

column and did writing coaching part time. In 1989, he moved to Baltimore, his hometown, and started his independent coaching business. He has been a discussion leader at the American Press Institute, Reston, VA, and has done seminars for the Inland Press Association and the Wilmington Writers Workshop. Each year, he speaks to groups of writers and editors at journalism conferences around the country. From September 2007 to March 2014, Stasiowski was the writing coach for The Dolan Co., which publishes newspapers that cover the practice of law, the business community and government and politics.

Jay 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. Strasner has captured numerous individual and staff awards while at the Leader-News and the newspaper won first place in General Excellence and Sweepstakes during the 2013 TPA Summer Convention. 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.

Jeanne Straus is president of Straus News, a group of 14 community weekly newspapers and websites in New York City and in contiguous towns in New York, New Jersey and

Pennsylvania. Straus started her career at the White House News Summary where she was assigned to read newspapers from around the country as a way to issue spot for the president and 250 administration officials. She left to work as a stringer for The Associated Press and then worked at WMCA Radio before joining the newspapers 28 years ago.

Barbara Walter started her journalism career in the eighth grade on the staff of the Oklahoma City Classen High School newspaper. The next year, at 14, she became a teen correspondent for the Oklahoma City Times and kept that job four years. She is managing editor, The Hennessey Clipper weekly newspaper, 1978-present and was co-publisher 1978-2014, Oklahoma Publisher editor/ education director, Oklahoma Press Association, 1962-78. She received national and state honors for column writing, community service and investigative reporting. She is a past president and OPA treasurer, past president and current member Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation. She received the Liberty Bell Award and the Beachy Musselman Award from the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

Maggie Walter is an associate professor and night news editor at the Columbia Missourian. She joined the University of Missouri faculty in August 2003. Walter serves as the faculty adviser for the MU Chapter of the American Copy Editors Society and is a member of the national organization. She is a faculty member for the annual Dow Jones Newspaper Fund

Missouri Editing Excellence Workshop held at the Missouri School of Journalism. She is also a Wakonse Fellow and a Difficult Dialogues Fellow. She was presented the 2014 Journalism Alumna Award from the Department of Journalism at Ball State University. Walter is a former president of the New Hampshire Press Association and of the New England Associated Press News Executives Association.

Cesca Waterfield is editor of Westmoreland (VA) News. A journalist for nine years, she has written for daily newspapers including the Richmond Times-Dispatch and the Virginian-Pilot, alt-weeklies including Style Weekly and Port Folio Weekly, where she maintained a column, as well as several monthlies and glossy publications. She teaches creative nonfiction techniques and memoir writing.

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

Angela Wilson is an author and digital media consultant in the Midwest. For two decades, Wilson has worked as a writer and ghostwriter for newspapers, newsletters, pop culture websites, marketing blogs, social media and more.



NNA Thanks the following individuals for their time and talent in judging the 2014 Better Newspaper Editorial Contest, Better Newspaper Advertising Contest & Newspaper And Education Contest

Anne Anderson has written for The St. Petersburg (FL) Times, Tampa Bay Newspapers, and The Anniston (AL) Star, among others, as a general assignment correspondent, feature writer and review columnist. She earned her masters of arts as a Knight Foundation Fellow in Community Journalism at the University of Alabama, is the author of two travel books, and is an instructor at the University of South Florida.

Dennis L. 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 United Press International and The Associated Press. An Army veteran of the Cold War, he is author of three novels about the military, and he embedded in Iraq in 2003 and 2004.

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 has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota School of Journalism, teaching a course on community journalism for nine years. She has redesigned five newspapers in her career.

Dave Berry is publisher of seven community papers in southwest Missouri, based at the paper he first joined as editor in 1977. He is a graduate of Missouri State University with a BA in English and minor in journalism. He is a past president of Missouri Press Association and a former regional director for NNA.

Brenda 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 is a past president of the Colorado Press Association and just finished her 6.5-year term on the CPA board of directors in February 2014.

Laurie Ezzell Brown is editor and publisher of The Canadian (TX) Record, taking over after the death of her father in 1993. In the 21 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 has brought home a national award in the Better Newspaper Advertising Contest.

Rick Bussler is the publisher of two small weekly newspapers in southern Minnesota. He has owned The Times of Blooming Prairie since 2009 and the News-Enterprise of West Concord/Claremont/Dodge Center since 2012. During his tenure, Bussler has been responsible for overseeing an expansion of The Times into a county-wide newspaper. The Times has doubled in circulation and tripled in sales. Bussler has also developed The Times into a state and national award-winning newspaper.

Mark Campbell is the editor of the Azle (TX) News and Springtown (TX) Epigraph. A multi-award-winner regionally, statewide, and nationally as a columnist and photographer, he is about to enter his 23rd year in community newspapers.

Rusty Carter has been a journalist for nearly three decades, spending the last 27 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 more than 65 Virginia Press Association and NNA awards.

Jennifer Chciuk is a second-generation owner of the West Essex Tribune, Livingston, NJ's award-winning community newspaper, which has been in existence for more than 83 years. She follows in the footsteps of her father, Kit Cone, longtime editor and publisher of the Tribune. Chciuk has published the Tribune for 12 years and has worked at the paper in various capacities for more than 33 years. Additionally, she is a registered nurse and has worked in maternal/child nursing for many years, while also maintaining a position in the Tribune's production department. Chciuk is a past president and chair of the board for the New Jersey Press Association.

J.P. Crumrine has been editor of the Idyllwild (CA) Town Crier since November 2009. He had been a reporter for the paper for the previous five years. Crumrine is a 1970 graduate of Johns Hopkins University. In 1972, he earned his master's degree in public policy from the University of Michigan. As a reporter, he has received several awards from the California Newspaper Publishers Association. In 2011, The Town Crier was honored for its overall front-page coverage, and Crumrine received recognition from NNA for his editorial,

Jeff Farren

Chair, Contests and Awards Committee (2009-2014)
President/Publisher Kendall County Record-Newspapers Inc., Yorkville, IL

castigating hate crimes and racism, which were surfacing in Idyllwild. The paper won several awards in 2012 and 2013 including honorable mention for best website.

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. David now manages the office and press room of one of the last remaining family owned and printed newspapers in the state of Louisiana.

Sharon DiMauro began her newspaper career in 1981 in the composing room in the good old days of Compugraphic computers. Donrey bought the Fort Bragg Advocate-News and The Mendocino Beacon in 1984. Soon after, she became an advertising executive, and about a year later, an advertising director. She became operations manager in 1989 and publisher in 1993. She served on the board of directors of NNA for seven years. She is in her 33rd year at the same newspapers where she started.

D. Reed Eckhardt is the executive editor of the Wyoming Tribune Eagle in Cheyenne, WY, where he has worked since 1999. He also was managing editor in Monroe, LA, and Gallup, NM, and served as editorial page editor in Alexandria, LA. He has won numerous editorial writing and editorial page awards. His paper was named NNA's general excellence winner for large dailies on several occasions.

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.

Heather Freret-Anderson has been employed in various departments at the Stone County Enterprise in Wiggins, MS, since December 1994. In March 1997, she was named editor, and in July of 1998, was named publisher/editor of the Stone County Enterprise. In addition to editorial duties, she handles advertising design and pagination for the newspaper.

David Green is the third generation of his family to publish the Observer in Morenci, MI. He studied psychology at Michigan State University, and after a period of serving as a bum, returned to earn a K-8 teaching degree, which he never used. He decided to take his turn running the paper because he knew his brothers and sisters would never do it. That was 2,164 issues

ago. He and his wife, Colleen Leddy, produce each weekly issue with minimum strain on their relationship. David serves as chair of the Michigan Press Association Contest Rules Committee.

Todd Griffith is the production manager, webmaster and graphic artist for the Wise County Messenger in Decatur, TX.

James Hamilton is a former publisher/editor for Community Publishers Inc. and is now working as an ag editor and columnist for the corporation’s southwest Missouri newspapers.

Doug Hanneman has been editor of the Hutchinson Leader since 2001. Before that, he was editor of the South Washington County Bulletin in Cottage Grove, MN. He started his career in newspapers more than 30 years ago when he launched a monthly newspaper for older adults in the Twin Cities area. In the mid-1990s, he transitioned to mainstream community newspapers. Under his leadership, the Hutchinson Leader has won more than 150 awards for its news coverage, including General Excellence awards at the state and national levels.

Rich Hanner has served as editor of the Lodi (CA) News-Sentinel since 1998. He is an adjunct instructor of mass communications at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, CA.

Katherine Hill is the publisher and editor in chief of The (Tahoe-Truckee, CA) Weekly in the Lake Tahoe area. She was a columnist for Publishers’ Auxiliary from 2005-2010 and former 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 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) Hometownr. 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 more than 30 years, serving in various areas of the business. Her newspaper has placed or won General Excellence in its category at the

Iowa Newspaper Association convention many times. Hook serves on the Iowa Newspaper Foundation board of directors and currently serves as first vice president.

William Jacobs is the former president and owner of two publishing companies that own newspapers and other publications serving a seven-county area in southwest Mississippi. He sold his newspaper companies in 2012. He is the treasurer of the National Newspaper Association Foundation, a director of the Mississippi Center for Freedom of Information. In 1992, he served as president of the Mississippi Press Association, and is past president of the MPA Education Foundation. He is a past state chair for NNA and was the association’s Region 4 director.

Tad Johnson, a graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, has been the managing editor of Sun Thisweek Newspapers and the Dakota County Tribune since 2003. He oversees four community newspapers in the south metro area of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and covers the city of Rosemount. 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.

Cecile (Wehrman) Krimm is the publisher of The Journal in Crosby, ND, and The Tioga (ND) Tribune. Krimm has worked for Journal Publishing since 1999. Both newspapers are located in the booming Bakken oil field, which is currently “enjoying” the hottest job market and oil play in the nation.

Ginger Lamb is vice president and publisher of Arizona News Service and Arizona Capitol Times in Phoenix. Arizona Capitol Times is an award-winning local and national weekly watchdog newspaper that covers government and state politics. Lamb has worked for the Dolan Company since 1994, and was previously publisher of The Daily Record in Kansas City, MO, and editor of The Daily Record in Rochester, NY.

Katherine Lee has edited two award-winning weeklies on California’s North Coast, the Fort Bragg Advocate-News and The Mendocino Beacon, for 20 years.

Ryan Lewis is the editor of The Allegan County News, a rural weekly in southwest Michigan, where he has reported on news and the community since 2002. He is a 1998 graduate of Albion College. The Allegan County News won first place for General Excellence in the 2010 NNA Better Newspaper Contest and won first place for best local news in the NNA’s 2012 contest. He has been editor since 2009.

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 in 2008, 2009 and 2010, plus Best Local News Coverage in 2011.

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, Mortensen 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.

Bob Mudge is senior writer and special sections editor with the Venice (FL) Gondolier Sun. He started with the paper as the business and South Venice editor, as well as a general assignment reporter. After that, he was the paper’s city reporter for 15 months, becoming editor in 2002. He was named senior writer in 2013. He has won numerous state and national awards for his work, and the Gondolier Sun was named the best weekly in its circulation class by the Florida Press Association nine out of the 12 years he was editor.

Bill Ostendorf, president and founder of Creative Circle Media Solutions, has led the redesign of more than 500 newspapers and magazines, along with more than 250 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.

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 2009 and 2013 from the West Texas Press Association Better Newspaper Contests.

Frank Quine is former director and chief executive officer of the American Press Institute, where he conducted 92 management training seminars for executives of newspapers, large and small. He retired in 2010 after 23 years as assistant dean of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, and as vice president of American Journalism Review, the national magazine published by the college. He received the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association Distinguished Service Award in 2013, and the

same award from the Washington Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists in 2014.

Steven 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 numerous awards from the NNA’s Better Newspaper Contest, including first place honors for editorial, in-depth, business and business feature reporting. The Nevada Press Association named Ranson as one of two Outstanding Journalists in 2012. In the same year, he also won major state and national awards (to include NNA and the Military Reporters and Editors Association) for his reporting from Afghanistan, where he embedded with two Nevada Army National Guard units in November 2011. Ranson also spent five days in Bahrain, where he followed the flight training of a carrier air wing that had trained at Naval Air Station Fallon. He returned to Afghanistan in November 2012, where he flew missions with an aviation company and rode in armed convoys through Kabul.

Keith Rathbun has been publisher of The Budget, a community weekly newspaper for Sugarcreek, 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 Americas 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 as the Ohio Newspaper Association’s vice president, and he sits on the NNA’s Postal Committee.

Marc Richard is president of Fackelman News Group Inc. as well as vice president/operations manager of Newspaper Service Co. Inc. He is a 1985 graduate of the Louisiana Tech University Journalism School, where he served as sports editor of the award-winning student newspaper, Tech Talk, as well as graduate assistant to the school’s sports information director. He served as editor and general manager of the Ruston (LA) Daily Leader from 1986-1988, where he received awards for Best News Photo and Best Personal Column from The Associated Press. He later served as publisher of the Jennings (LA) Daily News from 1988 to 1996. Among other activities, Richard served as Louisiana Press Association director of the board for three years and was recipient of the President’s Award for best project chairman of the year (Annual Better Newspaper Contest Committee).

Chris Roberts has a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina and a master’s degree from the University of Alabama. He has taught at

a number of universities. He also worked at several newspapers, including The State (Columbia, SC) City, The Birmingham News, The Anniston Star, The Jacksonville (AL) News. He also worked in radio at WHMA AM-FM in Anniston, AL.

C. Dennis Schick was the executive director of the Arkansas Press Association for 25 years. He taught advertising at five universities for more than 20 years. He worked in advertising for four different newspapers and wrote a column for a newspaper for several years. For the past eight years, he has been the associate editor for an international magazine, writing and editing articles. He has written for Publishers’ Auxiliary, the Arkansas United Methodist and other publications, and he has edited a dozen books for SPS Publications.

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 and Web director for The Taos News for the past nine 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 is a retired journalist living in Michigan. He is currently 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 10 weekly and monthly newspapers and works with 15 additional publications. She has been a staff member of The Papers for more than 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.

Michael Spencer has been the sports writer/ outdoor writer at Bay City Times for nearly three decades. He was also interim features, assistant metro and sports editor (1980-2009). He worked at the Midland Daily News (1977-79 and 2009-11), and has been copy editor/sports editor/photographer and village reporter at the Leelanau Enterprise since June 2011.

James Stasiowski is a writing coach and has been working in newsrooms for 38 years. A 1970 graduate of the University of Nebraska, he served four years as an officer in the U.S. Navy, then worked on a farm in Nebraska. He started his newspaper career in 1976 as the night photographer for The Breeze, a 5,000-circulation daily in Cape Coral, FL. In 1982, he moved to The Columbian, a 50,000-circulation daily in Vancouver, WA, as a general-assignment reporter with a specialty in politics. He also wrote a twice-weekly humor