowledge of the group's history are invaluable. But new perspectives are needed, too. And there may be board members who, after years of dedication, are ready to step down or even take a different position. That means we will need new blood.

Our new president will be looking for volunteers to fill open spots on the board. NPW has a leadership manual that details the responsibilities of each of the board members, making it much easier for new members to join the board. And the more seasoned board members are always willing to help new members learn the ropes.



(File photo)

BETTE PORE

It's through taking on a new challenge that we grow as individuals and the same is true about our organization. In recent years we have started a Hall of Fame that recognizes women journalists. We have hosted a National Federation of Press Women convention. We have started a scholarship for high school journalists. All of this was possible because of the members who were willing to say "Yes" when volunteers were needed.

NPW was founded in 1946 as the Nebraska Women's Press Club with this mission statement: "To promote the highest ideals in journalism; to provide exchange of journalistic ideas and experiences; and to coordinate editorial opinion on matters of national interest to women."

I'm sure the next few years will bring new ways in which NPW can continue to fulfill this mission.

11 NPW members to receive national awards Sept. 6

Eleven Nebraska Press Women members are receiving 23 national awards in the National Federation of Press Women Communications Contest.

NFPW is presenting the awards at its convention Sept. 6 in Greenville, S.C.

Following are the results: Carla Chance: Advertising posters, billboards and banners, second; page design, magazine, newsletter or other non-newspaper publication, honorable mention; and brochures, corporate or for-profit, honorable mention.

Terri Hahn: Sections or supplements edited by entrant (infrequent), newspaper, first.

Jessica Kokesh: Continuing coverage or unfolding news, first; investigative reporting, first, and feature story, print-based newspaper, honorable mention.

Leslie Means: Blogs, corporate or for-profit, first.

Barbara Micek: Short stories, collection of short stories, honorable mention.

Judy Nelson: Videos for website, nonprofit, government or educational, honorable mention.

Mary Pierce: Specialty articles, social issues, second.

Bette Pore: Single page, section or supplement regu-

larly edited by entrant, newspaper, second, and headlines, third.

Lori Potter: Specialty articles, business, first; specialty articles, science or technology, first; single photograph – sports photo, first; specialty articles, education, second; specialty articles, history, second; photographer-writer, second; specialty articles, government or politics, third; and specialty articles, travel, third.

Kim Schmidt: Investigative reporting, first, and feature story, print-based newspaper, honorable mention.

Mary Jane Skala: Specialty articles, physical health, fitness, mental health, self-help, first.

Eight of the first-place winners in the 2014 Nebraska Press Women High School Journalism Contest have been chosen to receive national awards.

With the National Federation of Press Women presenting its 2014 awards at its convention Sept. 5, Nebraska is well represented, receiving two first place awards, a second place, two third places and three honorable mentions.

Following are the students receiving NFPW awards:

Grant Harrison, Bellevue

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NPW NEWSLETTER

.....Officer elections set for fall conference

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said. IT's important to ensure these same opportunities continue to be available for those just entering the communications profession, as well as seasoned professionals – who can also serve as mentors.”

Vice President: Cheryl Alberts Irwin

A communications specialist with the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Alberts previously was the county and agriculture reporter at the Beatrice Daily Sun.

Currently NPW's membership chair, she joined NPW in 1986. She also has served as NPW's secretary, Communicator of Achievement director, and collegiate communications contest director. Alberts was the host for NPW's fall convention in her hometown of Gothenburg in 2009, and a co-host for the NFPW convention in 2011.

The recipient of numerous NPW and NFPW communications contest awards through the years, she is NPW's 2006 Communicator of Achievement.

A woman with a long-time interest in history, Alberts said, “I am honored to run for the office of vice president to continue with the wonderful tradition of coordinating nominations and elections for the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame. There are so many worthy candidates in Nebraska for this distinction; it would be a pleasure and honor to get to know more about them, sharing their accomplishments with NPW members and the public.”

Treasurer: Lori Potter

Potter is a Kearney Hub staff writer who specializes in agriculture and natural resources, and also is a Hub award-winning photographer and columnist. She served as the Hub's regional editor from November 1986 to July 1997, when she returned to full-time reporting.

Prior to moving to Kearney, Potter was a staff writer/photographer/columnist at the York News-Times from January 1979 to November 1986, and at the Alliance Times-Herald for the calendar year 1978.

Currently on NPW's board as the legislative director and a finance committee member, Potter has served two terms as NPW president and two terms as treasurer. She also has served as NPW's contest director several times, and as



**CHERYL
ALBERTS IRWIN**



**LORI
POTTER**

NPW's Communicator of Achievement director.

She is the immediate past president of NFPW and the current NFPW Education Fund director, a position she will hold for another year. She is a past NFPW first vice president and second vice president, a past member of the Education Fund board, and twice was involved in the national contest review process. She also has served as an NFPW president's adviser.

Potter was NPW's 1995 Communicator of Achievement, and the NFPW Communicator of Achievement first runner-up in 1996. She has received NPW's contest sweepstakes first, second or third place many times, and was NFPW's contest sweepstakes winner in 2008 and 2012.

Potter said she is “celebrating my 35th year as an NPW/NFPW member and can't imagine my life or my career being anywhere near the same without the mentoring, support and friendship I've received. I will do anything to keep NPW active and thriving, including stepping in when needed (and where I have the ability) to serve another term on the board or as an officer.”

Secretary: Mary Jane Skala

Skala, a Kearney Hub staff writer who has covered business and lifestyles for the last two years, also writes a weekly Hub column on how her Ohio-born-and-bred eyes see the Cornhusker state. She credits NFPW for bringing her to Nebraska.

Born and raised in Cleveland, the daughter of the city's top radio news director, she established her journalism career in her hometown, spending 20 years as senior editor of the Sun News, a robust chain of weekly papers covering Cleveland's 76 suburbs and reaching 500,000 readers a week. There she won local, state and national awards, and had the opportunity to interview such people as Garrison Keillor, Ken Burns, David Brinkley, writer Terry Tempest Williams and a number of politicians.

Skala said when the bottom dropped out of newspapers in Cleveland five years ago, she accepted a buyout, and learned about the job in Nebraska thanks to NPW friend Lori Potter.

Skala has taught journalism at a small college in Ohio, and done public relations for a metropolitan community college there. She also was the employee newsletter editor for the former Chessie Systems Railroad, now part of CSX. The publication went to 30,000 employees in 13 states.



**MARY JANE
SKALA**

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Stone artwork to be raffled

by Cheryl Alberts Irwin

Two beautiful pieces of photographic art will be raffled at future NPW conventions, including Oct. 4 in York.

This art, plus two other professionally matted and framed photographs, were donated to NPW last spring by Gary Stone, extension educator at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center at Scottsbluff. Stone enjoys sharing his wildlife and rural scenes, many taken in western Nebraska and Wyoming.

One of the two pieces of art will be raffled at fall convention, proceeds of which will benefit NPW. One piece is a draft work horse black-and-white photograph with a brown mat measuring 14 inches wide by 18 inches tall. The second is an artistically enhanced picture of flying cranes on a striking blue background; it measures 15 inches wide by 22 inches tall.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each, or three for \$10 – plan to buy several tickets.

The winning raffle ticket holder will select the photo she or he desires, with

the remaining picture to be raffled in the future.

Two of Stone's four donations raffled at the Ogallala spring convention netted \$235. Terri Hahn received the blue flowers photo and Mary Pat Finn Hoag received the sunset photo.



LETTERS

Thank you to all who sent sent condolence notes at the death of my father.

Mother will plan to stay in their home as long as she is able.

Thanks again.

Nancy S. Hansen

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Fran Benne, agronomy/horticulture information technology associate with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is Nebraska Press Women's newest member.

Her contact information is 377 P PLSH, Lincoln, NE 68583-0915; Fbenne2@unl.edu; or (402) 472-1524.

Nebraska Press Women easy to join

Joining Nebraska Press Women is easy and affordable.

State-only NPW membership is \$30; Membership for both state and national NPW-NFPW affiliates is \$96.

To join, or for other rates available for students and retirees, go to the website www.nebraskapresswomen.org.

For more information, contact Cheryl Alberts Irwin at calberts1@unl.edu or by phone at (402) 472-9707 (work) or (402) 464-7955 (home).

Micek and Hansen complete book project

by Mary Pat Hoag

Some were harrowing wartime memories repressed for decades. Some wartime accounts had never been shared with family members.

Each story was heartfelt.

Laura-Nel Carlisle told of caring for severely burned victims, many from Pearl Harbor, while stationed in the Philippines during World War II. The longtime Norfolkian served overseas with the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, working in hospital wards filled beyond capacity with wounded American soldiers.

Through a flood of emotions and sometimes faraway glances and choked-up voices, several dozen military members shared their war experiences for the recently released book "Nebraskans Remember."

The co-authors are Barbara Dush-Micek, editor of the Nance County Journal in Fullerton, and Nancy Hansen of Hamilton County. The latter, who currently works in health education, is a former news reporter.

In January 2010, the two women decided to promote Nebraska history from two points of view: authors and military service. Their respective Nebraska Authors and Nebraska Military projects evolved.

On top of their full-time jobs and family responsibilities, they added research, traveling thousands of miles criss-crossing the state to interview authors and military



NEW BOOK – NPW members Barb Micek and Nancy Hansen have completed their book, "Nebraskans Remember," a compilation of military stories shared by Nebraskans.

members, and writing to their schedules.

Last fall, "Nebraska Authors, Volume One" was published. It features 52 authors with ties to all areas of the Cornhusker State.

Hansen said various people gave them names of military men and women to consider for the Nebraska Military Project. Other sources also were asked.

Some of the stories in "Nebraskans Remember" are updates of feature stories Dush-Micek wrote for the Nance County Journal.

"We ended up with members from peacetime and various wars and conflicts, as well as three civilians each with a different perspective and different tasks they completed in their service," Hansen said. "The current reality television shows available as entertainment could not project the feel, emotion and facts of the reality of those in

the books experienced and shared."

She added that the book "is a reflection of what military members throughout war and peacetime are required to do during their service and how it affected their lives from the time of duty and discharge, through today."

Dush-Micek said, "Perhaps when a military member comes across your path, you may want to shake their hand in gratefulness. If this happens, then our paths as writers has been fulfilled."

Seven pages in the book are devoted to 93-year-old Carlisle, the former Laura-Nel Bowen of Pierce and a 1939 Pierce High School graduate.

Dush-Micek said, "Laura-Nel's patriotic energy was evident from the moment I walked into her apartment. She had photos and articles laid out on the table, ready to not only tell me her personal

story but to discuss the proud history behind WWII as well.

"When she concluded the interview, she remarked that if she was younger, she would be back helping our military. I have no doubt that's where she would be at this moment! She's a true Navy nurse."

The authors also included Carlisle's late husband, Navy veteran Robert Carlisle, in a special section of the book titled "In Their Own Words."

Featured are details about 18 Nebraska military books, including three written by Robert Carlisle.

Dush-Micek said response to "Nebraskans Remember" has been gratifying.

"One of the most rewarding was from the daughter of one of the World War II subjects who told his story for the first time," she said. "Even after the interview, he didn't tell his family about the book. It wasn't until the book was published that he simply handed a copy of 'Nebraskans Remember' to his daughter.

"She called us and spoke about how it was the first time she knew anything about her father's service."

Hansen and Dush-Micek are working on the second volume to both of their books.

"We can see our purpose is adding to the Nebraska history body of knowledge, and that it is a much-needed effort," Hansen said.

For information, go to www.dandhadventurespublishing.com.

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books of poetry, including "Potato Soup," winner of the 2004 Nebraska Book Award. Her writing has appeared in a wide variety of publications, including *Prairie Schooner*, *Midwest Quarterly*, *South Dakota Review*, *Platte Valley Review*, *Organization & Environment*, "Encyclopedia of the Great Plains," "Crazy Woman Creek: Women Rewrite the American West," and "A Contemporary Reader for Creative Writing," among many others.

Hansen was raised in northeast Nebraska on land her grandparents farmed in the late 1800 as immigrants from Denmark. She earned two degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln: a bachelor of science in horticulture and a master of agriculture in agroecology. She lives and works in Lincoln, where her wooded acre is maintained as an urban wildlife habitat and was recognized in 1994 by the Mayor's Landscape Conservation Award.

For more than 20 years, Hansen has presented creative writing workshops and readings throughout the state for schools, libraries and community groups.

Hansen will have her books available for purchase and to have signed.

Leta Powell Drake is probably best known throughout Nebraska as Kalamity Kate, host and producer of the long-running children's TV show, "Cartoon Corral," and as a host and producer of the "10/11 Morning Show" on KOLN/KGIN-TV. She has recently released a new book which chronicles her career as Kalamity Kate.

Drake, who was inducted into the Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame this past spring, is also a member of the Nebraska Broadcaster's Hall of Fame. Throughout her career, she hosted and produced more than 10,000 TV shows and served as the program director for KOLN/KGIN and the Nebraska Public Television Network. She continues to work in television, hosting "Live & Learn," a daily TV show on 5 City TV (Lincoln cable) which focuses on issues fac-



**NEBRASKA STATE POET
TWYLA HANSEN**

ing seniors.

Her interests are spread across the spectrum. With a master's degree in theater from UNL, she has appeared in more than 100 plays and two movies, and is a winner of the Lincoln Mayor's Arts Award in Theater. She has served on the Salvation Army Board for more than 35 years and currently serves as chair of the arts and special events committee for the Osher Life-long Learning Institute at UNL. She is a licensed private pilot and has competed in the All Women's Transcendental Air Race (Powder Puff Derby) four times, twice placing in the top 10. She has flown with the Blue Angels.

She refuses to give up her addictions to theater, golf, bowling, horseshoe pitching and Scrabble, "no matter how expensive challenging, time consuming and inexplicable they may be," she says. Her "addictions" have earned her several gold medals in horseshoe pitching and golf at the Cornhusker State Games.

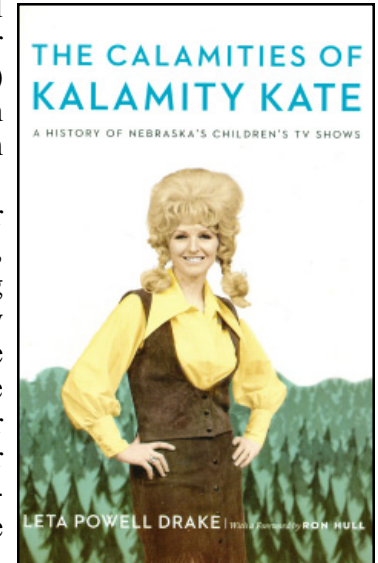
Drake's book "The Calamities of Kalamity Kate," will be available for purchase.

The Wessels Living History Farm is located just a mile south of the I-80 interchange at York. It features the home David Wessels shared with his brother and other buildings. The farm was established after Wessels die and left a vision in his will that opened the door to an array of opportunities in just a few simple phrases – "a certain amount of land and capital should be set aside to establish the 'Wessels Living History Farm.'"

The York Community Foundation, which administers Wessel's bequest, formed a committee in 1995 including business people and farmers to carry out Wessels' vision of an educational project. Five years of research was completed, including studies by consultants with ideas about what truly defined a "living history farm."

The 145-acre physical site includes a house that Wessels and his brother lived in for a period of time when they moved to town. It's typical of farm architecture of the early 20th century. The house was donated to the Living History Farm project by York College and moved to the site in 2002.

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The site also includes a barn donated by Bill Peters of Shelby. The red, timber frame giant reflects barns typical of the 1920s, the era chosen for the Living History Farm to interpret.

The farm also features a corn crib, machine shed, garage, chicken coop and a large windmill typical of the 1920s. These structures were chosen to begin the “living history farm” experience. To the south, there is a modern



WESSELS LIVING HISTORY FARM

tractor display building with many of the tractors, stationary engines and combine that Wessels restored. Surrounding the buildings is a modern farm operation that is still producing crops.

A church was moved onto the site in 2013 and is quickly becoming a popular wedding venue.

The farm hosts several special events throughout the year including a classic car show, Halloween activities and Christmas exhibits and programs.

Registration for the conference is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members before Sept. 26. After that date, the prices go up to \$40 and \$45. The student rate is \$20 and the rate for those coming for lunch only is also \$20. Send your registration fee to: Stephanie Geery-Zink, 7352 S 29th St Lincoln, NE 68516-5734.

Where to stay

A block of 10 rooms has been reserved at the New Victorian Inn in York for Friday night, Oct. 3.

The inn, 3724 S. Lincoln Ave., is located just northwest of the I-80 interchange at York.

Each non-smoking room has two queen beds, a refrigerator and microwave. A free breakfast bar is open from 5 to 11 a.m. The inn also features an indoor swimming pool and complimentary cookies and coffee in the lobby.

The NPW rate is \$64.99 plus tax (\$75.34 total); reservations are required by Sept. 20. Call (402) 362-1686 for reservations and be sure to mention Nebraska Press Women. If you plan to stay in York on Saturday night, the rate may be higher.

Fall conference registration info

Full registration by Friday, Sept. 26:

- \$35 for members (includes admission to Wessels Living History Farm);

- \$40 for non-members.

After Sept. 26:

- \$40 for members;

- \$45 for non-members

- Students: \$20

- Lunch only: \$20

How to get there

The York Country Club is located at 1016 W. Elm St., on the southwest edge of town. To get there from Interstate 80, take Highway 81 north. After you pass the Lincoln Avenue turnoff (which will take you downtown for the board meeting on Friday night), keep your eyes open for Nobes Road SW (just after the bypass curves to the west). Turn right (north) on Nobes Road, drive through the residential area until you get to West Elm Street and turn right. The country club is on your left.

Conference schedule

Friday, Oct. 3:

6 p.m. NPW Board meeting, Chances R, 124 W. Fifth St.

Saturday, Oct. 4:

8-8:30 a.m. – Registration and continental breakfast, York Country Club

8:30-9:45 a.m. – Business meeting, election of officers

10-11:15 a.m. – “For the Love of Words: Poetry, Prose and the Creative Writing Process,” Twyla Hansen, Nebraska State Poet

11:30 a.m. -noon – “The Calamities of Kalamity

Kate: A History of Nebraska’s Children’s TV Shows,” Leta Powell Drake

noon-1:30 p.m. – Communicator of Achievement luncheon

2-4 p.m. – Tour of Wessels Living History Farm

Board to meet Oct. 3

The Nebraska Press Women Board meeting is set for 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, at Chances R, 124 W. Fifth St. We will be ordering off the menu.

...Officer elections

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She joined Ohio Press Women in 1974 and held nearly every office, including president. She has served as public relations chair, secretary and vice president for NFPW. She became contest chair for Nebraska Press Women when she arrived in Kearney in 2012.

Skala said she is running “because I believe in NFPW. Not only has it taught me, encouraged me, rewarded me and given me lifelong friends, it allowed me to grow as a journalist. More than that, NPW is what brought me to Nebraska, and I feel privileged to give something back.”



Nebraska Press Women will tour the Wessels Living History Farm near York during the Oct. 4 fall conference. The farm, an educational center, highlights farming from the 1920s to today.

...11 NPW members

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West High School, Bellevue, first in columns.

Hailey Stolze and Lexy Burroughs, Bellevue West High School, Bellevue, first, video sports story.

Susy Graff, Fremont High School, Fremont, second, cartooning.

Morgan Keith and Sam Bradbury, Bellevue West High School, Bellevue, third, video web news story.

Rachel Colwell, Bellevue West High School, Bellevue, third, video feature story.

Emma Johanningsmeier, Westside High School, Omaha, honorable mention, feature story.

Santos Llamas, Grand Island Senior High School, Grand Island, honorable mention, year-book photo.

Hailey Morgan, Grand Island Senior High School, Grand Island, honorable mention, year-book copywriting.



(Keith County News)

AUTHORS – Authors Nancy Hansen (left) and Barb Dush-Micek signed copies of their books, “Nebraskans Remember” and “Nebraska Authors Volume One” July 17-18 in Trails End at Ogallala.