



Fall 2010

www.nebraskapresswomen.org

NPW NEWS_eLETTER



Starke Barn, Red Cloud.

Road Trip to Red Cloud

By Ruth Brown

Willa Cather country is beckoning Nebraska Press Women for fall convention, so plan a road trip to Red Cloud on Saturday, Oct. 9.

Registration is from 8:30-9 a.m. in the Willa Cather Foundation Gallery of the Red Cloud Opera House. The opera house building was constructed in 1885 to house a hardware business on the ground floor and the opera house above. It served as the social and cultural center of Red Cloud, and it figured prominently in the life of Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Willa Cather, who delivered

her high school graduation speech from the stage of the opera house in 1890. The restored building was reopened in 2003 and houses the foundation offices, gallery, auditorium and Cather bookstore.

The primary order of business at the 9 a.m. NPW membership meeting is election of officers who will guide the organization for the next two years. (See information on candidates elsewhere in this newsletter.)

At 10 a.m. the Cather Foundation director of finance and administration, Ashley Nolan-Olson, will talk to the group about the critical role that the foundation

has played in the restoration of homes and buildings that together comprise the largest living memorial to Willa Cather in the country. She will also explain some of the foundation's ongoing projects as well as promotion challenges.

At 11 a.m. convention-goers will tour Red Cloud. Among the historic buildings on the tour is Willa Cather's childhood home where she lived from 1884-1890, after her family's move from Virginia. The home figures prominently in "The Song of the Lark," "The Best Years" and "Old Mrs. Harris."

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Fall Update

Ruth Brown, president

It's that time of year when we need to start thinking about new members!

Remember that anyone who joins Nebraska Press Women and/or the National Federation of Press Women in September gets 16 months for the price of one year! (October 15 months, November 14 months, etc.) Please pass the word.

This is a great time to join because the national conference will be in Omaha-Council Bluffs on Sept. 8-11, 2011, and since NPW will induct its first honorees into the Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame then.

Meet and Greet to Recruit

Sherry Thompson is organizing a Meet and Greet in Omaha to increase our membership there. It will be Wednesday, Sept. 22, at the Farm House Café, 3461 S. 84th St. in Omaha. The flier is attached so you can send it to people you know in Omaha who work in the communications field and encourage them to attend.

Press Women around the state can use this as an example to guide their efforts to recruit new members one-on-one. That's the most effective way. Remember that if you'd like to have someone to ride with to conventions, recruit some new members and make it a road trip!

Road Trip to Red Cloud

Hope you're planning a road trip to Red Cloud on Saturday, Oct. 9. Lynne Ahlers is coordinating a full day of activities, starting with registration from 8:30-9 a.m. in the newly-renovated Red Cloud Opera House gallery. The 9 a.m. business meeting features election of officers, so all members are needed!

After the meeting, members will hear about the work that the Willa Cather Foundation is doing, from renovation to fundraising and promotion. A tour of the historic town where Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather grew up will round out the morning.

Lunch will be served at the Starke Round Barn, a massive three-level structure built in 1902-03 by four brothers. Press Women will hear how barn fests and grants are used to maintain this unusual Nebraska landmark. Later, a member of Red Cloud's economic development group will tell how the town works to promote tourism in this remote but historically rich area of the state.

Members will have a little time to shop Red Cloud (which has a wonderful bookstore/coffeehouse) before meeting at The Palace Steakhouse and Lounge to plan the NFPW convention. The convention will culminate with a banquet at The Palace where the new Nebraska Communicator of Achievement will be announced.

Board Meeting Open to All

The NPW Board of Directors will meet the night before the convention: 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 8,



Ruth Brown

at The Palace Steakhouse and Lounge, 125 W. 4th St., Red Cloud. Lynne Ahlers said Oct. 8 is Buck Burger Night (fries and drinks extra), and happy hour is 5-7 (half-price drinks, wines from area vineyards). In addition to free-lancing, Ahlers is a chef at The Palace, which is catering all of our convention meals, so we know they're going to be great!

We invite other NPW members to join us as the board meeting will be followed by the candidates' forum where you'll have a chance to talk with our officer slate.

Green Acres Motel is the only place to stay in Red Cloud these days, according to Ahlers, so make your reservations there ASAP. Call 402-746-2201 by Sept. 24. After that date, our block of rooms (basically the whole motel) will be released to the public, and that means hunters will grab them.

See you in Red Cloud!

Red Cloud

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After the tour, the group will carpool to the Rasser family farm, just east of Red Cloud, for lunch and to see the Starke Barn. The massive, three-story, round structure was built by four brothers in 1902-3. The unique design of the barn's framework utilizes tension and stress, not nails or pegs. The supporting timbers are 12x12 and were shipped to Nebraska by rail.

Starke farms was a successful dairy until the herd contracted tuberculosis in the early 1920s. At a foreclosure auction, the farm was purchased by nephews of the Starkes and is still owned by their descendants. Liz Rasser will tell about the Barn Fests they host and the grants they get to maintain the building as a historic site.



Willa Cather's childhood home.

At 2:30 p.m. convention-goers will return to the Gallery at the Opera House to hear Don Theobald, a local lawyer and member of the Red Cloud Economic Development Group, tell how the group strives for continued development of this small town and what they do to promote tourism in this history-rich community that boasts 14 National Register of Historic Sites in and around it.

Following his presentation, attendees can investigate more of Red Cloud on their own, shopping the local stores (including the bookstore/coffeehouse) or driving five miles south on Highway 281 to see the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie (described in "My Antonia" and "O Pioneers!").

At 4:30 members will gather at The Palace Steakhouse and Lounge to help plan the NFPW 2011 convention in Omaha-Council Bluffs.



Red Cloud Opera House.

The NPW 2010 fall convention culminates with the 6 p.m. Communicator of Achievement Banquet at The Palace Steakhouse and Lounge. Come see who will be named this year's Nebraska Communicator of Achievement to represent this affiliate at the national conference next fall in Omaha-Council Bluffs.

Registration form on page 6.

Green Acres Is the Place to Be

The Green Acres Motel and RV Park will provide lodging for Nebraska Press Women who attend the fall convention in Red Cloud. NPW has a block of 13 rooms for both Friday and Saturday nights, but you need to call by Friday, Sept. 24, to make your reservation: 402-746-2201. After that date, the rooms will be released to the general public. You can still try to get a room then, but the motel is very popular with hunters.

The motel has a 24-hour cancellation policy. It offers phones, wireless Internet and cable television. Hot coffee and a microwave are available in the lobby; soft drinks and ice are also available. Rates are as follows: single \$43.40, double \$48.83, three people \$52.08, four people \$56.42. RV hookups are available with electricity, cable TV, water and sewer. Owners Stan and Troi Ellis said credit cards are accepted.

Convention coordinator Lynne Ahlers noted that the Green Acres Motel and RV Park is now the only place to stay in Red Cloud.

NPW Officer Candidate Slate Set

The Nebraska Press Women proudly present your slate of officer candidates for 2010-12.

Current president Ruth Brown has graciously accepted our call to run for a second term, as has treasurer Sherry Thompson. Completing the slate are Bette Pore for vice president and Mary Pierce for secretary. The nominating committee (Andrea Cranford, Glennis Nagel and Judy Nelson) thanks these press women for their willingness to serve NPW.

The candidates will present their plans for NPW and you'll have a chance to ask questions during a Friday evening forum following the board meeting. The election is slated for Saturday morning during the membership meeting.

The Candidates

Ruth Brown, President



As president of NPW for the past two years, Ruth Brown has worked to increase the organization's visibility and to position the organization for the future by:

- Creating a President's Advisory Council to provide input.

- Holding Lincoln Press Women gatherings and helping coordinate an Omaha Meet and Greet to promote membership.

- Working with legislative/First Amendment director Diane Wetzel to get state and national publicity during Sunshine Week.

- Maintaining NPW's website and Facebook presence.

- Making arrangements to place NPW historical material at the Nebraska Historical Society.

- Directing the Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame project, to be housed at the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

- Coordinating the spring 2010 convention and obtaining sponsors to underwrite part of the cost.

Brown said that she would like to continue as president for another term because she wants to see NPW's current initiatives through to their conclusions. Initiatives include fundraising for the Marianne Beel Scholarship, co-hosting the NFPW convention in 2011, and announcing the first inductees into the Nebraska Women Journalists' Hall of Fame.

Brown is associate professor at UNL's College of Journalism and Mass Communications. Prior to that, she was associate professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She has also worked at KRVN Radio as a copywriter and producing print ads and publications; as a freelance journalist; as news editor at South Dakota State University; and as news editor at

the Brookings (S.D.) Register.

Brown was vice president/contest chair and president of the South Dakota Press Women during her years in that state. Since returning to Nebraska, she has served as NPW professional development director and as vice president, developing a leadership manual and coordinating the fall 2008 convention in Kearney. She was the 2008 NPW Communicator of Achievement.

Brown is a member of the University of Nebraska Foundation Board of Trustees, the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Foundation Board of Directors, Cather Circle, the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, the American Academy of Advertising, and the Advertising Federation of Lincoln.

Bette Pore, Vice President



Bette Pore of Grand Island is copy editor at The Grand Island Independent. She received her BA in English-journalism from Northwest Missouri State

University in 1977 and has been a NPW member since 2003. A member of the National Federation of Press Women since 1994, she was previously a member of the South Dakota Press Women. Since joining NPW, she has served as youth contest director (2003-2006) and communications contest director (2006-2010).

Pore says: "I love being a member of Nebraska Press Women. The opportunity to spend time with other journalists is invaluable. Plus, I get to learn a lot about the state and see where the rest of you live and work because our conventions are held in different towns around the state.

"The communications contest provides me recognition for my work and being the contest director gave me the chance to see how talented all the members of NPW are and the variety of their talents.

"NPW's latest project, starting a Women Journalists' Hall of Fame, is exciting and I'm looking forward to NPW hosting the NFPW convention in 2011. These are two major undertakings that will have an impact on the communications field."

Sherry Thompson, Treasurer

Sherry Thompson is communications manager for the Women's Fund of Omaha, where she's in charge of publications, public relations, the website, social media and special projects. She also works as a freelance writer and editor.

Prior to joining the Women's Fund staff two years ago, she served five years on the nonprofit organization's board of directors and was editor of the

group's newsletter.



Over the past few years, Thompson has worked extensively with business and nonprofit organizations as a freelance journalist. She currently does work for Union Pacific Railroad, Home Instead Senior Care and Today's Omaha Woman magazine.

She is the current treasurer for Nebraska Press Women and is a co-chair for the 2011 National Federation of Press Women conference. She also volunteers with other nonprofit community and school organizations. Her prior volunteer experience includes serving two terms as treasurer for an elementary school PTA.

Thompson began her writing career with a family-owned newspaper in Louisiana, during which time she joined Louisiana Press Women. She also was an Illinois Woman's Press Association member while freelancing for suburban Chicago-area newspapers and magazines. For the past 11 years, Thompson has been a Nebraska Press Women member.

Mary Pierce, Secretary



As a member of Nebraska Press Women, Mary Pierce, of Ogallala, has held the positions of Communications Contest director and High School Communications Contest director.

Pierce has been employed as news editor with the Keith County News since March 2000.

Of Nebraska Press Women, Pierce says: "I hope that women involved in the media in any form continue to learn about Nebraska Press Women, and the valuable services provided.

"Through Press Women, my exposure to other professionals, information and networking opportunities have continued to expand."

Nebraska Press Women Spring 2010 Convention Schedule

FRIDAY, OCT. 8

6 p.m. **Board of Directors Meeting, candidate's forum,** *The Palace Steakhouse and Lounge, 125 W. 4th St. Order dinner off the menu on your own. All members are welcome.*

SATURDAY, OCT. 9

8:30 - 9 a.m. **Registration,** *Willa Cather Foundation Gallery, Red Cloud Opera House, 413 N. Webster.*

9 - 10 a.m. **Membership Meeting; election of officers.**

10 - 11 a.m. **"The Willa Cather Foundation: Critical for Preservation & Promotion."**

Director of finance and administration Ashley Nolan-Olson will tell NPW about the foundation's restoration projects, fundraising and promotion challenges.

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Tour Red Cloud:** *see the childhood home of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather as well as other historic buildings related to her life and writing.*

12:30 - 2:30 p.m. **Lunch at the Rasser Family Farm,** *just east of Red Cloud.*

See the Starke Barn and hear Liz Rasser tell "How Festivals & Grants Maintain & Promote an Architectural Wonder."

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. **"Promoting Tourism in a Small Town Rich with History,"** *Opera House.*

Listen to Don Theobald, a member of the Red Cloud Economic Development Group.

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. **Free time** *to visit local shops and businesses: check out the bookstore and coffee shop.*

4:30 - 6 p.m. **NFPW convention planning meeting,** *The Palace Steakhouse and Lounge.*

6 p.m. **Communicator of Achievement Banquet,** *The Palace Steakhouse and Lounge.*

Convention Hotel: The Green Acres Motel and RV Park, 791 Highway 281, Red Cloud.

For reservations, call 402-746-2201 by Sept. 24.

Room rates are: single \$43.40, double \$48.83, three people \$52.08, four people \$56.42.

2010 NPW Fall Convention Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Full registration: ___ @\$40; ___ students @\$30

Day-only registration (Saturday night banquet not included): ___ @\$30; ___ students @\$20

Banquet only: ___ @\$15

Late registration (after Sept. 24): Add \$5 to your registration fee.

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.)

Send checks to: Sherry Thompson, 5415 S. 174th Ave., Omaha, NE 68135. (Please use address exactly as it appears here to ensure delivery.) If you are sending it at deadline, e-mail sherrythompson@cox.net to let her know that it is in the mail.

NPW MEMBER NEWS

Sue Bullard

Sue Burzynski Bullard gave a presentation on her teaching philosophy and methods at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications conference in Denver after winning first place in AEJMC's Most Promising Professor competition. The award was open to AEJMC faculty members who have been teaching for less than five years. Bullard teaches journalism at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Sandi Witkowicz

Sandi Witkowicz is working part time at TeamMates of Lincoln as community outreach specialist. As part of her job responsibilities, she is staff liaison for the faith-based committee and handles publicity, website updates, media releases, etc. She continues to freelance.

Ruth Brown

Ruth Brown is a grandma again! Daughter Andrea and son-in-law Bronson Riley are the parents of Elliot, born Wednesday, Aug. 25, at Bryan LGH in Lincoln. Elliot weighed in at 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 21 and a half inches long. The impending birth kept Ruth from attending the NFPW convention in Chicago.

Ruth's first grandbaby, Cora Jones, daughter of Valerie and Will, was born on Christmas Day 2009. Ruth's next grandbaby is due on Sept. 26, but she's hoping for a third birth on the 25th of the month.

Keith Blackledge

Keith Blackledge, 82, longtime editor of the North Platte Telegraph and a founding member of the Nebraska Humanities Council, died July 5. He was a friend of Nebraska Press Women and husband of Mary Ann, long-time active member of NPW.

Blackledge's long newspaper career included stints in Russell, Kan.; North Platte; Ft. Lauderdale and Miami, Fla.; and Dayton, Ohio, as well as teaching at the University of Nebraska.

Returning to North Platte in 1967 as executive editor of the North Platte Telegraph, he helped launch the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation and initiated formation of a Habitat for Humanity affiliate in North Platte. He was a founding member and two-term chairman of the Nebraska Humanities Council, and chaired the Nebraska State Colleges Board of Trustees, Nebraska Public Radio Foundation, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission and Nebraska State Historical Society.

He retired in 1992 but continued to write a weekly column, "Your Town and Mine," for the Telegraph until his death. His hobby was researching and writing about local history.

Among numerous honors he received were the Sower Award from the Nebraska Humanities Council and induction into the Nebraska Newspaper Hall of Fame.

A memorial has been established at the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation.

NPW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NFPW Convention Highlights

Nebraska Press Women represented their state well at the National Federation of Press Women Convention in Chicago, Aug. 27-29. Top photo: Left to right, NPW delegates Mary Pat Hoag, Sherry Thompson, Lori Potter (standing), Martha Stoddard and Barb Micek. Middle row: Left to right, COA candidate Stoddard; our logo for the 2011 NFPW Convention, "Plains Speaking" in Omaha-Council Bluffs; Hoag modeling a Nebraska T-shirt as we extended an invitation to the 2011 convention. Bottom row: left to right, Nebraska delegates reflected in Chicago's "Bean" sculpture; the "Bean." Photos courtesy Lori Potter.



SEPT. 8-10, 2011
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA & OMAHA, NE
HOSTED BY
IOWA PRESS WOMEN & NEBRASKA PRESS WOMEN



Nebraska High Schoolers Win National Awards

Nebraska high school journalism students captured five awards in the 2009 National Federation of Press Women Communications Contest. The awards were presented at NFPW's annual conference Aug. 27-29 in Chicago. The high school winners include:

Omaha Westside: Mary Susman placed second in the news story category with her piece "Threatening video." Olivia Babe earned a second place in the video feature story contest for her piece, "Omaha ballet." Cara Wilwerding's "Horsin' around" captured an honorable mention in the sports story category.

Papillion La-Vista South High School: Rebecca Conrad and Karly Sorys placed second in the video news story category with their submission "Black Friday." Emily Barnes, Ryan Daly and Joseph Fabian also earned a second-place award for their video sports story, "Wrestling."

NPW Scores at NFPW

Seventeen Nebraska Press Women garnered 36 awards in the NFPW Communications Contest. Nebraska winners:

L. Lynne Ahlers: honorable mention in Editorials Non-daily.

Carla Chance: two second places in Original Graphics and Single Ad Retail Product/Service; two third places in Print or Electronic Campaign and Poster Campaign.

Jennifer Chick: third place in Web Feature Article

Andrea Cranford: three third place awards in Writing for the Web/Online Newsletters, Magazine 4-color, and Magapaper-Tabloid 4-color.

Sara Giboney: first in Special Series.

Terri Hahn: first in Page Layout/Daily Newspaper; second in Single Pages edited by entrant Daily Newspaper; honorable mention in Single Pages regularly edited by entrant Daily Newspaper/Lifestyle.

Cheryl Alberts Irwin: first in Publications regularly edited by entrant/Newsletters.

Emily Springer McCreery: third in Photography/Sports/Daily Newspaper; honorable mention in Sections edited by entrant/Daily Newspaper.

Barbara Micek: first in Caption Writing; two third-place awards in News Reporting Non-daily Newspaper, Photography Photo Essay Non-daily newspaper; honorable mentions in Editorials Non-daily, Page Layout non-daily newspaper.

Glennis Nagel: first place in News Release-single.

Judith A. Nelson: first place in Publications regularly edited by entrant/Newsletters.

Mary Pierce: two first places in Photography News Non-daily, Single pages regularly edited by entrant/Non-daily/Lifestyle; honorable mention in Special Articles-Science.

Bette Pore: second place in Publications edited by entrant Daily Newspaper.

Lori Potter: two first places in Photography Photo Essay/Daily Newspaper and Photography on Web/Single photo; second in photography News/Daily Newspaper, third in Enterprise Reporting; honorable mention in Special Articles Agriculture.

Nancy Swarts: third place in Photography Feature Photo/Non-daily newspaper.

Ruth Raymond Thone: first place in Creative Verse.

Diane Wetzel: second in Special Articles/Government/Politics; honorable mention in Investigative Reporting.

A poem by NPW member Ruth Raymond Thone of Lincoln took first place in the creative verse category of the 2009 National Federation of Press Women Communications Contest. The poem originally appeared in the September-October 2009 issue of Nebraska Life magazine.

Said the NFPW judge: "Wonderful imagery to tell a story of aging and raging against the dark."

"Late Afternoon: Liturgy of a Year"

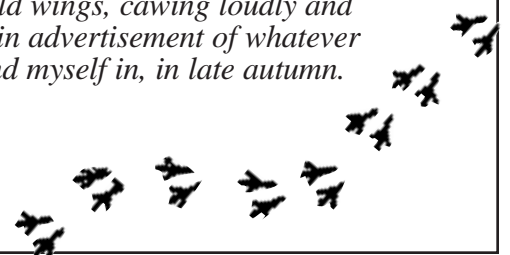
*The crows are cawing high in the treetops
this late autumn afternoon, as I walk
in thin sunshine along paths bordered
by dead and rotting leaves.*

*I heard once that the souls of old women
live in the crows, thinking happily that this crowd
of crows are not going to go away for the winter
without a fight.*

*'Do not go gentle into that good night' I say
to myself, trudging along in my old body
weakened by hip surgery, stroke, age.*

*I love the sounds of cawing, crows flapping
in their blackness across the pale blue sky,
screaming instinctual paths back and forth
around their chosen trees.*

*Would that I could be so bold, so strident
about life, more instinctive, less self-conscious,
flying above pettiness, resentment, worry,
flapping my old wings, cawing loudly and
disgracefully in advertisement of whatever
condition I find myself in, in late autumn.*



2010 COA Honoree to be Named

Nebraska Press Women will honor their Communicator of Achievement Oct. 9 during the fall convention in Red Cloud.

The award is the highest honor bestowed by Nebraska Press Women and the National Federation of Press Women upon their members. COA candidates are nominated by NPW members for exceptional achievement in the communications field (60 percent of consideration), service to NPW/NFPW (20 percent) and to their community (20 percent).

A slate of 2010 Nebraska nominees was presented to past Nebraska COAs and voted upon this summer. Nebraska's COA will go on to compete for the award at the national level.



The Nebraska Press Women Newsletter is published and sent electronically four times a year. Send e-mail address updates and member news to newsletter editor Andrea Cranford at acranford@huskeralum.org or awcranford@earthlink.net. You may also send a printed version to Cranford at 2554 Kessler Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68502.

NPW Calendar

Oct. 8-9: NPW Fall Convention, Red Cloud.

Nov. 15: Winter NEWSeLETTER copy deadline

Dec. 1: Winter NEWSeLETTER sent electronically

March 1: NPW Spring NEWSeLETTER copy deadline

March 15: NPW Spring NEWSeLETTER sent electronically

April 29-30, 2011: NPW Spring Convention, Halsey.

Sept. 8-10, 2011: National Federation of Press Women Conference at Harrah's in Council Bluffs. Co-hosted by NPW and IPW.

2011 NFPW Iowa-Nebraska Convention • Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Omaha, Neb.

Nebraska Prairie Pre-Tour

Sept. 4-6, 2011

"She had never known before how much the country meant to her. The chirping of the insects in the long grass had been like the sweetest music. She had felt as if her heart were hiding down there, somewhere, with the quail and the clover and all the little wild things that crooned or buzzed in the sun. Under the long shaggy ridges, she felt the future stirring." — Willa Cather, "O Pioneers"



2011 NFPW Iowa-Nebraska Convention • Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Omaha, Neb.

Iowa Post-Tour

Sept. 11-13, 2011



*"Is this heaven?"
"No. It's Iowa."
— "Field of Dreams," 1989*