



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

**Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award
2014
NNA Checklist**

Nominee Name: Heather Warthen

Newspaper Name & Location: 22nd Century Media, Orland Park, IL

Nominated by: Derek Serafin

Age: 33

NNA Membership Information: Member through 1/31/2016; verified 5/1/2015
~~1/31/2015~~; ~~5/12/2014~~

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 (Included in letters/form)

- Professional Achievement
- Community Leadership and Service
- NNA/National Involvement (Note: evidence of NNA service is not required)

Biographical Sketch of Nominee?: Yes

Three Letters of Reference?: Yes - 3: Kelorvn Putnam, Edward G. Schussler, III, Marjorie Owens-Klotz

Photo Included?: YES (digital pic on file)

Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award 2014 Nomination Form

Nominee Name Heather Warthen

Position Chief Events Officer

Newspaper 22nd Century Media (Orland Park Prairie, The Prairie, The Frankfort Station, Homer Horizon, Lockport Legend, Mokena Messenger, New Lenox Patriot, Tinley Park Junction)

Address 11516 West 183rd Street, Unit SW, Office Condo #3

City, State Zip Orland Park, IL 60467

Phone (708) 326-9170

Fax N/A

E-mail h.warthen@22ndcenturymedia.com

Nominee's Age 33

Nominator's Name Derek Serafin

Position Account Supervisor

Affiliation Publicist for 22nd Century Media

Address 205 West Randolph St., Suite 1150

City, State Zip Chicago, IL 60606

Phone (312) 670-8945

Fax N/A

E-mail derek@motionpr.net

Industry Leadership: Describe the nominee's activities and achievements which illustrate how the nominee serves to strengthen the newspaper industry through his or her leadership in the state press association.

Heather began her career with 22nd Century Media in 2005 as the company was just starting up. Her initial role had her overseeing the company's content creation, which greatly aided the newspaper's growth, with its reach expanding from 10,000 homes to more than 175,000 in less than a decade. Under her leadership, 22nd Century Media and its outlets received more than 100 awards from the Illinois Press Association as well as four on a national level from the National Newspaper Association. Now in 2014, Heather has shifted roles with 22nd Century Media, serving as the Chief Events Officer. In her new role,

Heather is in charge of planning, coordinating, and executing the company's events, including their debut event taking place in Chicago's south suburbs on Saturday, May 10th. In addition to the aforementioned accomplishments with 22nd Century Media, Heather also has received the 2009 Editor of the Year award for Non-Dailies by the Illinois Press Association and has won several IPA photography and writing awards.

Community Leadership and Character: Describe and provide examples of how the nominee is well-respected in the community, of good reputation and integrity, and how he/she provides active leadership in serving the community on a local, state and/or regional level.

Heather is extremely active in the communities that 22nd Century Media serves. An active member of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce, Heather serves on the group's Executive Board of Directors and will be President of the organization in 2015. Additionally, Heather has developed a Valentine's Day Coloring Contest for the local Orland Park community where children color Valentines and, through a partnership with the Orland Park Veterans Commission, they are sent to military troops serving overseas. During the holiday season, Heather helps coordinate a local partnership between 22nd Century Media and local restaurant Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery for a "Cheers to Charity" event to raise funds for a number of local in-need organizations.

NNA/National Leadership: Describe nominee's involvement in national organizations, such as NNA, or other national/international service organizations or causes in which the nominee has been involved. (Evidence of NNA service is not required)

Heather is an active member involved in NNA.

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National Newspaper Association
P.O. Box 7540
Columbia, MO 65205

May 18, 2014

I first met Heather back in 2002 during my freshman year at Lewis University. We were working side-by-side on our college's monthly newspaper, the Lewis Flyer, as part of the Features section. Being more seasoned than I, I was able to learn a lot from Heather, whether it be gaining valuable tips on structuring an article to how to go about locking in an interview with a musician.

Flash-forward now to 2014 and I am informed by my boss at work that we had a new client starting called 22nd Century Media, a rapidly growing newspaper company serving the Chicagoland area. When I looked in to the company a bit more, I saw the familiar name of Heather Warthern all over their website. I was immediately excited to begin working alongside an old colleague and mentor of mine.

Now, working with Heather in a new capacity, I see that she continues to be an inspiration and mentor to those around her. I see that in Heather's time with 22nd Century Media, the company has grown not just in Illinois, but also is beginning to expand its footprint outside of the state. I see that Heather is spearheading new initiatives to help not just boost the business' profile, but to bring the communities that 22nd Century Media covers together. This was apparent this past weekend when Heather ran the first-ever Lady – A Women's Expo event in Tinley Park, IL and brought more than 60 vendors and nearly 2,000 people out during Mother's Day weekend to celebrate all things women. This paired with her active involvement with the local Chamber of Commerce just reinforces her passion, dedication, and commitment.

I truly think that Heather is deserving of the Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award. Her leadership within 22nd Century Media as well as within the local Chicago area communities is second to none.

Derek Serafin
Motion PR
312-670-8945
derek@motionpr.net

Heather Warthen Bio

Heather began her career with 22nd Century Media in 2005 as the company was just starting up. Her initial role had her overseeing the company's content creation, which greatly aided the newspaper's growth, with its reach expanding from 10,000 homes to more than 175,000 in less than a decade. Under her leadership, 22nd Century Media and its outlets received more than 100 awards from the Illinois Press Association as well as four on a national level from the National Newspaper Association. Now in 2014, Heather has shifted roles with 22nd Century Media, serving as the Chief Events Officer. In her new role, Heather is in charge of planning, coordinating, and executing the company's events, including their debut event taking place in Chicago's south suburbs on Saturday, May 10th. In addition to the aforementioned accomplishments with 22nd Century Media, Heather also has received the 2009 Editor of the Year award for Non-Dailies by the Illinois Press Association and has won several IPA photography and writing awards.



May 14, 2014

Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award
National Newspaper Association
PO Box 7540
Columbia, MO 65205-7540

RE: Heather Warthen, 22nd Century Media

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Heather Warthen, candidate for the Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award.

I met Heather in 2006 when she started her career as editor of the Orland Park Prairie newspaper. As Executive Director of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce, I was concerned with making sure our events, ribbon cuttings and business meetings received publicity in the local papers. Heather made my task a breeze because she was connected with all the 'movers and shakers' in the community and the paper gave us many opportunities to be 'in the news'.

Heather immediately got involved with the chamber and became the chair of our scholarship committee for our high school seniors. While working with her in this role, I realized she is very committed to the young people of the community. She has worked with students as chair of our annual Fine Art Fair, making sure the students' work is well-represented and as an annual speaker on career day at the local high school. Because of Heather, many of the local youth far exceed their required community service hours.

Heather's leadership skills are evident in all aspects of her life. She has been a Director on our Board of Directors since 2007 and is currently the President-elect of our chamber. When working on a committee or communicating with our membership, she has the ability to get others to participate at their highest level. This is essential for a volunteer organization and I would love to have 10 more board members just like her.

Heather is very much admired in the community and recognized for being fair and honest, traits not always evident in news reporting. She brings out the human side of a story with her warmth and humor and I have never known her to report a story without checking all the facts. I have been involved in many interviews for her newspaper and never felt my words would be misrepresented.

I truly feel that Heather Warthen deserves the Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award. She is a remarkable young woman who sets a standard for herself far above what is required. She gives more than 100% in everything she does and I feel honored to know her.

Best regards,

Keloryn Putnam

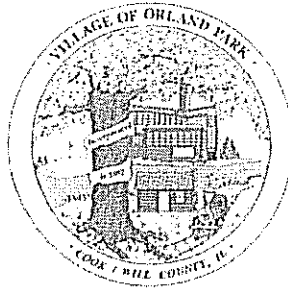
Executive Director

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VILLAGE HALL

TRUSTEES
Bernard A. Murphy
Kathleen M. Fenton
Brad S. O'Halloran
James V. Dodge
Edward G. Schussler III
Patricia Gira

May 14, 2014

Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award
National Newspaper Association
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Columbia, MO 65205-7540

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter to support the nomination of Heather Warthen for the Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award. I have known Heather for eight of the fifteen years that I have been a village trustee. As editor of the Orland Park Prairie, she was responsible for insuring that a responsible reporter attended our board meetings and wrote accurate unbiased articles.

Heather has been a strong supporter of our chamber of commerce and its activities. She has been a director for several years and has also served as treasurer and secretary. She is currently the vice-president and will serve as president next year. In addition, she chairs the Fine Art Fair Committee and the Scholarship Committee. Since I am a member of both of these committees, I have witnessed firsthand her many hours of hard work.

Recently several community members came together to discuss the need for an organization to sponsor support and nurture performing and fine arts in our area. Heather immediately volunteered to be a charter organizer and secretary.

Heather Warthen is a leader in our community. I enthusiastically support her nomination for the Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award.

Very truly yours,

Edward G. Schussler, III
Trustee

EGS/vap



VILLAGE OF ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS
Office of Public Information

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708/403-6277 • Email: Mowensklotz@orlandpark.org.

May 15, 2014

Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award
National Newspaper Association
PO Box 7540
Columbia, MO 65205-7540

RE: Heather Warthen, 22nd Century Media

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I consider it a privilege to be asked to write a letter of recommendation for Heather Warthen, candidate for the Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award with the National Newspaper Association.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Heather for the last several years and have always held her in the highest regard among the local media that cover the Village of Orland Park, Illinois.

When Heather began her career in Orland Park, she had a daunting task ahead of her as she launched a new newspaper in our community. Heather made it her mission to get to know every aspect of Orland Park, its elected officials, business owners, community leaders, civic organizations, schools, historians and more.

Heather enjoys such an outstanding rapport with every facet of the community, most people don't use her last name. She has been and continues to be simply "Heather."

Having worked in government public relations for nearly 30 years, I have worked with thousands of reporters. Heather Warthen has been and continues to be one of the most ethical, fair minded and so very talented reporters I have met.

Heather Warthen would be a worthy recipient of the Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award. She is a pioneer among the local media in our area. She is a personable young lady who is respected among all facets of the Orland Park community. And, she is a passionate writer and photographer who is truly committed to her craft --- making the story come to life for her readers.

Sincerely yours,

Marjorie Owens-Klotz
Communications Manager
Village of Orland Park, Illinois

