

semiannual

report

officer reports

President H.L. Hall, MJE

It's been a busy six months since the Phoenix convention. I spend an average of one hour daily responding to e-mail messages from members around the country. Most messages deal with personal concerns about situations at their schools, but several deal with suggestions about ways to make JEA a stronger and more viable organization. I appreciate all the suggestions, and I think the board has taken steps to see that some of the suggestions are carried out.

Voting members of the board met at JEA headquarters at Kansas State University in August to develop ways JEA can better serve its members. As a result, the board adopted four goals for 1997-99 (see the October 1997 issues of NewsWire), and it approved a motion to have each regional director be responsible for planning one adviser retreat in his/her region beginning with the 1998-99 school year. In addition, it also approved a motion to begin a recognition of service to scholastic journalism at four levels—5 years, 10 years, 15 years and 20 years as JEA members. Board members also voted to support a summer workshop in the Northeast Region in 1998 without financial cost to JEA.

One of the goals I have been working on is to help support free and responsible scholastic journalism. I have worked with advisers in four states the past few months concerning the loss of scholastic freedom in their schools, and I have spoken at workshops in Kansas and Texas about the Yeo vs. Lexington case which threatens to make the Massachusetts state law guaranteeing student freedom of expression obsolete. In addition, I also wrote a letter on behalf of JEA to help support Student Press Law Center's successful effort to have the Court of Appeals rehear the Yeo vs. Lexington case. Although it has not yet reached the courts, a situation in Great Bend, Kansas, also threatens the law in that state. JEA has worked in the past to help states pass laws to override the effects of the Hazelwood vs. Kuhlmeier case, so it is disheartening to learn of situations that threaten such laws. Kansas and Massachusetts are two of six states which have such laws, and Illinois almost became the seventh one this past summer; however, the governor vetoed the bill.

Another goal of JEA's is to provide resources and educational opportunities for professional development. As part of that goal I am working on increasing the networking with organizations in the realms of education, professional media, scholastic and collegiate journalism, student free expression, school administration and others. I attended the Council of Presidents meeting in Chicago in November, and I will attend the National Council of Teachers of English meeting in Detroit the week after the St. Louis convention. In addition, I will attend the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's convention and the board meeting of the Student Press Law Center in March in New York.

Linda Puntney, Pat Graff and I met with representatives of the National Association of High School Newspapers in St. Louis in September to discuss ways JEA and NAHSN might work together to further the cause of scholastic journalism. The representatives will make a presentation at the St. Louis convention to the board.

Another goal of JEA's is to offer programs which meet a wide variety of member needs. Specifically, part of my role in meeting that goal is to maintain and expand program offerings—conventions, publications, workshops, etc. I have been meeting with St. Louis area advisers monthly for the past two years to help plan the St. Louis convention. In addition, I have taken steps to improve JEA's publications by making Bradley Wilson editor of both *NewsWire* and *C:JET*. Bradley has already published his first issue of *NewsWire*, and he will assume the editorship of *C:JET* with the spring issue. Having one person as editor of both publications should improve getting the publications to members in a timely manner. Molly Clemons deserves praise for her many years of devotion to *C:JET*. She has done an outstanding job for more than 14 years.

Molly and her husband Ron have agreed to chair the Anniversary Committee to plan ways to celebrate JEA's 75th anniversary in 1999. I appointed Molly and Ron to chair the committee after they applied for the position. Any individual interested in chairing a committee must apply for the position. Besides Ron and Molly, I have also appointed Diane Boyle to chair the Nominations Committee and Leslie Shipp to chair the Scholastic Journalism Committee. I will announce the new chair of the Junior High/Middle School Committee in St. Louis. In addition, the board decided at its summer meeting to combine all awards under one committee, so Marilyn McElroy now has under her jurisdiction the Student Impact Award and the Professional Development Award.

I look forward to working with Jan Hensel and Mary Lu Foreman as we continue to develop ways to better use JEA's Web site. The board approved guidelines for the Web site (www.jea.org/) at its summer meeting. These guidelines should enable JEA to provide curriculum materials on the site which will benefit all members. I think these are exciting times for scholastic journalism, and I hope members will contact me at any time about concerns or suggestions they have for the organization. Working together, we can build a strong future.

Vice President Rob Melton, MJE

In addition to producing this semiannual report, I have worked on the JEA policy manual, revised the judging criteria for the JEA computer write-offs and worked with the co-chairs on other aspects of write-offs, tabulated and reported the Phoenix convention survey, designed a new survey for the St. Louis convention, confirmed state directors and written them a letter outlining our goals and activities for the year, worked with regional directors on setting up the new adviser workshops, participated in JEATALK regarding membership and curriculum development, developed a nationwide project to gather ideas for using newspapers in the classroom, and answered 5-20 e-mails a day regarding various aspects of JEA business.

Secretary Ann Visser, MJE

There was no time to think twice about what I had gotten myself into once I was elected secretary of the Journalism Education Association. As I prepared for the meetings in Phoenix, I figured my previous secretarial experience would come in handy as I took the notes and prepared the minutes for the business meeting and general membership meeting. As secretary, there isn't much time to do anything else except keep track of what is happening with discussions and motions and try to keep as accurate a record as possible. The system of writing out motions on carbon forms, one for me, one for the president, definitely helped the process.

In addition to trying to get the minutes processed and out to the Board as soon as possible after the Phoenix meeting, it was time to do a NewsWire. With a fairly prompt response from all those who needed to submit items for the publication, that, too, was processed and in the hands of Headquarters by the second week of May.

JEA activities continued throughout the summer as information was gathered for the publications committee that would meet in Manhattan in August. Postal rates/regulations were researched, and hopefully, the use of some of that information has already resulted in a faster delivery time for publications.

The Manhattan meeting meant that it was time, once again, to put the laptop to work as minutes were taken. Again, minutes were processed as quickly as possible once I was back in Iowa and then sent on for distribution.

I've had time now to think about what I've gotten myself into, and I'm happy to report that it's been a great experience. Being a part of an organization that plays such an integral role in high school journalism is an honor for me, and I am looking forward to what lies ahead.

Past President Candace Perkins Bowen, MJE

Since April, 1997, as past president I have worked on Goal #2 and additional responsibilities as convention coordinator. In particular:

- *In an effort to “explore opportunities* for continuing education, motivation and rejuvenation of members, (Goal 2A)” I have presented sessions at the Virginia affiliate’s workshop for Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., new advisers at the Newseum, Sept. 12. Nearly 70 attended the day-long workshop and tour of the new facility, plus others joined the group for a reception and talk about coaching from Carol Knopps, instrumental in editing *Death by Cheeseburger*.
- *An additional opportunity we discussed* while several people involved were in the city is the Advisers Institute workshop next summer in Washington, D.C. Led by Mark Goodman and run by JEA, profits will be donated to the SPLC as part of its anniversary celebration.
- *From a Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Adviser Update* article to come out at the St. Louis convention, I hope to gather more information about state press associations and how they function. The responses to a survey in that issue plus a follow-up survey I intend to do with the help of SPA Liaison Julie Dodd, will help us better meet the needs of members through SPAs and explore the needs SPAs may not be meeting so JEA can supply them.
- *Also part of the DC trip* was a meeting with the local committee for the Fall 1998, convention there. We toured the hotel and discussed sessions, activities and responsibilities.
- *In an effort to “provide opportunities* for members to assess current educational trends and how those relate to scholastic journalism (Goal 2B)”, I have begun surveying state departments of education to find out what their requirements for journalism are. The most recent survey of this kind is already out of date since many states are beginning to move away from certification and into licensing. I will continue to explore what this means to JEA and its members, our certification program and information we can supply.
- *In an effort to “align journalism curriculum* with recently published language arts national standards (Goal 2C),” I have distributed NCTE standards to my committee: Pat Graff, Susan Tantillo and Janet Hensel. A report on our preliminary suggestions will be available in St. Louis.

regional director reports

**Region 1/
Northwest
compiled by
Regional
Director Jack
Groves**

The first six months of my term as Northwest Regional Director leave me continually amazed at all of the outstanding programs that very busy and harried advisers are running. As the following state reports will indicate, the Northwest is strongly committed to scholastic journalism.

Alaska

State Director Gretchen Wehmhoff Stoltze, CJE, reporting:

Although it seems slow, the new Alaska JEA is starting to make a dent in the high school journalism picture in Alaska. Our goal is to increase membership by 25 percent this year.

Partnership with the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is continually rewarding. UAA recently held a Summer Intensive Journalism Camp for Alaskan youth journalists. The camp, sponsored largely by the *Anchorage Daily News*, focused on newspaper and broadcast journalism with both groups completing a finished product. The Broadcast news video is being aired on the local community cable channel and the final newspaper was published in the *Anchorage Daily News*, Alaska's largest Newspaper.

UAA also co-sponsored the annual journalism conference with AJEA. The 1997 conference included publication critiques. Fees supported the Alaska High School Journalist of the Year Award.

More exciting news is that the UAA Department of Journalism and Public Communication has submitted a journalism teacher certification endorsement program to the School of Education. We hope this process is complete within the year.

Idaho

State Director Robert Stephen Beck reporting:

The Idaho Journalism Adviser's Association is in the process of putting on their fall conference in Sun Valley on Oct. 26-28. Among the guest speakers will be Mary Huss, San Francisco Business News and Pete Perkins.

IJAA will be electing a new president-elect. Their current state board of directors of the IJAA are: Jeff Oliver (Bonneville High School), president; Carol MacPhee (Lake City High School), president-elect and contest chair; Julie Lewies (North Fremont High School), treasurer; Robert Stephen Beck (Rigby High School), treasurer; and Marian Adams (retired), past president.

Montana

State Director Judith Forseth reporting:

The goals for Montana this year are to increase the membership of the association and to work on improving technology in the state.

Oregon

State Director Nancy Giuliani reporting:

For Oregon, JEA remained highly active throughout the spring and summer months with activities ranging from the presentation of the second annual Mary Hartman Award, adviser survey, elections, summer adviser workshop and Fall Press Day.

Milwaukie High's Bill Flechtner, the newspaper and yearbook adviser, was the recipient of the Mary Hartman Award honoring him as the Oregon High School Journalism Teacher of the Year. He was praised for his 22 years of teaching journalism. Flechtner was noted for his teaching skills in "all of the areas of journalism." As well as teaching and advising, Flechtner is director of the Ashland, Oregon OJEA Summer Adviser Workshop, a Fall Press Day and national convention speaker, and new journalism adviser mentor.

Results of the Oregon High School Journalism Survey completed this past spring have been published in *The Status of Journalism in Oregon High Schools, 1997*. More than 130 teachers responded to the study undertaken jointly by the Northwest Scholastic Press and the Oregon JEA and supported by a grant from the Oregon Newspaper Fund. The study found that "while students have technologically superior equipment to work with than reported in a similar 1990 report, schools offer few introductory courses to those students."

OJEA members elected Jaira Hill (Silverton High School), president; Helen Wittke, (Franklin High School), vice president; Sheree Shon (Junction City High School) secretary, and Ray Hopfer (Tillamook High School), treasurer.

Keynoting the annual Fall Press Day held at Oregon State University on Oct. 22, was Bryce Zabel of "Dark Skies" fame. Jack Kennedy, Iowa City publications adviser, and Mark Goodman, Student Press Law Center were featured workshop presenters.

In December OJEA will be saying goodbye to retiring NWSP Director Carla Harris. The former high school publications adviser taught at Bend, Ore., and McNary High, Salem, as well as advising the OSU yearbook.

Washington

State Director Lucinda Wingard, CJE, reporting:

We had two very well presented Newspaper Days one at the U of W and one in Spokane at Gonzaga U. I got to go to both thanks to WJEA.

Wyoming

State Director Christine Reynolds reporting:

The 50th convention of the Wyoming High School Student Press Association was recently held in Casper, Wyo., at the Hilton Hotel. Approximately 390 students were in attendance, representing various high schools of all classifications from across the state.

The keynote speaker was Ed Gerety, motivational speaker from New Hampshire. He stressed the students need to have positive attitudes, high self-esteem, dreams, goals, and respect for balance and change in order to be successful journalists.

The association received assistance from the University of Wyoming Department of Media and Communication, as well as from Northwest Community College, Powell, Wyo.

Also, for the first time, the Wyoming Press Association came to the convention and volunteered assistance, whenever possible for the high school programs across the state.

An attempt was made to incorporate broadcast journalism for the first time as distinct tract in the two day event.

In addition, a panel discussion was held about the Freedom of the Press law as it applies to high school students, featuring notable journalists, legislators, and educators from around the state.

The judges for the event were other high school teachers and university personnel from around the country. The JEA provided the names of the judges from their list of CJE and MJE teachers.

Sandy Pederson, journalism instructor at Cheyenne East High School, Cheyenne, Wyo., will continue to serve as the president of the WHSSPA for the second year.

With the beginning of the school year, many state organizations and JEA members are in full swing of getting students to increase their journalism skills and knowledge. Isn't this what we are all about? California, New Mexico and Colorado have already had a journalism conference where many students have been honored for their work and other states will be having their fall conventions shortly. Also, with the beginning of the new school year, we welcome new state directors Mary Massey of New Mexico; Chris Sloan of Utah, and Ellen Kersey, the new Southern California JEA president. Congratulations also go out to long time JEA member Jim Shuman who was reelected Northern California state director by JEA of Northern California. With such quality people being added to the Southwest state directorships and with the other dedicated directors, the Southwest region will continue to be a strong force in the organization.

Arizona
State Director Carmen Wendt, CJE, reporting:

The Arizona Interscholastic Press Association is holding its annual fall convention on Oct. 27 at Arizona State University. More than 600 delegates are expected to attend the various workshops and listen to professional journalist Kim Crockett of the *Arizona Republic* give the keynote address. Students will also get the opportunity to receive awards in a number of contests. Committees have already been formed to organize the spring convention to be held in April. Plans are under way

**Region 2/
Southwest**
**compiled by
Regional
Director Tony
Gomez, MJE:**

for a spring conference and a contest in Albuquerque. A membership directory also is in the works, and many advisers are planning on attending national JEA/NSPA conferences this fall in St. Louis and next spring in Seattle.

Southern California

State Director Ellen Kersey, CJE, reporting:

The Southern California Journalism Education Association will be joining JEANC in San Jose Oct. 30-Nov. 2 for our state convention. Next year's event is scheduled at the Anaheim Marriott, Nov. 20-22, with a Saturday night trip to Disneyland.

The Inland JEA held a Journalism Day as school started at UC Riverside with TV personality Kim Baldonado as keynote speaker. More than 600 attended. Lynn Casella is area president.

SCJEA is planning to reinstate an Advisers' Fest in February, which hasn't been held for some years. A committee is working on planning the event. The board determined that this was one way to involve new advisers, who often feel isolated and uninformed.

The Southern California Write-off is planned at El Camino College for April 25.

Northern California

State Director Jim Shuman reporting:

California was home to a number of summer journalism workshops, many of them staffed by outstanding advisers and journalism educators. JEANC's five-day summer workshop at University of the Pacific, the Journalism Academy, was attended by 88 students and advisers from throughout the region. More than 1,000 participants are expected to attend Northern California's statewide convention, to be held in San Jose Oct. 31 and Nov. 1-2. With a theme of "Write to know," guest speakers include a number of top-level presenters in the national journalism education field as well as many from California. National publishing companies are supporting the event with contributions to the scholarship fund, underwriting expenses of out-of-state speakers, and providing prizes and souvenirs at the exhibits.

The Web page has recently been updated. Visit JEANC at <http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~jeanc/home.html> for information on numerous journalism topics of statewide interest, and with links to national journalism Web sites.

Because of the extreme distances within our region, much of our communication is being done electronically. We look forward to expanding that approach in the coming year.

Colorado

State Director Dianne Gum reporting:

Grand Junction newspaper adviser Mark Newton has been

honored as Publications Teacher of the Year. Annually the Colorado High School Press Association offers all publications students and all high school administrators an opportunity to nominate outstanding publication advisers. Other nominees for 1997 were Toni Freeman, Pomona High School, Michael Baker, Thornton High School, Ellen Rawson, Boulder High School, Monica Williamson, Rangeview High School, Stephen Wahlfeldt, yearbook adviser at Ft. Collins High School, and Mary Lacock, newspaper adviser at Ft. Collins High School.

Each October finds newspaper journalists and advisers from all over the state traveling to the University of Colorado campus in Boulder for the annual Press Day workshops and awards. Keynote speaker this year was Columnist Chuck Green who has been extremely vocal about the handling of the Jon-Benet Ramsey case. He offered the audience several bits of wisdom: hold yourself accountable as a journalist for making readers aware of what is right and just, and he offered the encouraging words that technology may replace people with certain jobs but it can never replace reporters and editors. Following the keynote speaker, the journalists attended their choice of three, hour-long workshops focusing on all aspects of print news production and Web page production.

The afternoon awards ceremony highlighted the Colorado Publication Olympics winners. Honored were student first, second, and third place winners in two divisions of schools: under 1,000 students and schools over 1,000 students. Salida High School scored points in 11 out of 12 entries and won the Sweepstakes Award for small high schools. Cherry Creek High School and Douglas County High School tied for the Sweepstakes Award for large high schools. A similar Yearbook Day is held at the same site in November for yearbook students and advisers. Workshops and awards are also the highlights of that day and the Publications Adviser of the Year is introduced.

The Colorado High School Press Association is led by advisers who volunteer their time to meet monthly on the second Saturday at CU. Each Board member oversees various opportunities for Colorado journalism students ranging from publication competition to shared rubrics among advisers to arranging cooperative ventures with the Colorado Press Association and the Colorado High School Activities Association. A new opportunity this year is working with University Sport Information Directors (SID) to connect high school writers with alums who are athletes at various Colorado colleges and universities; writers will be able to spend time on campus, interview the athletes and coaches, and learn about potential journalism careers such as SID.

Hawaii

State Director Patti Shannon reporting:

Since two Outreach Scholarships were won by Hawaii advisers last spring, there has been interest in the form of requests for scholarship applications. So far there are three people who have committed to attending the convention in Seattle. St. Louis is an economical stretch for us folks in Hawaii. We will take advantage of the spring conventions.

This past summer a three-day journalism workshop was held at the local YMCA camp on the beautiful north shore of Oahu. Dan Nakaso, reporter for the *Honolulu Advertiser*, talk about feature writing and coverage ideas to the group of 50 journalism students. Tom Brislin, journalism professor at the University of Hawaii, gave an excellent presentation on media ethics. The dozen advisers in attendance were very interested, as there is a pending lawsuit regarding a caption written in a local yearbook. Kathy Daly, yearbook adviser at Overland High School in Colorado, rounded out the teaching staff at the fourth annual summer journalism workshop.

Nevada
State Director

New Mexico
State Director Mary Massey, CJE, reporting:

New Mexico Scholastic Press Association is off to a running start this school year. In her message to the membership in the September newsletter, President Connie Blue of Del Norte High School In Albuquerque has made outreach to the state a major priority. Her plans include conducting more workshops outside of Albuquerque and creating a state Web page.

In October, NMSPA hosted a Media Expo '97 in Albuquerque. More than 300 students from around the state attended the one-day conference. KOB-TV Channel 4's Steve Stucker was the keynote speaker, and many professional journalists from the Albuquerque-Santa Fe area shared their expertise with the middle and high school journalism students.

Utah
State Director Chris Sloan, CJE, and Tony Gomez, MJE, reporting:

With the relocation of State Director Walt Snover to another state, Chris Sloan of Judge Memorial High School has accepted the position as the new state director. Sloan has been a JEA member for several years and is a past president of the state organization. I am looking forward to working with him and would like to thank Walt for all his hard work.

**Region 3/
North Central
compiled by
Regional
Director Jack
Kennedy, MJE**

Illinois
State Director Linda Kane, CJE, reporting:

The IJEA has been spending most of its time working to pass House Bill 154, the Student Publications Act. We were successful in that this past spring the House passed the bill 109-4, and the Senate passed the bill 57-0. However, Governor Jim Edgar vetoed the bill on Aug. 10. Mary Lou Cowlshaw, the bill's sponsor, plans to file for an override on Oct. 28. We need 3/5 vote of each of the House and Senate for the override. Membership: As of 9/23/97: 42 life members and 19 paid for 97-98. My guess is that right now this is down from last year; however, many people are slow about paying their dues. The Illinois State High School Press Association held its annual convention at the University of Illinois, Champaign, on Sept. 26. Between 400-500 students and advisers attended. Mark Goodman, SPLC, was the keynote speaker.

Iowa

State Director Brenda Smith, CJE, reporting:

There are 26 members in the state right now. As for activities in the state, highlights included the Iowa Summer Journalism Workshops in July and the IHSPA State Conference on Oct. 8. Ann Visser of Pella was re-elected President of IHSPA, and Brenda Smith was elected Secretary during the conference. Both will serve two-year terms. Steve Lyle, from Davenport West, won the Ken Stratton award (for meritorious service to scholastic journalism in Iowa), and Leslie Shipp, from Ankeny, won the Rod Vahl award (Iowa Journalism Teacher of the Year). These were first announced during the state conference.

The Neubert Award winners (the award honors long-time adviser Mick Neubert, of Grinnell) from the whole book yearbook contest last spring are as follows: Boone H.S., Boone City H.S., Iowa City Pella H.S., Pella Webster City H.S., Webster City.

Awards presented during the state conference on Oct. 8 include: May Day Shoot-Off Trophy: first place: Sarah Wood, Pleasant Valley H.S., Pleasant Valley Spring Contest Trophies Photography Page in Local: first place- Exira High School Class A: first place- Washington High School, Washington Class B: first place- City High School and Davenport West High School Writing Page in a local paper: first place- PCM High School, Monroe Class A: first place- Washington High School Class B: first place- City High School Graphics Page in local: first place- Estherville-Lincoln Central High School Class A: first place- Prairie High School Class B: first place- City High School and Davenport West High School Sweepstakes for the literary magazine Muscatine High School Yearbook Sweepstakes Class A: first place- Clarksville High School Class B: first place- Beckman High School Class C :first place- Pella High School Class D: first place- City High School, Iowa City Vanessa Shelton has taken the position of interim director of the Iowa High School Press Association for one year, and has gotten off to a great start. She moved in late in August and by early October had already organized and successfully pulled-off a state conference, with over 800 students in attendance. Keynote speaker was 1996 Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Teacher of the Year Merle Dieleman, from Pleasant Valley, who spoke about his recent stint teaching journalism in Slovakia.

Minnesota

State Director Kelly Zwagerman reporting:

The format of the fall state convention held Sept. 24 at the University of Minnesota was adjusted this year to attract more students. The convention, sponsored by the Minnesota High School Press Association and NSPA, was billed as High School Journalism Day. Information went out to publication staffs in both Minnesota and western Wisconsin. More than 500 students registered for the convention, an increase from last year. Journalism Educators of Minnesota participated in Journalism Day by staffing an adviser hospitality room that provided advisers with various handouts and resources. JEM also sponsored the All-State Publications contest. Results of the contest were announced at the

awards ceremony at the end of the day.

Certificates were presented to close to 50 publications staffs. Publications earning 90 percent or more points in the contest were named All-State. MHSPA sponsored several awards that were also announced during the awards ceremony. Three all-state journalists were named and presented with certificates and letters signed by the governor. Best of Show Awards were also presented to newspaper and yearbook staffs. The Gyre from Robbinsdale Armstrong, advised by JEA member Kevin Moorhead, received first place for yearbooks. The *Ahlahasa* from Albert Lea High School, advised by JEA member Scott Winter, received first place for newspapers.

The main projects of JEM for 1997-98 include the following: All-State Publications Contest, JEA Minnesota Journalist of the Year Contest, an adviser newsletter, and resource center for new advisers. The entry fee schools pay to participate in the All-State Publications contest pays for these projects and provides a \$300 check to the JOY winner. A special thank you to JEA members Bob Hendricks from North Dakota for judging the Minnesota Journalist of the Year portfolios, and to Brenda Smith from Iowa for judging All-State entries.

Nebraska

State Director Doyle Schwaninger reporting:

The 1997 Nebraska Distinguished Adviser was Terry Pitkin of Scottsbluff. The 1997 Student Journalist of the Year was Ieva Augustums of Lincoln Southeast High School. The Nebraska High School Press Association again held a summer camp for journalism students. It was well-attended and will be continued. The NHSPA also again strove to pass a Freedom of Expression bill for student journalists. It keeps getting a bit further in the process, yet has never come to a vote of the legislature. Doris Martin of Beatrice and Kathy Stockham of Valley spearheaded the effort to get the bill a hearing and out of committee.

It is with regret that I must submit my resignation as the Nebraska State Director of the Journalism Education Association. After 19 years of advising publications at Fremont High School, I have accepted a position as a guidance counselor at Fremont Junior High. I cherish all of the friends I have made during my tenure as a Journalism Adviser, and will especially cherish all of the memories made at NSPA/JEA national conventions and working at the Ball State Summer Journalism Workshops. The new Nebraska state director is Bob Bair, from Blair High School.

North Dakota

State Director Robert Hendricks, CJE, reporting:

All journalism-related 1997 spring activities were canceled because of the Flood of '97. Journalism students, both newspaper and yearbook, from the southern end of the valley to the Canadian border found themselves working around sandbagging and flooding to finish deadlines. Some schools never finished the school year, while other-

schools missed many days for blizzards and flood work. We lost 10 days to blizzard conditions at Fargo South High and numerous days during the last three weeks of sandbagging. To my knowledge, all publications still made their deadlines.

The spring convention of the Northern Interscholastic Press Association at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks was canceled because the city had major flooding. Most of the spring contest materials were at the Grand Forks Herald for judging when the building was flooded and a fire gutted the building. The fall workshops were held in the east and west sections of North Dakota for both newspaper and yearbook students.

I conducted a one-credit workshop for advisers during the NDEA Fall Conference. This is the fourth year of the advisers workshop. We feel that the workshop is important in meeting the needs of advisers, since we have so many new advisers in our region. I will be conducting a survey of North Dakota advisers' needs during the school year as part of my CMJ project. When the survey is completed, I hope to use the information for improving the one-credit advisers course and instituting changes in our state organization. We have organized a trip to the JEA/NSPA St. Louis convention. We have 40 students from two schools, Bismarck High and Fargo South High, attending the convention. Plans are in the making for one or two buses for Washington, D.C.

**South Dakota
State Director Deb Merxbauer reporting:**

Our main JEA goal for the year will be to increase JEA membership and Journalist of the Year entries in South Dakota. For the past two years we've only managed to keep five members and have had no Journalist of the Year applications. I will distribute membership applications and Journalist of the Year information and applications at the fall state convention on Oct. 13. Future plans include surveying advisers to find out the reasons students are not applying for the Journalist of the Year competition and then work to find ways to encourage more applications. We're also working to increase the certification requirements for journalism advisers and teachers in South Dakota. If teachers advise outside of the school day, no certification or training is required. If they teach an academic class during the school day, they only need six credits in general journalism.

Since I've been state director for 10 years, I've decided this is a good time to seek a replacement. I think the most qualified person is another Deb. She's a great adviser who has had a lot of success and has the energy and interest needed to work to improve scholastic journalism in South Dakota. I have talked to her and asked if she would be interested in the position. She said she is very interested. I told her I would be willing to work with and assist her. Her name is Deb Rothenberger and she advises the newspaper at Brandon Valley High School.

**Wisconsin
State Director Terry Shircel, MJE, has not submitted a report**

report

**Region 4/
South Central
compiled by
Regional
Director Kathy
Craghead, MJE**

Louisiana
State Director Judy Domingue has not submitted a report.

Oklahoma
State director Darla Tresnor Jones, MJE, reporting:

Oklahoma advisers are off to a good start. The state convention was Oct. 27 at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Approximately 600 high school students attended.

Arkansas
State Director Beth Shull, CJE, reporting:

The Arkansas High School Press Association (AHSPA) membership voted last fall to change the name of the organization to Arkansas Scholastic Press Association (ASPA). That change actually took place in August. After Director Gary Lundgren left the state in July, Beth Shull, CJE, was appointed the new director, and is working from the state's professional press association offices in Little Rock. The trade association worked with scholastic journalism in Arkansas two years ago to help pass student press rights legislation, and continues to be supportive of ASPA through a grant to help fund operating expenses in addition to giving Beth office space. Beth also serves as the JEA state director and is on the SIPA Executive Committee. Five regional one-day workshops were planned for this fall.

Kansas
State Director Phyllis Wipf reporting:

The Kansas Scholastic Press Association drew a record crowd of 1,408 to its annual fall conference at Kansas State University Sept. 18. Keynote speakers were H.L. Hall, 1996 Yearbook Adviser of the Year and JEA president, and Jim Jordan, 1997 Yearbook Adviser of the Year. A second junior high conference opened in Hutchinson to help offset numbers at the original conference in Lawrence, now in its fifth year.

Texas
State Director Bobby Hawthorne reporting:

Texans are thrilled that one of their own, Dow Tate of Dallas Hillcrest, has been named 1997 Dow Jones Newspaper Fund National High School Teacher of the Year. The Texas Association of Journalism Educators fall convention was Oct. 25-27 in San Antonio, with approximately 800 people in attendance at the convention in the Camberley Guntner Hotel. JEA President H.L. Hall and JEA Executive Director Linda Puntney presented sessions and administered the CJE and MJE exams. As of Sept. 29, TAJE had 82 members, 43 of whom joined JEA through TAJE, according to executive director Rhonda Moore of Austin Bowie High School. In addition, the TAJE conducted three regional meetings this fall in conjunction with University Interscholastic League conferences. These meetings took place in Austin, Denton and Huntsville.

Missouri
State Director Bill Hankins reporting:

We'd like to welcome everyone to the Show-Me state for another JEA

national convention. During the convention, the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association members will install the charter members of the MIPA Hall of Fame. There will be seven new inductees, including active JEA members H.L. Hall and Ron Clemons.

**Region 5/
Southeast
compiled by
Regional
Director Sylvia
Daughtry**

I have been working with state directors to involve more people in JEA. JEA membership continues to be a bargain.

State directors have set goals for future endeavors. They are working to increase JEA membership by 10 percent. We plan to recruit new members, retain the membership the organization has, and reclaim people who've allowed memberships to lapse.

All scholastic organizations in this region have been working to meet the needs of students and advisers. Record numbers of students and advisers attended state and regional summer workshops.

JEA information has been included in all scholastic press associations' mailings and at all the states' summer workshops. JEA certification has also been promoted.

I attended the Southern Interscholastic Press Association executive committee and the SIP endowment committee in September. Another JEA regional director and several state directors attended this meeting also. JEA membership, certification, and the Fall 1999 convention in Atlanta were discussed.

Many thanks to the state directors and others in the region who are working hard to improve scholastic journalism in this area through improved membership in JEA. Good things are happening. After attending the board planning meeting in Manhattan, Kan., this summer, I feel scholastic journalism will advance through JEA's efforts and work. We in Region 5 are striving to do that.

Alabama

State Director Monica Hill reporting:

The Alabama Scholastic Press Association's advisers group will cover partial expenses for two ASPAA officers (Alabama journalism teachers) to attend the St. Louis convention.

Georgia

State Director Greg Spoon, MJE, reporting:

The Georgia Advisers Association presented four teachers membership in JEA through a drawing. Two winners were renewal memberships while two were new members. The state director and the regional director have met with counties that have numerous publications to encourage and increase in JEA membership.

North Carolina

State Director Kay D. Phillips, MJE, reporting:

The North Carolina Scholastic Media Association is helping teachers who want to seek honors status for journalism programs.

Region 6/Mid-Atlantic/Great Lakes Report compiled by Regional Director Betty Morton, CJE

JEA's newest region, Mid-Atlantic/Great Lakes, survived its break with the Northeast and went straight to work to continue to show the strength of the states that have contributed so much to JEA in the past. When the 18-state Northeast region was divided by the Board and became Regions 6 and 7, the former Northeast director and now Region 6 director Betty Morton called the nine state directors to determine if they wished to continue in their roles as directors, and as in the past, they rose to the challenge for their states. Many of them have been state directors for many years, but each agreed they wanted to continue their work.

This region has adopted a slogan to implement and establish as a constant goal. We call it the Three R's of membership: Recruit, Retain, and Reclaim. This will be our primary objective as we work together to do the best job possible for our membership. This idea was borrowed from Southeast Region Director Sylvia Daughtry and another association with which she is affiliated, but I liked it and used it to apply to our work as we make the Mid-Atlantic/Great Lakes region a continual effort for the betterment of scholastic journalism. In looking at recent statistics from JEA membership records, too many of our members do not renew, and some of our leaders of the past need to be reclaimed and become a viable part of this organization again.

**Ohio
State Director Sarah Ortman, CJE, reporting:**

For the third year in a row, I am proud to announce Ohio's 1998 JEA High School Journalist of the Year portfolio competition will be supported with \$3,000 in scholarships from the Matrix Foundation of the Columbus Ohio Chapter of Women in Communications, as well as \$500 in cash awards from the Ohio's three scholastic journalism organizations: the Great Lakes Interscholastic Press Association at Bowling Green State University; the Journalism Association of Ohio Schools at Ohio State University and the Northeastern Ohio Scholastic Press Association at Kent State University.

This year's first place Ohio winner, Jennifer Burgel from Wilmington High School (JEA member Georgia Dunn, adviser), received a total of \$1,500 in cash and scholarship money. Second and third place winners, Andria Shively from Westerville South High School and Elizabeth Kormanik from Upper Arlington High School, earned a total of \$1,100 and \$900 in cash and scholarships, respectively.

The Journalism Association of Ohio Schools, under the direction of Tracie Mauriello, continues to support JEA recruitment efforts by including JEA membership opportunities in its summer contest and fall workshop mailings. JAOS has enjoyed several years of rebates through the processing of JEA memberships, both new and renewal.

Officers, board members and directors of the three state scholastic press associations, and representatives from three of the state's universities which offer college journalism met at a follow-up scholastic journalism summit in July to organize the Ohio Scholastic Media Associa-

tion (OSMA). The organization will unite to support all of Ohio's scholastic journalism associations and colleges which offer journalism in order to monitor current efforts to change the state's journalism education certification requirements and to lobby state legislators on behalf of scholastic journalism. Candice Perkins Bowen volunteered to lead OSMA, chair its Board of Directors, and help raise funds to promote the organization's goals.

Each of Ohio's scholastic press associations will again sponsor high school journalism workshops this school year. GLIPA sponsored its annual student press day Sept. 24 at Bowling Green State University; JAOS will sponsor its annual NOSPA student press day at Kent State University next spring. Many advisers and student journalists throughout the state also plan to attend the JEA 1997 Fall Convention in St. Louis.

West Virginia
State Director Ruby Dyer

The United High School Press convention at Marshall University will be March 13-14. She planned to do a mass mailing for JEA membership in the state the last of September.

Virginia
State Director Alan Weintraut, CJE, reporting:

Members of the active VAJTA organization, JEA's Virginia affiliate, invited new advisers of area scholastic publications to Washington, D.C., for a one-day workshop in surviving publications which were taught by Virginia teachers who were experienced and impassioned about high school journalism. That workshop was held Sept. 12 at the Newseum, the world's only interactive museum for news which was an exciting experience of lively video displays and hands-on activities with past, present, and future journalism artifacts. Speakers included top representatives from JEA and the Student Press Law Center, and the purpose of the event was to provide instruction and support for new advisers and for those who need renewal.

A reception for Virginia, Maryland and District of Columbia publications advisers featured a presentation by Carol Knopps, formerly of *USA Today*. District of Columbia director Wattie Harmon attended the event and reported it to be a great success. Harmon has already begun to work on the JEA/NSPA convention to be held in Washington, D.C., in November 1998, and hopes this third visit to our nation's capital will be even better than the two previous and very popular conventions in that city.

report

**Region 7/
Northeast
compiled by
Regional
Director
Barbara
Flanagan**

Against a backdrop of stunning New England foliage, I've taken JEA Northeast on the road! I represented JEA at the Empire State School Press Association conference at Syracuse University on Oct. 10. Sherri Taylor, New York state director, ran a very impressive one-day conference for about 300 students and 50 advisers. Sherri gave me ample opportunity to speak with New York advisers about the benefits of JEA in general and our new region in particular. I also participated in the conference by giving a session on copyediting and by judging a Write-off contest.

The presenter for the Write-off contest was none other than Tom Mason, one of the runners-up in the 1997 JEA Journalist of the Year contest. An accomplished photojournalist, Tom graduated from a Syracuse high school and is a freshman at the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. He is an assistant photography editor for the university's independent student-run newspaper, *The Daily Orange*, no small accomplishment for a freshman. He provided a fine role model for the students involved in the contest.

For the conference, I prepared a folder for JEA materials and personalized the four JEA goals for the Northeast region, explaining how JEA's action on each goal (nationally and regionally) can help advisers in the region. The New York advisers seemed very interested in JEA, especially in certification, curriculum support and the summer workshop planned for 1998. Sherri has already nearly tripled New York's membership by offering JEA membership on her state form.

I'm planning to attend the New Jersey conference run by state director Sue Everett on Oct. 27, a Yankee PEN conference run by Massachusetts state director Mike Vieira on Oct. 28, and the Pennsylvania conference run by state director Jane Blystone on Nov. 21. I am trying to find a way to get together with the other state directors whose states do not have conferences planned. I'm hopeful that JEA's affiliation with the state and regional organizations combined with personal contact will increase membership in all the states.

I have communicated with my state directors via a newsletter in May following the Phoenix convention, in July before the board meeting and in September.

I am very excited about the board's approval of a summer workshop/camp for students and advisers in the Northeast region. I'm moving ahead with plans for summer 1998. I think a summer program in the Northeast will provide a very tangible JEA presence here and be a tremendous benefit to advisers and students. I am concentrating on western Massachusetts as a location because it is central geographically in the region and has some beautiful sites for learning and relaxing. I hope to have a site, a date and a program by the St. Louis convention.

commissions

Curriculum and Development Jan Hensel, MJE

The following activities were completed as fact-gathering for the up-coming year starting:

In June, curriculum materials were gathered from Connie Fulkerson at the JEA Bookstore for review. All curriculum guides were several years old, with some dating 10 years to 1987 (Beginning Journalism). Also, some booklets were no longer in print but were being photocopied when requested. JEA offers these publications: Beginning Journalism Curriculum Guide, Middle School/Junior High Journalism Curriculum Guide (1987), Newspaper Curriculum Guide (1988), News Writing Curriculum Report (1992), Video in the Journalism Curriculum Report (1993), Yearbook Curriculum Guide (1988) and Yearbook in Your Curriculum Report (1991).

In August, more materials were gathered from the bookstore including some new volumes to evaluate (such as *Start with a Scan*). Familiarity with print, electronic and broadcast journalism can be used to enhance the curriculum support provided by JEA.

Finally, help was requested of other officers and board members in acquiring additional members for the committee. In September a flyer was prepared by Bradley Wilson seeking volunteers for specific Curriculum and Development projects.

The following projects are ones the committee will work on the next year:

- *A new teachers' packet.* A session scheduled for this convention invites advisers to meet to give input on a "New Teacher's Packet" proposed by Rob Melton. Hopefully, this project should be completed by Fall, 1998.
- *Revisions of current curriculum guides.* These guides are really quite good. What is needed is updating to include technological developments and publication trends. This is not as daunting as it might sound. (After all, it is unlikely anyone would vote to eliminate a unit on writing leads in the Beginning Journalism curriculum guide....) As Liberty is being evaluated through the state department of secondary education, I have written or revised curriculum this summer for Electronic Publishing, Beginning Journalism and Yearbook which along with a photography class curriculum guide and a newspaper course curriculum guide are quite recent versions which the Liberty Curriculum Director has agreed to share. I feel certain that other teachers could provide similar sources which would allow us together to create the "Ultimate Guide" for any journalism course work our members might need.

A goal I have set in this area is to expand each curriculum guide to include a "Resources Section" for each topic/unit which will reference the excellent materials available through the JEA Bookstore. I believe this service will save teachers a great deal of time in preparing themselves to teach new courses and in locating appropriate primary and supplementary texts, training materials, examples, etc.

- *Continued support* of the Curriculum Online Help Service. In August and September, I answered 25 curriculum requests from teachers in US and Canada ranging from the normal "Got any suggestions for teaching copyediting?" to the desperate "Help me with everything!" One request came from the city editor of a newspaper which had formed a partnership with a high school newspaper class; he requested materials/activities suggestions for working with them on asking the right questions. I gave him some titles from the JEA bookstore, notably Metzler's Creative Interviewing, plus a couple of classroom activity ideas. We have received some very positive feedback from this service. Attached is a collection of e-mail requests and replies.

Another project which would enhance our Online Help Service would be posting actual materials on the Web Site. Such expanded service would be fairly easy to achieve, especially if coordinated with the "Curriculum Exchange" offered at conventions. However, leadership is needed for managing the gathering, sorting, scanning and posting of materials. Pages would need to be converted to HTML or PDF files; this could greatly increase the number of megabytes JEA consumes on the K-State Web server.

Since the Web page curriculum reply form was first put up, JEA has received about 10 requests per month since its inception in February (over 70 total), more in the summer months when most new teaching assignments are made. The Web Site curriculum request form provides extremely valuable membership outreach though it is true that probably over half of the requests come from non-members. One e-mail received in August really made me smile, remembering how I got my start: "Help! It's two weeks till school starts and I've been assigned the newspaper!" I don't suppose any of you are surprised, either.... I would have liked to know, though, if she was also a first year teacher and put in charge of cheerleading and the school play...

Certification Commission
Susan Hathaway Tantillo, MJE

As of the close of the Phoenix Convention last spring, we had recognized a total of 460 CJEs and 75 MJE's from 43 states, the District of Columbia, and two other nations Germany and Bangladesh.

In St. Louis, we will continue to honor new CJEs and MJE's at Saturday's luncheon along with CJE and MJE renewals. As of this writing (Oct. 14) I don't expect us to reach the 500th CJE until Seattle.

Both CJE and MJE tests will be given as usual from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on Friday at this convention. In addition, the Commission sponsors two

sessions at this convention: An informational session about Certification which has been popular at recent conventions, scheduled for 11 a.m., Friday in Room 24 at the Adams Mark, and its usual Commission meeting on Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. in Boardroom 22 at the Adams Mark. In addition, Commission members and Regional Directors will promote Certification at Meet, Eat and Greet, State Director, and General Membership meetings.

This convention debuts use of the new test banks for generating both CJE and MJE tests. The test banks were the product of a 1-1/2-day Commission meeting in Indianapolis in January 1997.

The Summer 1997 issue of C:JET, coordinated by the Certification chair, was devoted to Certification and included responses to a survey of CJE and MJEs along with sample projects.

Commission members include Bart Asato, Hawaii; Julie Dodd, Florida; Pat Graff, New Mexico; H.L. Hall, Missouri; Carla Harris, Oregon; Gloria Olman, Michigan; Kay Phillips, North Carolina; Linda Puntney, Kansas. All Certification Commission members must be MJEs. All Commission members may be called upon to administer Certification tests at times other than national conventions. For more information, contact JEA Headquarters or the Commission chair.

Scholastic Press Rights

John Bowen, MJE

In support of JEA's goal to "support free and responsible scholastic journalism," the Press Rights Commission is carrying out the following tasks:

1. *Support members facing censorship and prior review*, providing referrals for additional information.

Since last spring the commission continues to work with advisers, administrators and students in at least eight states who face censorship, loss of jobs and/or restrictions of academic freedom. The states are: Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington.

2. *Support efforts to pass state legislation* for the protection of student freedom of expression.

This is an ongoing goal of the commission. We have compiled copies of state legislation, passed or failed, and will continue to analyze what is working and what needs our attention in such legislation. The commission still endorses the Student Press Law Center model legislation as the strongest possible statement.

3. *Build public awareness* of censorship and prior review and the negative educational impact of such practices.

Commission members continue to provide this service through published articles, speaking engagements and personal contacts locally and throughout the country.

4. *Develop publication/production policies* for media, emphasizing teacher academic freedom, ethics and student free expression.

The commission developed; and the JEA board adopted, a photo manipulation policy. The commission is working on a policy concerning Web sites and acceptable use policies and student access to the Internet.

5. *Provide guidance to advisers and students* about ethical standards in the use of new technology.

Commission members will continue to update and add to the Commission's Web site and to conduct workshops and sessions in professionally responsible use of new media as well as print media.

6. *Communicate with administrators* and their organizations about free scholastic media and its importance.

Commission members will continue to address this issue of growing importance.

Commission members would ask all state directors to keep the commission informed, by mail or use of the JEA listserv, of instances of censorship or other situations in which members or students need assistance or advice. Because of the use of e-mail we seem to be more aware of many more instances of censorship. The more aware we are the more assistance we can give.

Commission members are: Ruth Bartz, California; John Bowen, Ohio; Merle Dieleman, Iowa; Tony Gomez, Arizona; Janet McKinney, Indiana; Sarah Ortman, Ohio; John Tagliareni, New Jersey, and Fern Valentine, Washington.

Multicultural Commission
Willie Wooten, CJE

Commission Chair Willie Wooten has not submitted a report.

Committee Reports

Awards
Marilyn McElroy, CJE

Something must be done about the timeliness of the appearance of the form for nominating people for awards. I did not receive my copy of NewsWire with the form in it until the last day of school June 16. I feel that the form must appear in the pre-convention issue of NewsWire rather than the post-convention one.

The winners for this year are: Carl Towley — Candace Perkins Bo-

wen, Medal of Merit — Kay Phillips; Lifetime Achievement — Alyce Culpepper, Sister Rita Jeanne, Dorothy McPhillips and David Smith; Media Citation — Michael Forrester, Capital Press-Salem, Ore.

As to the two issues we were asked to investigate at the board meeting in Phoenix no one seemed to be overly enthusiastic about regional journalism teacher of the year awards. The feeling seemed to be that if the Northwest or any other region wanted to give such an award that it would be fine. Since the board moved during the summer on the subject of longevity awards, I suppose what we decided is rather a moot point now. We thought the awards should be given for every five years of membership, starting at year five with no upper limit on how many you could receive. In other words, if someone has been a member for 50 years then they ought to have 10 award pins. We also thought a small pin on the order of the CJE/MJE pins would be appropriate, perhaps even one to which additional years honors could be attached.

Ken Siver and his subcommittee will continue to handle the awards he was in charge of and report their decisions to the main awards committee. It was felt this was better as Siver has built up a relationship with the people who sponsor these awards.

Junior High/Middle School

The Junior High/Middle School Committee has not submitted a report

Multicultural Outreach

Norma Kneese, CJE

The Multicultural Outreach Committee has not submitted a report

Nominations

The Nominations Committee has not submitted a report.

Publications/Bookstore

Connie Fulkerson

More than 50 new publications are now available in the JEA Bookstore catalog that was mailed to about 30,000 schools and JEA members in October. About 20 organizations requested JEA materials, including the catalog, to be sent for workshops and conferences this fall. Mary Arnold Hemlinger also distributed JEA material at a meeting of Newspaper in Education editors from professional newspapers.

The bookstore was available to Advisers Institute participants, and more than \$2,000 worth of books were purchased. Several affiliates have set up mini bookstores at their fall conferences.

Other fall projects have been the membership directory, CJET, NewsWire, St. Louis Convention program booklet, and helping to update the JEA Web site, as well as the usual convention-preparation responsibilities.

The Web site has brought numerous requests for catalogs, convention information and assistance in selecting books for courses. E-mails are answered daily.

JOY Scholarship
Diane Honda, MJE

The 1997 Student Journalist of the Year contest had 37 entries from the states of: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Northern California, Southern California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

The first-place winner was Leif Strickland from Texas. He is attending USC and was awarded the \$2000 scholarship. The runner-ups were: Samatha Lithgow—Kansas, Siri Knudsen—Minnesota, Tom Mason—New York, David Danielson—Northern California. Money has been awarded so far, only to Siri Knudsen, Leif Strickland and Samantha Lithgow.

The selection was made in Phoenix on April 17, 1997 with a committee consisting of Julie Dodd, Carla Harris, Ann Visser, Diane Honda and Willie Wooten.

Scholastic Journalism Week
Leslie R. Shipp, CJE

The Scholastic Journalism Week Committee has not submitted a report.

75th Anniversary
Ron Clemons, MJE, and Molly Clemons

The 75th Anniversary Committee has not submitted a report.

Web Site
Mary Lu Foreman, MJE

The committee, consisting of John Bowen, Linda Puntney and Mary Lu Foreman with Jan Hensel absent, met at K-State on July 23 and formulated Web guidelines which were accepted by the JEA Board in August. That report is attached at the end of this report for perusal by the entire Board.

Since the summer meeting the site has been updated three times: Twice in September, first to delete outdated material and second to post a PDF file of the St. Louis convention brochure. The last update was done on Oct. 10, at which time the home page was redesigned and files rearranged as follows:

1. The page was designed so that it would load in one screen quickly.
2. The main links were simplified so that no duplications of links would occur.

Because I am planning to do extensive travel during 1998, I will be unavailable to do updates on the Web page. For that reason, I am resigning my post as chair of the Web committee. A notice has been placed on the Web page for a replacement chairman.

The chairman should have the following qualifications and hardware/software available:

- Access to the Internet, preferably through a T-1 or other direct connection to expedite uploading of files.
- Knowledge of Web site design.
- Ability to use PageMill and Acrobat to update pages.
- Five to ten hours per month available for checking on and updating the site regularly.
- An additional 10 to 40 hours at various critical times during the year, such as curriculum postings, convention contest results, major Web site redesign.

I have enjoyed my short term as Web committee chair. Web design is an exciting new area for JEA members. I appreciate the opportunity to have served in this capacity and to have grown in my knowledge of both software and hardware for Web page construction.

Contestant Breakdowns

Number of students competing in each category:
 01—News Writing 109;
 02—Editorial Writing 122;
 03—Feature Writing 125;
 04—Sports Writing 103; 05—Review Writing 97; 06—Editorial Cartooning 44; 07—Radio News 14; 08—Copy Editing/Headline/Caption Writing 56; 09—Newspaper Layout 76; 10—Newsmagazine Layout 32; 11—Advertising 60; 12—Yearbook Layout: Theme 61; 13—Yearbook Layout: Inside Pages 80; 14—Yearbook Copy/Caption: Sports 59; 15—Yearbook Copy/Caption: Academics 54; 16—Yearbook Copy/Caption: Clubs 54; 17—Yearbook Copy/Caption: Student Life 77; 18—Yearbook Cover/Endsheets 37; 19—Newspaper Photography 55; 20—Yearbook Photography 49; 21—Computer Design: Headline 20; 22—Computer Design: Logo 10; 23—Computer Design: Infographics 15; 24—Computer Design: Advertising 19; 25—Computer Design: Freehand Art 7; 26—Literary Magazine Layout 15; 27—Literary Magazine Poetry 27; 28—Literary Magazine Illustration 12; 31—Video Broadcast Feature 28; 32—On-air Reporter 17; 33—Best Video Sports Story 14; 34—Best Video Feature Story 12; 35—Best Video News Story 14; 40—Photography: 2 Weeks' Work 19; TOTAL 1,593.

Write-Offs

Judy Babb, MJE, and Sharon Deibel, CJE

The Write-off contests continue to be revamped and updated.

In addition to rewriting and redesigning all the contests (the redesign happened before the Phoenix contest), the judges forms have now been updated so that the instructions given the judges are aligned with the instructions given the students taking the test (what a concept! Rob, you may want to leave the aside out.). Highland Park Middle School journalism teacher Susan Harvey is reworking the judges forms so that they are user friendly and attractive.

- JEA's VP, Rob Melton, is updating and solidifying the computer contests. Previously the contests were so vague that the entries were so diverse that it was difficult to judge.
- Fern Valentine is updating the Copy Editing Contest.
- Sandy Jacoby is updating Clubs and Organizations.
- Write-off co-chair Sharon Deibel is updating Student Life.
- Susan Harvey and I are updating the rest.
- The photo contests are being updated as we try to add more contests/ provide more of the contests at each convention. We'd like the board to consider a sub-set within the photo carry-in contests—a color and a black and white division.
- Our thanks to Nancy Freeman and the Missouri contingent for all their help in making the Write-off contests a success and for helping us to

Contestant Breakdowns

Number of students competing from each state:
 Alabama -0; Alaska 7;
 Arizona 236; Arkansas 1; California 582; Colorado 38;
 Connecticut -0; Delaware -0;
 District of Columbia -0; Florida 18; Georgia -0; Hawaii -0;
 Idaho 97; Illinois 21; Indiana 49; Iowa 16; Kansas 29; Kentucky -0; Louisiana 6; Maine -0; Maryland -0; Massachusetts -0; Michigan -0; Minnesota -0; Mississippi -0; Missouri 16; Montana 46;
 Nebraska 4; Nevada 42; New Hampshire -0; New Jersey -0; New Mexico 78; New York 2; North Carolina -0; North Dakota -0; Ohio 13; Oklahoma 6; Oregon 72; Pennsylvania -0; Rhode Island -0; South Carolina -0; South Dakota -0; Tennessee -0; Texas 54; Utah -0; Vermont -0; Virginia -0; Washington 131; West Virginia -0; Wisconsin 21; Wyoming 8. TOTAL—1593

staff the Write-off contest desk.

Attached is a breakdown for the contest in Phoenix. We had 1,593 contestants from 25 states. We handed out a total of 424 awards (51 Superiors, 146 Excellents and 227 Honorable Mentions).

As you know, the Phoenix Write-off did away with the "theater tickets" and we retained the contestant information in a database which was controlled by the Write-off co-chairs. There were surprisingly few problems—probably because it was tested out on a smaller scale at the 1995 regional conference in Boston. We did have one moderator who collected the tickets up front (the old way) and we did have a few advisers hand out the tickets to the wrong students (didn't read the category title on the ticket). As a result we've revamped the ticket to make the category MORE OBVIOUS and the rules more straight forward. I could send you a sample if you'd like!! In St. Louis, I will be meeting with the moderators personally to emphasize the new procedures.

We'll probably continue to have a few advisers who ignore the noon Friday deadline for substitutions and wonder why on Sunday Jane Doe's name is on the awards certificate when Bobby Somebody did the entry. Oh, well! When they come up after the award ceremony, I'm thinking of giving them a "request for change form" asking for the reason for the late change so that when we send out the new certificate we can add a reminder (and keep track of the regular offenders and try to catch them for some positive reinforcement at the next convention).

**NCTE Liaison for JEA/JEA Assembly Director
Pat Graff, MJE**

The ties between the Journalism Education Association and the National Council of Teachers of English continue to be strengthened through activities conducted through the NCTE liaison and several key individuals. The liaison attended the summer JEA board meeting, at her own expense, to participate in the strategic planning process. Several events and projects are planned with the NCTE/JEA focus.

In Detroit, JEA will have a strong presence during the NCTE national convention. The organization will offer a full day workshop for NCTE conference attendees and local advisers which will share the Intensive Journalistic Writing program. The curriculum's philosophy will be explained and specific class activities will be demonstrated. This workshop will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 25. When this program was previously offered in San Diego in 1995, more than 40 people attended. Carol Lange, Virginia; Ron Bennett, Idaho, and Chris Sloan, Utah, will be the key presenters, with Pat Graff NCTE liaison, moderating.

H.L. Hall, Missouri, and Willie Wooten, Michigan, will serve as the voting delegates for the NCTE Assembly for Advisers of School Publications at the annual NCTE business meeting on Friday, Nov. 21. The assembly will also host a booth at the NCTE exhibit hall which will showcase JEA materials and resources. Marilyn McElroy, Michigan, has organized helpers to man the booth during the three-day exhibition.

The assembly will also host a roundtable discussion for advisers during the Saturday evening interest group time slot. The JEA assembly is the largest assembly in NCTE, primarily because every member of JEA is automatically a member of the group.

In other areas of mutual interest, work is under way to create a document which shows how scholastic journalism curriculum aligns with and helps schools meet the national standards for English language arts, released by NCTE and the International Reading Association last year. Candace Perkins Bowen, Ohio, and Graff will be presenting a draft of these to the JEA Board in April. Efforts are also under way to network more closely with the newly formed NCTE committee which is now working with the NCAA to review language arts courses which have been rejected for credit by the NCAA's Clearinghouse. Since many journalism courses have been denied credit status in this process, JEA is hoping that an appeals process can be developed in cooperation with NCTE in the next few months. Hall and Graff will be meeting with key NCTE personnel in Detroit to discuss this further.

Plans are under way to showcase JEA programs at the next NCTE fall convention, scheduled in Nashville in November 1998. This is, unfortunately, one of those years when the JEA and NCTE conventions occur on the same weekend, but we are trying to provide some services through "creative" scheduling.

Specific concerns or ideas about ways to further develop the NCTE/JEA connections should be forwarded to Pat Graff.

SPA Directors Liaison
Julie E. Dodd, MJE

The SPAD liaison provides a link between the JEA board and directors of state, regional and national scholastic press associations. As part of that role, I set up SPA sessions at the JEA conventions. Typically representatives from 12-20 scholastic press associations attend.

The two sessions held at the Chicago and Phoenix conventions were roundtables. Participants discussed a variety of issues, including successful programs for state associations, recruiting publications judges and distance education.

A newsletter for scholastic press directors was sent prior to the St. Louis convention. The newsletter included a call for information that will be shared with directors at the St. Louis convention. The newsletter also contained a form for directors to use in confirming or correcting their mailing information. That mailing information will be sent to the JEA office to help keep their database of directors up to date.

headquarters report

**Executive Director
Linda Puntney, MJE**

As of Nov. 1, 1997, membership in the organization is at 2,164 which reflects a three percent increase over that same time last year. For the first time, Texas, with 207 members, leads all states in total membership. California with 183 boasts the second highest membership. For the first time since 1989 we have members in all 50 states. A map showing membership distribution will be distributed at both the board meeting and the business meeting at the St. Louis convention.

Computer equipment has been updated at headquarters. A laser printer which will print 11" X 17" has been added along with memory and/or computer upgrades for the office manager, administrative assistant and the executive director. New software has also been purchased to improve compatibility with the publications' editors and others sending us material on disk or via e-mail.

In addition to the normal activity created by the JEA Advisers Institute, Headquarters also hosted the summer retreat for JEA voting board members, Aug. 8-10. The meeting was productive and also provided an opportunity for the board to meet Dr. Todd Simon, the new director of the A. Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications at K-State. Part of the action of the board at that meeting was to approve a partnership with the School of Journalism that was proposed by Simon. Under the agreement JEA will provide half of a graduate assistant's salary to do research to find potential donors to help fund an Institute for Scholastic Journalism at K-State. When operational, the Institute would include a full time faculty member to do research on scholastic journalism and an outreach component which would be involved in workshops and recruitment.

Headquarters has handled the normal requests for materials and information. Those requests seem to be on the rise as e-mail, voice mail and the fax machine make us more accessible. Most requests continue to be answered or filled within 24 hours.

Applications for Yearbook Adviser of the Year are up by nearly 30 percent over last year. Twenty-four applicants submitted material which will be evaluated during the St. Louis convention. Winners will be announced officially at the Seattle convention.

Monday, Nov. 17 not only marks the day after the St. Louis convention, it also is moving day for the JEA Fairchild Hall office. Because of an increased demand for space by university offices, JEA will move to the second floor of Fairchild in a small suite of offices. Because of the move, Linda Duncan and Connie Fulkerson's phones, the Fairchild fax ma-

chine and their e-mails may be inaccessible for a portion of the day. Please be patient as we make that move.

The Law and Ethics sequence of the Advisers Institute will be hosted by the Newseum July 9-12, 1998. The sequence will be a partnership with the Student Press Law Center, the Newseum and JEA. Cost of the workshop will be \$200 plus room and board. All proceeds from the workshop will go to the Student Press Law Center.

Since April the executive director has traveled to St. Louis and Washington, D.C., on convention business. She was a speaker and distributed JEA literature at Kansas Scholastic Press Association workshops in Manhattan, Pittsburg and Garden City, as well as other state or national meetings in Kansas City, St. Louis, Joplin, Chicago, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma. She has also served as the JEA liaison for the College Media Advisers and attended the Council of Presidents meeting in Chicago.

The winner of the Channel One STAND print advertising contest was one of the entries which came from the JEA Phoenix Write-off. The STAND contest was used as for basis of the Advertising contest.

In keeping with JEA's mission of journalism education, we have employed students to assist with JEA activities, and we encourage others who are not being paid to become involved. Four K-State students are attending the St. Louis convention. Scott Ladd and Sarah Kallenbach have worked for JEA for the last two years. Nathan Brothers and Travis Lenkner, both freshmen, attended the JEA/NSPA conventions as high school students and are paying their own way to St. Louis. All four students will present sessions, judge Write-offs, run the Idea Forum, help with the bookstore and other general convention activities. Sarah, who is our intern, designed the directory, the convention program and a number of brochures.

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