

numerous awards from NNA's Better Newspaper Contest, including first place honors for editorial writing, in-depth reporting, serious writing and sports column writing. In four years, he has guided the LVN to more than 65 awards in the Nevada Press Association's newspaper contest.

**Keith Rathbun** has been publisher of The Budget, a community weekly newspaper for Sugar Creek, OH, since 2000. In addition, The Budget publishes a weekly newspaper that is distributed nationally and internationally to Amish and Mennonite communities across the U.S., in Canada, Central and South America and overseas. Rathbun has worked with weekly newspapers his entire professional career. He was editor and publisher of Cleveland SCENE for 26 years. Rathbun serves currently on the Ohio Newspaper Association's Board of Trustees' Executive Committee, and the NNA's Postal Committee.

**Dan Robrish** started The Elizabethtown Advocate in 2010 to serve a central Pennsylvania town that had lost its longtime newspaper during the bankruptcy of the paper's corporate owner. He is the weekly newspaper's entire staff, handling reporting, editing, layout, distribution and the business functions of the newspaper, relying on a stringer to cover high school sports. Before that, he worked in the Philadelphia bureau of The Associated Press from 1998 to 2010 and was a reporter for daily newspapers in Pottstown, PA; New Ulm, MN, and Ely, NV.

**Ray Seale** is a digital refugee from 15 years in the music business and four years in the direct mail/catalog industry where digital put these industries into a tail spin. He has been the production, technology & web director for The Taos News for the past six years. His background includes large scale e-commerce, e-mail marketing, multi-media and the study of usability design - how people interact with websites and other digital technologies.

**Larry See Jr.** is a retired reporter/photographer/columnist. He previously served as the general manager/editor for the Antrim County News in Bellaire, MI. Currently, See is a freelance writer and photographer.

**Jeri Seely** is editor in chief at The Papers Inc. in Milford, IN, and had been editor since the late 1970s. She currently oversees eight weekly and monthly newspapers and works with 13 additional publications. She has been a staff member of The Papers for 50 years. She has received the national American Legion Auxiliary's Best Local Editorial in the interest of youth award and has won a number of Hoosier State Press Association awards.

**Carol A. Sisco** has worked for The Pawnee Republican in Pawnee City, NE, since 1992. Sisco spent three years as news editor before being named editor in July 2005. The Pawnee Republican has been an award winning newspaper in the state press competition since 1996.

**Russel Skiles** graduated from Angelo State University in San Angelo, TX, in 1979 with a degree in journalism, started work as reporter/photographer for the Lamesa (TX) Press-Reporter in 1980 and became news editor the following year. He was named publisher in 1991 and took over as president of both the Lamesa Press-Reporter and its companion printing company, South Plains Printing, in January 2004.

**Gary and Helen Sosniecki** of Le Claire, IA, owned three weekly newspapers and published a small daily in Missouri during a 34-year career in which they and their staffs earned nearly 300 awards for journalism excellence, including the 1998 NNA Community Development Award. Gary is general manager of creative services and a regional sales manager specializing in weekly newspapers for TownNews.com of Moline, IL. He is a past president of the Missouri Press Association and currently serves on the board of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors. Helen is senior sales and marketing manager for Interlink of Berrien Springs, MI. Helen is a past president of the Ozark Press Association and a former NNA state representative for Missouri. She received NNA's Emma C. McKinney Memorial Award in 2011.

**Jim Stasiowski** is the writing coach for The Dolan Co., which operates dozens of U.S. newspapers, dailies and weeklies, specializing in business, legal and government coverage. He was a reporter and columnist for The Breeze newspaper of Cape Coral, FL, from 1976 to 1982, and a reporter and columnist for The Columbian newspaper of Vancouver, WA, from 1982 to 1989. He has been a writing coach since 1989.

**Jay T. Strasner**, publisher of the Leader-News in El Campo, TX, has been a publisher and editor across three states during his career and has served on the editorial judging committees for both the Arkansas Press Association and the Texas Press Association. As an editor of three newspapers in Arkansas, Strasner won numerous first place awards individually while also helping lead the Searcy Daily Citizen to three consecutive APME Sweepstakes Awards and three straight APA awards for General Excellence.

**Greg Tock** has worked for two different newspaper groups during his 36 years in the business. He started out in the late '70s working at Star Newspapers in central Illinois. He worked for 16 of those years with his parents

at their flagship office in Dwight, before leaving for the mountains of Arizona. Tock went to work for Kramer Publications as the publisher of the White Mountain Independent. During his tenure at White Mountain Publishing Co. he served on the board of directors at both the Arizona Newspapers Association and NNA.

**Gloria Trotter** is editor and publisher of The Tecumseh (OK) Countywide & Sun. Statewide, she is a board member and past president of Freedom of Information Oklahoma and past president of the Oklahoma Press Association. Trotter has won numerous statewide writing awards, and the newspaper, which she and her husband, Wayne, purchased in 1983, has won the OPA Better Newspaper Sweepstakes Award 10 times in the past 25 years.

**Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia** is the editor of the Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal in Johnson County, MO. Before coming to the Kansas City area, he served as executive editor in Illinois for East Side Publications, a division of the Suburban Journals of Greater St. Louis. He is a Suburban Newspapers of America Journalist of the Year (1995), and SNA Editor of the Year 2007. During a 30-year career, he has amassed more than 100 first-place regional, state and national awards.

**Barbara A. (Barb) Walter**, co-publisher/managing editor of The Hennessey (OK) Clipper since 1978; was publications editor/education director, Oklahoma Press, 1962-78. She won first place for humor and serious column writing in NNA, state press and SPJ contests. Also she won awards for in-depth reporting and community service.

**Kay Watson** has been the managing editor at the Okemah (OK) News Leader since 2008. She attended Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee for photography/graphic design and graduated in 2006. She worked as an office manager for several years before starting at the Okemah News Leader.

**Margaret Williams** has been the managing news editor at Mountain Xpress for nearly three years. A University of Alabama graduate, she was the weekly publication's first full-time reporter when it was founded back in 1994. She now oversees a staff of five that covers the news online and for the publication's weekly newspaper. Last year, the news team earned several awards from the North Carolina Press Association, in both multimedia and hard-news categories.

**Amy Wilson** is the former publisher of the St. James (MO) Leader-Journal (GateHouse Media). Her journalism career has spanned more than 12 years. She is currently the senior training specialist at Phelps County (MO) Regional Medical Center.

# Thank You Judges



## NNA thanks the following individuals for their time and talent in judging the 2012 Better Newspaper Contest, Better Newspaper Advertising Contest & Newspaper And Education

**Anne W. Anderson** has written for The St. Petersburg Times, Tampa Bay Newspapers, and The Anniston (AL) Star, among others, as a general assignment correspondent, feature writer and review columnist. She earned her M.A. as a Knight Foundation Fellow in Community Journalism at the University of Alabama where she studied the relationship between news organizations and children in the communities they serve.

**Dennis Anderson** has been editor of the Antelope Valley Press since 1999. The Valley Press is virtually the only family-owned, independent daily newspaper remaining in Southern California. Before coming to the Valley Press in 1998 as city editor, Anderson worked for both United Press International and The Associated Press. An Army veteran of the Cold War, he is author of three novels about the military, and embedded in Iraq in 2004.

**Ashleigh David** started in the newspaper business while attending college organizing tearsheets at The Lafayette (LA) Daily Advertiser. She then moved to The Livingston Parish News in Denham Springs, LA, a family owned newspaper since 1962. Starting in advertising layout in 1995, she tried her hand in all the departments of the newspaper before leaving in 2006 to experience the commercial printing business. Ashleigh now manages the office and press room of one of the last remaining family owned and printed newspapers in the state of Louisiana.

**Jamie Baker-Nantz** has been editor of the Grant County News in Williamstown, KY, for 23 years. She is the co-chair of the Grant County Relay For Life. She has received numerous Kentucky Press Association and inter-company awards for writing, design and photography.

**Jerry Bellune** founded his newspapers, the Lexington County (SC) Chronicle and the Lake Murray Fish Wrapper, with his wife, MacLeod, and son, Mark. He and his family have owned and operated four award-winning community newspapers. More than two dozen newspaper owners and publishers have profitably used their tactics and strategies to improve their own bottom lines. He writes the Publishers' Toolbox column for Publishers' Auxiliary.

**Joni Berg** has more than 30 years of experience in newsrooms. She is currently a graphic

designer. Berg has worked as a reporter, editor, graphics artist, visuals editor and art director. She creates and designs pages, ads, news information graphics, maps and special sections for newspapers (for print and online) in her freelance work. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota School of Journalism, teaching a course on community journalism.

**Mark Berryman** is the managing editor for The Elberton Star, a weekly newspaper owned by Community Newspapers, Inc. Berryman has worked at three CNI-owned newspapers. Berryman started with the company as a sports/news writer at The News Leader and The Franklin County Citizen, working his way up to sports editor. In February 2011 he was named managing editor of his home county newspaper, The Elberton Star. Berryman has won numerous awards (29) from the Georgia Press Association, Community Newspapers, Inc. and The Georgia Sports Writers Association.

**Brenda Johnson Brandt** is publisher of The Holyoke (CO) Enterprise and co-owner of Johnson Publications Inc., which includes the Enterprise, as well as three Nebraska newspapers, The Imperial Republican, Grant Tribune-Sentinel and Wauneta Breeze. She has been at the Enterprise since 1979, serving first as news editor, then managing editor and publisher (including advertising manager). Before that she taught journalism and geometry at Aurora (NE) High School for two years. She currently is serving as president of the Colorado Press Association.

**Wayne Braverman** is managing editor and internship coordinator at GateHouse Media's Metro unit. Braverman has been in the newspaper business for 31 years, winning numerous awards at the local, regional and national levels for his work in news, design and sports. Braverman also spent five years in the Internet world, including teaching Web building and directing an outreach program through the Boston Herald/Community Newspaper Company's Town Online.

**David C. Breland** is the desk editor for the Greene County Herald in Leakesville, MS. A family owned weekly, the Herald serves a readership of more than 3,000. Breland is a 2011 graduate of Mississippi State University where he also served as managing editor and life editor of the official school publication, The Reflector. While at The

Reflector, the publication garnered numerous awards from the Mississippi Press Association and the Southeastern Journalism Conference.

**Laurie Ezzell Brown** is editor and publisher of The Canadian (TX) Record, taking over after the death of her father in 1993. In the 18 years of her tenure, The Record has been a consistent winner of top regional and state press awards for Sweepstakes, General Excellence and Community Service. As publishers of the Record, the Ezzell family was the recipient of the 2007 Gish Award for courage, tenacity and integrity in rural community journalism.

**Kelli Bultena** is co-publisher and advertising manager of two weekly eastern South Dakota newspapers. Bultena has been in the newspaper industry since 1997. Bultena has received numerous awards in the SDNA's better newspaper contest through the years and recently brought home a national award in the 2011 Better Newspaper Advertising Contest.

**Rick Bussler** has been the publisher of The Times newspaper in Blooming Prairie, MN, since 2009. The Times has recently expanded into a countywide newspaper. He has developed the newspaper into a state and national award-winning newspaper since that time. The newspaper had never won awards previously to him taking over. Bussler is a graduate of Minnesota State University in Mankato where he had a degree in mass communications.

**Mark K. Campbell** has been the sports editor for the Azle (TX) News and Springtown Epigraph since 1992. He has won scores of regional, state, and national awards.

**Rusty Carter** has been a journalist for nearly three decades, spending the last 25 years at one of the nation's oldest newspapers, The Virginia Gazette in Williamsburg, VA. Carter went to Williamsburg in 1987 as the Gazette's sports editor. In 1996, he moved up to deputy editor, and in January 2004, was promoted to editor, where he directs the Gazette's award-winning news coverage. Carter has won nearly 50 Virginia Press Association and NNA awards.

**Jennifer Cone Chciuk** is a second generation owner of the West Essex Tribune, Livingston, NJ's award-winning community newspaper,

### Jeff Farren

Chair, Contests and Awards Committee (2009-2012)

President/Publisher, Kendall County Record-Newspapers Inc., Yorkville, IL



which has been in existence for more than 80 years. She follows in the footsteps of her father, Kit Cone, longtime editor and publisher of the Tribune. Chciuk has published the Tribune for 10 years, and has worked at the paper in various capacities for more than 30 years. Additionally, she is a registered nurse, and worked in maternal/child nursing for many years, while also maintaining a position in the Tribune’s production department. Chciuk is currently serving as president of the New Jersey Press Association.

**J.P. Crumrine** has been editor of the Idyllwild Town Crier since November 2009. He had been a reporter for the paper for the previous five years. Crumrine is a 1970 graduate of The Johns Hopkins University. In 1972, he earned his Masters in Public Policy from the University of Michigan. As a reporter he has received several awards from the California Newspaper Publisher’s Association. In 2011, The Town Crier was honored for its overall Front page coverage and Crumrine received recognition from the National Newspaper Association for his editorial, castigating hate crimes and racism, which were surfacing in Idyllwild.

**Charles N. Davis** serves as an associate professor at the University of Missouri Journalism School. Davis teaches Controls of Information; Journalism and Democracy, a capstone graduate course for news-editorial students; and the school’s introductory course, Principles of American Journalism. Davis worked at newspapers, magazines and a news service in Georgia, Florida and Ireland for nearly 10 years as a journalist after his graduation from North Georgia College.

**Sharon DiMauro** started her newspaper career in 1981, working at the local weeklies The Fort Bragg (CA) Advocate-News and The Mendocino (CA) Beacon in the composing room. Donrey bought the papers in 1984, and soon after she began working in the advertising department. She became ad manager, and in 1989, she was appointed operations manager and in 1993, publisher. She is currently serving on the National Newspaper Association’s board of directors, representing Region 11.

**Tess Elliott** became the editor of the Point Reyes (CA) Light, an iconic weekly newspaper located in Marin County, in 2007. Since then, she and her staff have received numerous national and state awards, including first and second place awards for investigative and public service journalism. In 2010, along with a dozen local authors, journalists and community leaders, she helped form a nonprofit media institute that purchased the newspaper and restructured it as an L3C.

**Cheryl Ellis** is the targeted publications sales manager at the Southeast Missourian, which is part of the Rust Communications group of newspapers. She oversees five monthly publications, two quarterly magazines and numerous annual and biannual publications. Ellis is the creator of the Southeast Missourian Jr., a newspaper written by kids for kids, which has won numerous awards.

**Bill Felber** has been executive editor of The Manhattan Mercury since 1986. He is

a former board member and treasurer of Associated Press Managing Editors, and for two years chaired APME’s FOI Committee. He is the author of five books.

**Sam Finazzo** is the editor of the Rice Lake (WI) Chronotyper, where is leads a staff of seven full-time reporters and editors for the 8,500 circulation weekly, which has earned numerous state and national awards. He has served the paper located in Barron County, WI, as a reporter, then editor since earning a print journalism degree from the University of Minnesota in 1978.

**Ralph Fitzgerald** is known in the community of Pine Bluff, AR. While his photographs have graced the front pages of the Pine Bluff Commercial daily for the last six plus years, Fitzgerald has taken prizes in statewide, regional and national contests. In 2010 Fitzgerald was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Breaking News Photography. He has been recognized for his talent at capturing spot news, sports action and features by editors and colleagues alike. Most recently, Fitzgerald won status as the Arkansas Photographer of the Year in 2008, 09 and 10 from the Arkansas Associated Press Managing Editors, the Arkansas Press Association and the Arkansas Society of Professional Journalists in Division 2 (Medium dailies).

**Kent Ford** is the editor for the Missouri Press Association, a position he’s held since 1989. He has experience as a daily newspaper reporter, daily newspaper city editor and owner/editor/publisher of a community weekly in Northwest Missouri. Ford has assisted often with judging of the NNA contest and with other state association contests.

**Tania French** has been publisher of the Port Lavaca (TX) Wave Newspaper since 2007. She oversees the day-to-day operations of the semi-weekly publication and commercial print operations. Before being named publisher, she was the general manager of The Wave, after spending several years in the newsroom, and later the advertising department.

**Jim Hamilton**, a senior writer for Neighbor News of Missouri, is a columnist and agricultural writer with more than 40 years of journalism experience.

**Doug Hanneman** has been editor of the Hutchinson (MN) Leader since 2001. He started his career in newspapers more than 30 years ago when he helped launch a monthly newspaper for older adults in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. During his time as editor, the Hutchinson Leader has won more than 150 awards for its news coverage, including more than a dozen General Excellence awards at the state and national levels.

**Richard Hanner** has served as editor of the Lodi (CA) News-Sentinel since 1998. The News-Sentinel was a General Excellence winner in the 2006 California Newspaper Publishers Association better newspapers competition. He had served as a reporter and editor for The Record in Stockton, CA, and as a staff writer for the Neighbors section of the Sacramento Bee and the Palo Alto Times. Hanner is an adjunct instructor of mass communications at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton.

**Cynthia Haynes** is a registered pharmacist and a graduate of the University of Kansas. Haynes started in newspapers in 1980, when she and her husband, Steve, bought their first paper, The Mineral County Miner in Creede, CO. During the last 32 years she has learned to write, take pictures, sell advertising, make up pages and do the books for the newspaper. Haynes has been active in the Kansas Press Association, Colorado Press Association and National Newspaper Association. She has won many state and national awards for writing and photography. She is now publisher of The Oberlin Herald and co-owner and chief financial officer of Haynes Publishing, which publishes three weekly, two twice weekly and one daily paper in Northwest Kansas.

**Edward F. Henninger** has been an independent newspaper consultant since 1989 and is the director of Henninger Consulting in Rock Hill, SC. The focus of his work is on small dailies and weekly newspapers. His column on newspaper design appears regularly in Publishers’ Auxiliary.

**John Hewitt** has been chief operating officer of The Champion (the most award-winning weekly newspaper in Georgia) since 2000. The Champion has been recognized as a “General Excellence” newspaper by the Georgia Press Association for the last five years. Before joining the staff of The Champion, Hewitt sold commercial publishing services and served as production manager of The Daily Olympian and Sports Nippon Newspapers (Tokyo) during the 1996 Olympic Games.

**Katherine E. Hill** is the associate publisher and editor of The (Tahoe-Truckee) Weekly in the Lake Tahoe area. She was a columnist for Publishers’ Auxiliary and managing editor of The Enterprise-Journal in McComb, MS. She also served as editor in chief of The Tahoe World in Tahoe City, CA.

**Harry L. Hix Jr.** is retired from the University of Oklahoma, where he was the Engleman/Livermore professor of Community Journalism. During the first three years of retirement, he was a visiting professor of journalism at Oklahoma State University, teaching the reporting class. In addition to experience as a reporter and photographer, he has been managing editor of a daily newspaper, and publisher for 16 years of an award-winning weekly newspaper. He also is a past president of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors.

**Dodie Hook** is owner and publisher of The Akron (IA) Hometowneer. She and her husband, Joe, began the newspaper in December 2001 and then bought out the competing newspaper, The Akron Register-Tribune, in June 2005, combining the two papers. She has been in the newspaper business for almost 30 years, serving in various areas of the business. Her newspaper won General Excellence in its category at the 2011 Iowa Newspaper Association Convention. Dodie currently serves on the Iowa Newspaper Foundation board of directors.

**Josh Hoppe** has been the graphic/web designer for the Douglas County Herald in Ava, MO, since 2010. Before that he worked for various law enforcements agencies in Missouri and Alaska as an information tech-

nology manager and Web designer. The Herald’s website placed second in class in the 2011 Missouri Better Newspaper Contest.

**Terri House** has been publisher of The Pagosa Springs (CO) SUN since 2003. Before that, she served in various positions in the advertising department of The SUN, beginning in 1982. Among other advertising awards over the years, House received the Colorado Press Association Best of Show award for advertising in 1996. The SUN was awarded first place in 2010 and 2011 in the NNA Better Newspaper Advertising Contest.

**Travis Hudgons** has been a graphic designer and photographer for The Champion for more than six years. Hudgons has been recognized several times for his talents by the Georgia Press Association—most recently winning first place for best photo illustration in the weekly division in 2011.

**Woody Jenkins** is editor and publisher of the Central City (LA) News. He has been a journalist for nearly 50 years, with experience as a newsman, TV announcer, owner of an advertising agency, TV station general manager and a newspaper editor. He also served as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives for 28 years. He was elected to the LSU Journalism School Hall of Fame and last year received the coveted Freedom of Information Award from the Louisiana Press Association.

**Tad Johnson** has been the managing editor of Thisweek Newspapers and the Dakota County Tribune since 2003. He oversees four community newspapers in the south metro of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Before that, he was the editor of the Anoka County Union in the north Twin Cities area for five years and editor of the Waseca County News for one year. His newspaper won the Minnesota Free Newspaper Association award for General Excellence in 2010.

**Jerry Jordan** is the managing editor for The Examiner Newspaper in Beaumont, TX, where he has worked since 1996. Before his employment at The Examiner, Jordan was a reporter/videographer for a local TV station and a writer for a national billiards magazine. At 17, he became a stringer for United Press International. Jordan has won multiple awards from NNA, including first place honors for investigative reporting, best breaking news coverage, best educational/literacy story and best business reporting.

**Connie Korbel** is the editor of two Northern California weeklies, the Fort Bragg (CA) Advocate-News and The Mendocino (CA) Beacon. Korbel began her tenure at these newspapers in early 1999, primarily as the government reporter. She became the backup editor in 2004 and assumed her current position in January 2011.

**Diana Kramer** is a former editor and publisher of community newspapers and magazines in Washington and Arizona. She served as executive director of Washington Newspaper Publishers Association between 1992 and 2004, and is currently the Publisher/Editorial Advisor to Student Publications at the University of Washington.

**Cecile (Wehrman) Krimm** has been the editor of The Journal at Crosby, ND, since 1999. She also edits the Tioga Tribune. Both newspapers are located in the booming Bakken oil field, which is currently “enjoying” the hottest job market and oil play in the country. She is the author of the book, “The Brothers Krimm,” released in 2011, about a serial bank robber.

**Lisa Loomis** has been the editor of The Valley Reporter in Waitsfield, VT, since 2000. She has been with the paper since 1986, having been hired as a staff writer and promoted until she succeeded the editor who hired her. Loomis and The Valley Reporter consistently win state and national awards for excellence and Loomis had received awards for editorial writing as well as reporting.

**Stacey Manning** is the managing editor of The Brunswick Beacon in Shallotte, NC. A career journalist, Manning is a Kentucky native and graduate of Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC. Manning, an employee of Landmark Community Newspapers Inc. since 1998, has won 80 local, state, regional and national journalism awards recognizing achievements in writing, photography and design.

**Dave Marner**, managing editor of the Gasconade County Republican in Owensville, MO, has been working at Missouri newspapers since 1986 — the past 20 of those in Owensville. A photojournalist by training, he has received Missouri Press Association awards for news, editorial, and feature writing; sports coverage, investigative reporting, community service, and photography awards for news, feature and sports entries and photo packages. The Republican received the Best Use of Local Photographs award from the National Press Association in 2010. He has also received NNA awards for sports photography, photo packages, and investigative reporting.

**Brian Martin** has been at the Wyoming Tribune Eagle since 1998. He is currently managing editor, with primary responsibility for supervising six news reporters and directing the local news coverage at the daily newspaper in the capital city of Cheyenne. Before that he was news editor at the Finger Lakes Times in Geneva, NY. His newspaper won first place for General Excellence from NNA in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

**Cherri Medcalf** has worked at the award-winning Hood County News in Granbury, TX, since 1973, including many years as advertising director.

**Bonnie Miller** has been the publisher of the Intermountain Commercial Record/Salt Lake Times since 1978. Miller served as president of the American Court and Commercial Newspapers and as an NNA board member.

**Ellen Mortensen** joined the staff of the Custer County Chief in Broken Bow, NE, in 2005, making the switch from radio to newsprint. She began her newspaper career in the advertising department, then moved into the features editor position and now serves as managing editor. In a small town weekly newspaper, Ellen covers everything from school board and town hall meetings, to court trials, to youth events. She

is best known, however, for her feature writing, and has won several awards from the Nebraska Press Association for her feature stories.

**John Nelson** is the advertising sales manager for The Villages Media Group in central Florida. Nelson has almost three decades of media sales and marketing management experience with newspapers in California, Wisconsin, Kansas and Missouri.

**Nancy O’Halloran** is news editor of The Valley Breeze newspapers, a group of five community papers serving 10 towns and cities of northern Rhode Island. She oversees style and content, the copy desk, layout, and editing of the five editions, which have a combined circulation of 62,500. O’Halloran created The Valley Breeze stylebook for writers and editors. Before joining the newspaper industry 15 years ago, she concentrated on writing and editing children’s literature.

**Bill Ostendorf**, president and founder of Creative Circle Media Solutions, has led the redesign of more than 500 newspapers and magazines along with 200 websites. He has consulted with hundreds of media companies on three continents and has been a speaker at industry seminars in 43 countries on a wide range of topics.

**Russell Pankonin** is co-owner and co-publisher of Johnson Publications Inc., which includes four weekly newspapers in Southwest Nebraska and Northeastern Colorado. He remains on the front line as the managing editor and co-publisher of The Imperial (NE) Republican, largest of the four Johnson Publications weeklies. His weekly journalism career spans 30 years, earning recognition along the way for both his writing and photography in state and national contests. He is also a past president of both the Nebraska Press Association and the Nebraska Press Advertising Service.

**Bev Pechan** has been a newspaper journalist since 1963, writing first for weekly newspapers in the Twin Cities area. After moving to the Black Hills of South Dakota, she began writing for local newspapers, including The Rapid City Journal and three weeklies, as well as contributing historical and human interest features for local and national magazines. She was the editor and senior writer for Inside The Black Hills magazine in the 1990s and a frequent contributor to South Dakota Hall of Fame (Dakota West) and Deadwood magazines, plus niche markets on antiques and equine activities.

**Melissa Perner** has been editor and publisher of The Ozona (TX) Stockman since 2004. Before that, she was a reporter with the San Angelo (TX) Standard-Times for five years. Her newspaper won its first NNA awards in 2009 and is a multiple-winner of the Texas Press Association Better Newspaper Contest and received the Sweepstakes award in the 2009 West Texas Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

**Steve Ranson** has been editor for the Lahontan Valley News in west-central Nevada, since March 2008. Before that, he was the sports editor for the newspaper. He also served as an educator in the local school district and taught journalism at the community college. Since 2007, he has won