



National Newspaper Association  
309 S Providence Rd  
Columbia, MO 65203  
573.777.4980 Fax: 573.777.4985

**Emma C. McKinney Memorial Award  
2014  
NNA Checklist**

**Nominee Name:** Barbara A. Walter

**Newspaper Name & Location:** Hennessey Clipper, Hennessey, OK

**Nominated by:** Gloria Trotter

**NNA Membership Information:** Member through 12/31/2014; verified <sup>5/1/2015</sup>4/24/2014

**Year Nominated/Last Year Eligible for Award:** 2014/2016

**Completed Nomination Form?:** Yes

**Completed Nomination Letter?:** Yes

**Documentation Supporting Nomination Criteria to Support the Areas Below? - Yes**

- Professional Achievement
- Community Leadership and Service
- NNA/National Involvement

**Biographical Sketch of Nominee?:** Yes

**Three Letters of Reference?:** Yes: 3: Mark Thomas, Tim R. Riddle, Frank D. Lucas

**Photo Included?:** Yes - Photo collage

# Emma C. McKinney Award

## 2014 Nomination Form

Nominee Name BARBARA WALTER  
Position EDITOR  
NNA Member in Good Standing? YES  
Newspaper HENNESSEY CLIPPER  
Address P.O. Box 338  
City, State Zip HENNESSEY, OK 73742  
Phone 405.853.4888 Fax 405.853.4890  
E-mail barb@hennesseyclipper.com

Nominator's Name GLORIA TROTTER  
Position EDITOR/PUBLISHER  
Affiliation COUNTY WIDE + SUN  
Address P.O. Box 38  
City, State Zip TECUMSCH, OK 74873  
Phone 405.598.3793 Fax 405.598.3891  
E-mail gloria@countywideneews.com

**Professional Achievement:** Describe the nominee's professional background, achievements, awards, and activities, which illustrate how the nominee exemplifies the best in journalism and serves as an inspiration to others. (Overall career achievement summary).

BARB HAS BEEN A JOURNALIST SINCE AGE 14. SHE IS CURRENTLY EDITOR OF THE CLIPPER, WHICH WAS IN HER HUSBAND'S FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS UNTIL IT WAS RECENTLY SOLD. THE NEWSPAPER HAS WON SEVERAL SEQUOIA AWARDS FROM THE OKLAHOMA PRESS ASSN (AMONG MANY OTHER HONORS), IS A PAST PRESIDENT OF OPA, A MEMBER OF THE OKLAHOMA JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME - A TWO-TERM PAST PRESIDENT OF THE OKLAHOMA NEWSPAPER FOUNDATION. WINNER OF OPA'S MUSSELMAN AWARD

**Community Leadership and Service:** Describe how the nominee is an advocate for his/her community; how he/she serves the community on a local, state and/or regional level. Provide specific examples of projects in areas of community service, and outcome. (Highlight nominee's leadership and service in her community - outside as well as within their newspaper... describing community projects instigated by the newspaper and/or nominee).

FOUNDER + OFFICER OF HENNESSEY CELEBRATION INC.; CO-CHAIR HENNESSEY WINE + CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL; BOARD MEMBER + PAST PRESIDENT OF HENNESSEY UNITED (LIKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE); CHAIRMAN OKLAHOMA SAFE KIDS CAR SEAT CHECK, IN HENNESSEY; AM. CANCER SOCIETY VOLUNTEER; PAST PRESIDENT HENNESSEY LIONESSES CLUB; KINGFISHER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LIBERTY BELL AWARD; MEMBER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OKLAHOMA

**NNA/National Involvement:** Recognizing that a nominee may have moved beyond local or state involvement to a broader level, include service to NNA and other regional/national/international service organizations or causes in which the nominee has been involved. Evidence of NNA service required. (e.g. serving on NNA board; NNA committee; serving as NNA state chair, regularly attending NNA conferences, active in communicating with elected officials on issues championed by NNA....)

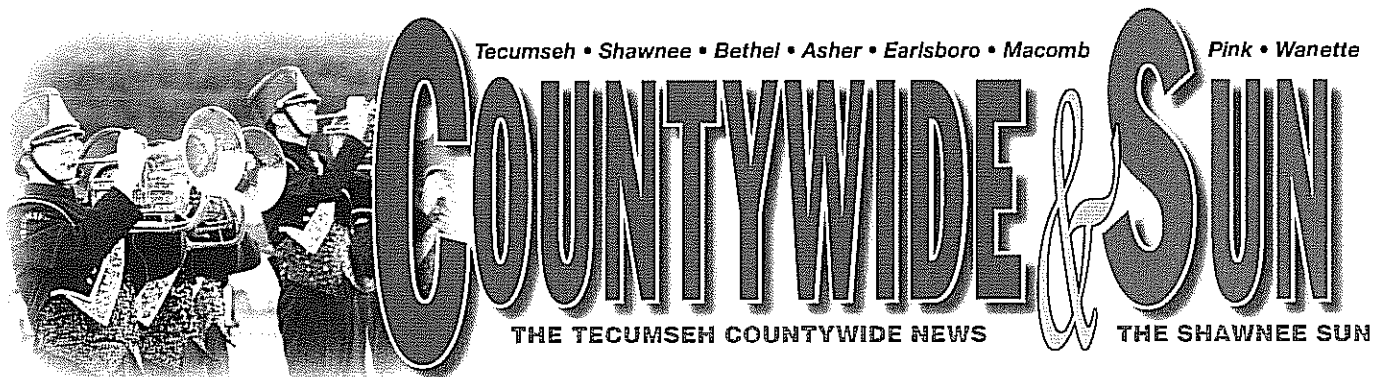
INITIATED A PROGRAM TO SEND AN OPA BOARD MEMBER (RATHER THAN JUST THE EXEC. VP) TO THE NNA CONVENTION EACH YEAR; HELPED RAISE NUMEROUS OPA MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE NNA CONVENTION IN OKLAHOMA CITY; SERVED ON THE NNA CONTEST COMMITTEE; JUDGED NNA CONTEST ENTRIES FOR MANY YEARS; SUPPORTED NNA POSTAL EFFORTS FINANCIALLY; LOBBIED FOR NNA WITH CONGRESSMAN FRANK LUCAS

Please return (1) this form and (2) letter of nomination by May 1, 2014 to:

McKinney Award  
National Newspaper Association  
PO Box 7540  
Columbia, MO 65205-7540



**NOTE:** If your nominee is among the top five candidates selected by the judges, you will be contacted and asked to submit the following documents: (1) Three [3] letters to support the nomination from community leaders and/or professional peers; (2) Documentation to support nomination criteria; (3) Biographical sketch of nominee; (4) Photo (if available)



108 E. Washington • P.O. Box 38 • Tecumseh, OK 74873

Phone: (405)598-3793 • Fax: (405)598-3891 • E-Mail: editor@countywideneews.com

To: The Emma McKinney Award Committee:

From: Gloria Trotter

Re: Barb Walter Nomination

Barb Walter is a legend in Oklahoma journalism.

She is feisty, fearless, funny and the best friend a journalist could ever hope to have.

Just ask any journalist in Oklahoma, and many more scattered across the country. This woman is their idol.

Barbara A. Walter (no "s" on the end, please) is 69 years old and has been a journalist since the eighth grade, when she joined the staff of the *Classen Life* at Classen High School in Oklahoma City. As a 14-year-old freshman she became a teen correspondent for the *Oklahoma City Times*.

But perhaps her best training came when she joined the staff of the Oklahoma Press Association in 1962 as secretary and receptionist. She calls herself a graduate of the Ben Blackstock (longtime and legendary executive vice president of OPA) School of Management.

She had just graduated from high school. Most folks are amazed to learn she never attended college, but she had the ultimate in on-the-job training. At OPA, she advanced quickly to become editor of the *Oklahoma Publisher* and education director. And she could handle Ben Blackstock. She worked there for 16 years, and used that time to get to know virtually every newspaper publisher in the state.

She became one herself when she married Bill Walter and became co-publisher and managing editor of the *Hennessey Clipper*, a weekly newspaper owned by Bill's family since 1904. The Walters sold the paper at the end of last year, but Barb stayed on in her role as managing editor.

At the *Clipper*, she covers county, town and school board meetings, does crime reporting, writes a column and editorials and and lays out pages — yep, pretty much everything. She has won numerous for her columns, in-depth reporting and other efforts from NNA, OPA, SPJ, and the Oklahoma Writers Federation. The newspaper has won the Sequoyah Award, OPA's top prize, several times.

To say she is an active member of OPA is an understatement. In 2002, she became only the second female president in the history of the association (the first was appointed when her husband died). Her election to the OPA board was a major breakthrough for women journalists in Oklahoma, especially because Barb was considered a "rabble-rouser" by Blackstock and the "old guard."

She was a strong and fearless president, but perhaps made her greatest contributions to Oklahoma newspapers through her service on the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation board. There she pushed and shoved her fellow board members into new territory — more training programs and the development of an intern program that now supplies many Oklahoma newspapers with summer interns paid by the foundation through grant funds. Many of the newspapers could not have afforded to pay an intern, and the program has been a Godsend to small, struggling weeklies in particular.

Barb served two terms as ONF chairman, the only woman ever to do so.

(More)

Barb Walter Nomination: McKinney Award

OPA members honored her service with the coveted Beachy Musselman award for outstanding contribution to newspaper journalism in 2005. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2008.

As if that weren't enough, she found time to serve her community in a variety of ways. She serves on the board of directors (and is past president) of Hennessey United (Hennessey's version of a Chamber of Commerce); is past president Hennessey Lioness Club; founder/past officer/board member and 1989 co-grand parade marshal of Hennessey Celebration Inc.; was the 2013 co-chairman of the Hennessey Wine & Chocolate Festival; is an American Cancer Society volunteer and much more. In 2009, she received the Kingfisher County Bar Association's Liberty Bell award.

She is a member of Freedom of Information Oklahoma, SPJ and the First United Methodist Church of Hennessey.

The state election board named The Clipper the outstanding weekly newspaper for informing voters, and the newspaper was named "Hennessey's Business of the Century" by its readers at the turn of the century.

She was appointed by then-Gov. George Nigh as member of the Board of Regents of the Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, and served as a regent from 1980-83.

She also proudly claims membership in the Hennessey and State Newspaper Ya-Yas — which she takes almost as seriously as she does her activities.

She is just amazing.

Perhaps her legacy is this: for years, weekly newspaper publishers across the state invariably turn to her when they need help, especially with those hard-to-handle stories and ethical questions. They implicitly trust her advice.

Could there be any higher compliment?

Please consider my friend Barb for the Emma C. McKinney Award. I believe she embodies everything that honor means.

Gloria Trotter  
Editor/Co-Publisher  
The Countywide & Sun

## Barbara A. Walter

Barbara A. (Barb) Walter, 68, started her journalism career when an eighth grader on the staff of the *Classen Life* at Classen High School, OKC. As a 14-year-old freshman she became a teen correspondent for the *Okla. City Times* and worked for Kay Dyer, Mary Goddard and Mary Jo Nelson. *Oklahoma Publisher* editor/education director, Oklahoma Press Association, 1962-78 and graduate Ben Blackstock/Lyndell Williams School of Management.; co-publisher/managing editor, *Hennessey Clipper*, 1978-present. National/state writing honors. Past president/treasurer Okla. Press Assn./Okla. Newspaper Foundation, current foundation member, and Ya-Ya Sisterhood. County Bar Liberty Bell Award, ONF Musselman Award, Journalism Hall of Fame. Community service, 34 years; wife, 41 years; mother, 47 years; grandmother, 31 years.

Barbara A. "Barb" Walter, 68, became managing editor of *The Hennessey Clipper* newspaper in 1978, and was later named co-publisher by her husband, Bill Walter. They have been married for more than 41 years, and the newspaper has been in her husband's family since 1904.

She was president of the Oklahoma Press Association (OPA) 2002-03 and served on the state board for seven years, including one year as treasurer. She has chaired and served on many OPA committees. She is two-term past president of the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation, and the only woman to hold that office.

She was awarded the foundation's Beachy Musselman Award for outstanding contribution to newspaper journalism in 2005, and was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2008. She received the Kingfisher County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award in 2009.

Walter has judged state and national newspaper competitions and served on the NNA contests committee, and worked on postal and legislative affairs.

At the *Hennessey* paper, Walter covers the county commissioners, school and town boards, does the layout work on the publication, and is their bookkeeper. She also writes a column, "Couldn't Help But Notice," which has won awards in the National Newspaper Association, the Oklahoma Writers' Federation Inc., the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) and in OPA contests. She has also won awards for in-depth-investigative newswriting and photography.

She is a member of FOI Oklahoma, SPJ and the First United Methodist Church of Hennessey.

The state election board named *The Clipper* the outstanding weekly newspaper for informing voters, and the newspaper has also won several Sequoyah Awards (sweepstakes) in the Oklahoma Press Association's yearly Better Newspaper Contest. The newspaper was also named "*Hennessey's Business of the Century*" by its readers at the turn of the century.

Walter serves on the *Hennessey United Association* board which was organized in 2000 to study, promote and complete improvements in the community. She is the board's liaison on the festival, events and culture committees and is a past president of the organization.

She is one of the three original founders of Hennessey Celebration Inc., a group organized to promote and preserve the history of the town. She served on the Celebration's board of directors and as secretary in the 1980s. She and her husband were selected co-grand marshals of the 1989 Pat Hennessey Celebration Parade.

She is a past president of the Hennessey Lioness Club and named Lioness of the Year in 1988. She was also a member of the Hennessey Word Weavers writing club and the Thursday Night Write Sisters.

Walter is also a member in good standing of the Hennessey Ya-Ya Sisterhood and the Newspaper Ya-Yas.

She was appointed by then-Gov. George Nigh as member of the Board of Regents of the Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, and served as a regent from 1980-83.

Barbara Chastain Walter was born Sept. 25, 1944, in Oklahoma City, the daughter of Tom E. and Adele Chastain.

She was a Classen High School freshman when she started her newspaper career as a teen correspondent for the Oklahoma City Times. Walter continued that job throughout high school and graduated from Classen in Oklahoma City, in 1962.

Walter's first full-time job was as a receptionist and secretary for the Oklahoma Press Association in 1962. She soon started writing a column, "Front Desk," for their monthly newspaper, *The Oklahoma Publisher*, and later became editor of that newspaper. She also directed the planning of conventions, clinics, short courses and was in charge of other special projects and publications.

She and Bill Walter were married Aug. 21, 1971, in Oklahoma City.

She has one son, Nick Walter of Hennessey; one stepson, Courtney Walter of St. Louis, Mo., and three stepdaughters, Jill Jenkins and Amy Carpenter, both of Edmond, and Tracy Anderson of Midwest City. She has one granddaughter, Emerald S. Beckham, Enid, and seven stepgrandchildren: Jarrod Watson of New York City; Katy Watson, Stillwater; Kinsey Carpenter and Gracie Carpenter, both of Edmond; Rachel Bush Rodriguez of Benecia, Calif., and Dylan Walter and Cody Walter, both of Norman.

effective 1-3-13

FRANK D. LUCAS  
3RD DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

16-May-2014

I am honored and delighted to add my voice to those praising Hennessey, Oklahoma's own Barb Walter. I know that her steadfast partner of over four decades, Bill, their children, and grandchildren would join me in declaring that Barb is most deserving of the Emma C. McKinney Memorial Award of the National Newspaper Association.

My association with Barb dates back to my time in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives. Barb was kind and tolerant of a young state legislator during the great public debates that impacted Oklahoma during the 1980s. She has continued to encourage, to advise, and, when necessary, to warn me in my current capacity as her United States Congressman--a relationship that I will always value immensely.

Barb has been a pioneer in Oklahoma publishing. She was the first woman to serve as President of the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation (two terms!) and has served as both President and Treasurer of the Oklahoma Press Association. Barb's tireless work ethic, journalistic integrity, and creative gifts have won her numerous awards for outstanding contributions to newspaper reporting, writing, and photography, culminating in her 2008 induction into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame. These are all representative of the deep respect and abiding affection held for Barb by the Oklahoma publishing community. Barb's beloved "home base," the 110 year old *Hennessey Clipper*, is known throughout our state for outstanding weekly news and community improvement. Simply put, I could go on and on about the many good things Barb has done and continues to do for our part of the world.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Very Sincerely,



Frank D. Lucas  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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April 28, 2014

TO: McKinney Memorial Award Selection Committee

I wish Emma McKinney had met Barb Walter. They both know the importance of a fiercely independent local newspaper, love a good laugh about public officials that tried to sneak something past, and would cry together about good people that simply need a voice. Even though they never met, I feel I know Emma McKinney because I know Barb Walter.

Barb Walter and the Hennessey Clipper have won nearly every local award. She is one of three founding members of Hennessey Celebration, Inc., which promotes and preserves the history of Hennessey. Barb serves on the Hennessey United Association Board, dedicated to study, promote and complete community improvements. The Hennessey Clipper newspaper was named "Hennessey's Business of the Century" by its citizens. She was Lions Club "Lioness of the Year" in 1988, and is a member of the Word Weavers Club, Thursday Night Write Sisters, Ya-Ya Sisterhood and many more civic clubs and projects.

Barb has been very active in the affairs of Oklahoma and its press community. Barb Walter is a past president of Oklahoma Press Association and the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation. The newspaper has won multiple OPA Sequoyah Awards for newspapers in their division. She was awarded the Foundation's "Beachy Musselman Award" in 2005. Barb and her husband Bill were both inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2008. Barb was named by Governor George Nigh to serve on the Board of Regents of the Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery from 1980-1983. The Oklahoma State Election Board has named the Hennessey Clipper as the Outstanding Weekly Newspaper for informing voters.

Even while working tirelessly locally, Barb and Bill have never missed an opportunity to help NNA, SPJ, the First United Methodist Church, and other organizations that make our nation a better place. Barb served on the NNA Contest Committee, and is vigilant about helping with postal and legislative actions whenever she can. She never hesitated when returning from NNA Conventions to report on the best speakers, and trumpet how beneficial it was for any small paper that could afford to get away to an NNA meeting.

All of these things were done while juggling coverage of town meetings, through illness and death of close family members, raising a family, and with aplomb and pluck rarely seen these days. Emma McKinney would be proud, and I'm pleased to add my support to the nomination of Barbara A. Walter for the Emma McKinney Memorial Award.

Sincerely,



Mark Thomas  
Executive Vice President





①

National Newspaper Association

Re: Emma C. McKinney Award

Date: April 30, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Barb Walter's nomination for the Emma C. McKinney award. Barb has been an integral part of the Hennessey community for over 30 years. She was instrumental in organizing the Hennessey 2010 committee which is now the Hennessey United Association. This is an organization formed to study, promote and help implement improvements to our community such as economic development, beautification, schools and various community events. She currently serves on the board of Hennessey United and has served as president in the past. Barb was one of the three original founders of Hennessey Celebration Inc, which was organized to hold our annual Pat Hennessey Celebration to promote the history of our community. This was a tremendously successful event that brought hundreds of people to our community every year. In 1989 her and her husband Bill were elected co-grand marshalls of the Pat Hennessey Celebration parade. She served on the Celebration's board of directors as well as its secretary. Barb has served as past president of the Hennessey Lioness Club and was named that organization's Lioness of the Year in 1988 recognizing her outstanding accomplishments to the club.

Mrs. Walter has served on numerous other organizations including but not limited to Hennessey Word Weavers, Thursday Night Write Sisters and Hennessey Ya Ya Sisterhood. Barb is also an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Hennessey.

Barb is a tireless promoter and supporter of Hennessey, Oklahoma both professionally and personally. She not only is a member of these organizations but is an active and hard working participant in the many activities these organizations sponsor. She is definitely not a "talker" but a "doer," willing to roll up her sleeves and work hard in everything that she does. I know first hand about Barb's efforts because I serve on many of the same organizations that she serves on. I have also served on the Hennessey Board of Trustees and as past mayor so I have seen how hard she works for our town.

**103 S. Main Street  
P.O. Box 220  
Cashion, OK 73016  
405-433-2675**

**Highway 81 South  
P.O. Box 236  
Dover, OK 73734  
405-828-7444**

**525 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 367  
Hennessey, OK 73742  
405-853-6880**

Member FDIC



# **CSIB**

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**COMMUNITY STATE BANK**

Barb's efforts to promote and serve Hennessey have no doubt made Hennessey a far better community than it was before her arrival some 30 years ago. Many of these organizations would not have gotten off the ground if it wasn't for Barb Walter. Barb is usually one of the first people called when you want something done for the community.

I can think of no better person to represent the Emma C. McKinney award than Hennessey's own Barb Walter.

Sincerely:

Tim R. Riddle  
Vice-President

**103 S. Main Street  
P.O. Box 220  
Cashion, OK 73016  
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**Barb Walter, right, then president of the Oklahoma Press Association, with Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin, at an OPA Candidate Summit. Fallin, now governor of Oklahoma, was seeking re-election as Lieutenant Governor at the time. Barb and Gov. Fallin have become good friends over the years.**



**Barb Walter presides over an OPA event at the OPA Summer Convention. The session was held at the Governor's Mansion during the administration of Gov. Brad Henry.**

**Barb Walter, right, poses with Margaret Taylor, the first female president of the Oklahoma Press Association. Barb was only the second woman elected to that position.**

