

Getting fired up for the D.C. Convention? Need a little information to get back up to speed, before all heck breaks loose next week? Well, you're in luck, because here is your

Quick Look at JEA

November 16, 2003

President Ann Visser, MJE

Traveling to San Antonio to participate in the October Texas Association of Journalism Educators' Fall Fiesta was a fall highlight. What an incredible event, which culminated with a performance of "Freedom Sings." I was also involved with the two Iowa High School Press Association Fall Conferences, one held at the University of Iowa and one held at Drake University, which drew around 500 students journalists and their advisers. Scholastic journalism is truly alive and well for these educators and their students!

I also had my first opportunity to do a year-out visit for a convention when I joined Linda Puntney and NSPA's Tom Rolnicki and Ann Akers in Atlanta. We met with local representatives to begin planning for that event.

It has been my goal to be as accessible and as communication-oriented as possible. I have responded to many individuals who have had listserv concerns, and hopefully, I have been able to be of help.

Vice President Jack Kennedy, MJE

Happenings

As part of the new Executive Board outreach initiative, I traveled to the Indiana High School Press Assn. state conference in October and gave the keynote (on story telling). You can check out highlights on their website, if you are bored. JEA paid my airfare. I was in Boise two weeks later to keynote at the Idaho state conference. That concluded my "I" state tour.

The Colorado High School Press Assn. held two conferences, one for newspaper and broadcast and one for yearbook, with a total of over 1,300 attendees. Coloradans are fired up over the possibility of hosting JEA in the near future!

Secretary Susan Tantillo, MJE

Happenings

I presented my usual sessions at press days for the Illinois State High School Press Association (ISHSPA) at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and Kettle Moraine Press Association (KEMPA) at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. At ISHSPA I was able to present an adviser session introducing and promoting the standards book Candace Perkins Bowen and I pulled together with the help of JEA members. The title is "Applying NCTE/IRA Standards in Classroom Journalism Projects: Activities and Scenarios." As you may recall, it is published jointly by NCTE and JEA and sold both organizations. JEA receives the proceeds from its sale.

Since Portland, I have judged for Nebraska, NSPA, KEMPA, and Ohio and taught at Kent State's ASNE Institute.

Past President H. L. Hall, MJE

Happenings:

As part of the new Executive Board outreach initiative, I traveled to the Colorado High School Press Assn. state conference in November and gave the keynote (on 12 ways to succeed), and I led an advisers' roundtable discussion where I promoted JEA. JEA paid my airfare. In October, I gave the keynote at the Southeast Missouri Scholastic Press Association, and I also spoke to

advisers about JEA. During the summer I taught workshops in Ohio, Alabama, Indiana, Kansas, Tennessee and Virginia, and at each one I had the opportunity to promote JEA to the advisers in attendance.

In October I became the executive director of the Middle Tennessee Scholastic Press Association at Vanderbilt University. One of my duties will be to organize a journalism day, March 9. I suggested to the executive committee that since the JEA board had passed a motion that we would have regional workshops in the Tennessee area prior to the 2006 fall convention that March 9 be the start of those. The committee agreed, so some of them will be speaking at Vanderbilt, March 9. There will be an advisers' session where we can promote JEA. The main reason I accepted the position was because I know we need a strong local group by 2006 to help JEA with the Nashville convention.

I am also still in contact with The College Board about the development of an AP Journalism class. I found out in September that Lee Jones is no longer the director of the AP program. I am now communicating with Walt Jiminez, the new director. He told me that he was "very much open" to an AP Journalism class, but to expand their current offerings they are going to have to look for partners to help develop and fund any new offerings. I suggested he contact ASNE, and he said he would. I don't know if he has or not, but I will try to find out prior to the D.C. convention.

On Nov. 12-13, I will attend the meeting of the Youth Services Committee of the Newspaper Association of America. I will be talking to them about ways NAA and JEA might work together to strengthen scholastic journalism.

Multi-Cultural Commission Chair Norma Kneese, MJE

The Multicultural Commission has been working on attending Unity 2004 in Washington, D.C. next August. We have submitted a session proposal, but are waiting on its acceptance. Steve O'Donoghue has been a tremendous help in trying to get us to Unity. The Commission also plans on passing out a survey during registration at the Washington, D.C. convention. This survey hopes to garner data for the Commission on minority advisers. We hope to enlist any adviser willing to help with this survey during registration. There will only be one Outreach participant at the Washington, D.C. convention. The other participant could not make it due to family obligations, but will be going to San Diego next spring.

Press Rights Commission Chair John Bowen, MJE

The press rights commission has had a busy year in responding to censorship questions and issues on the listserv and in person. We are actively following two potentially major court decisions on censorship issues. We also coordinated the Let Freedom Ring award and results will be announced in DC. The plan is to continue our outreach and availability. We will also update and modernize our website this year, and seek another project at our commission meeting in DC.

Development/Curriculum Commission Chair Lori Oglesbee, CJE

New Curriculum Guides

Photography is in great shape. Yearbook is on its way. Newspaper needs some help.

Broadcasting needs a writer. I want these to be ready for the spring convention so that teachers can start planning for next school year.

Lesson Plan of the Week

Thanks to the convenience of the Listserv, the lesson plan has been a huge hit. The most popular attachment was the 9/11 front pages with 132 requests. The least popular was caption writing

with nine requests. Go figure. As this program develops we need well-thought out, easy-to-use lesson plans.

Style Quiz of the Week

If the feedback responses are any indication, the style quizzes are also popular. I have given these out in many places with lukewarm enthusiasm. I think the key here has been the accompanying keys. Furthermore, some rather interesting discussions have arisen over correct use. The small doses and weekly reminders seem to help.

Mentoring

Well, if you read the Listserv, you already know what Chad Rummel thinks of the mentoring program. I must say it's been rather disappointing. We need a better way to hook up new teachers. I need to develop a form to send to all new advisers and obtain a list of new advisers from the office. However, I do not wish to stop the program, just fine tune it. Big things may be coming, read on.

Big News

Jostens invited me up to Minneapolis this month for a think tank. I never thought corporate offices would be so interested in what a teacher had to say. One of their big pushes is to help retain new teachers. I suggested they pay for a first-year membership in JEA and become part of the mentoring program. They loved the idea. Then I found out they have as many as 1,000 first-year teachers each year. Then I thought I was crazy. Nonetheless, I think it's such a great idea.

Certification Commission Chair Carla Harris, MJE

When The Certification Commission learned last spring that many JEA-certified advisers have failed to renew when their certificates expired after five years, the commission members decided to contact all those whose certificates have expired since 1997. We discovered many phone numbers, e-mail and home addresses were no longer valid and many were no longer teaching at their recorded school. We reported changes to Sharon Tally at JEA Headquarters. Of those we reached, we learned the majority had either left teaching or were no longer teaching journalism. A few simply had forgotten to respond to renewal notices. Since then I have approved 21 renewal applications.

This fall I have been contacting recently certified advisers to learn what motivated them to work toward certification, how they felt about having earned CJE status and what, if anything, their administration has done to acknowledge their achievement. Some of the resulting quotes will be used in the next Certification Directory.

Since the Portland convention, I have read and approved 29 applications for CJE or MJE status and have approved three MJE completed projects. Others are pending. I presented a certification workshop at Northwest Scholastic Press's Fall Press Day.

Junior High/Middle School Commission Chair Mary Patrick, CJE

The commission has been busy editing and advertising its new mail-in contest, which is open to middle schools and junior highs only. The three categories currently offered in the contest are feature writing, photography, and front page newspaper design, yearbook inside pages design, or literary magazine page design. Currently entries are being collected and they will be judged in Washington with certificates of superior, excellent, or commendable mailed to entrants.

In addition, to notifying them about the mail-in contest, I mailed 265 letters to JEA, NSPA, and Washington area middle schools and junior highs inviting them to the convention, advertising our middle school strand of sessions, and reminding of write-offs. Twelve are signed up for middle school write-offs, our largest number thus far.

Besides more complete publicity of our mail-in contests, our next commission project will be establishing a newspaper and yearbook exchange list among JEA members. We started publicizing this on List-serve, then went off list, and finally hope to have even more interest in the exchange at convention.

Listserv Liaison Candace Perkins Bowen, MJE

The JEA e-mail distribution lists — JEAHELP for all members and JEATALK for board, directors, and committee and commission chairs — have been busy as usual. As of Nov. 6, JEAHELP had 694 participants and JEATALK had 74. On JEAHELP, the usual range of topics — from technical problems with software and digital cameras to legal issues about FERPA and prior review to personal challenges of new moms returning to the classroom — were all posted since school started this fall. The monthly message from the Listserv Liaison and occasional urgent messages in between have kept things on an even keel. The archives, too, allow members to access discussion topics from the past, and the periodic “threat” to purge to list of those whose dues are not current always generates a rush of renewals.

Scholastic Press Association Directors Liaison Julie E. Dodd, MJE

Happenings:

The SPA directors will be meeting for a roundtable at the DC convention. Karen Flowers will share the results of a study that she and Beth Dickey conducted about SPA directors. They also are publishing the results. Dick Johns will discuss obtaining 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS and how that benefited Quill and Scroll.

As head of the Scholastic Journalism Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, I helped the division establish the “Innovative Outreach to Scholastic Journalism” competition. Colleges were encouraged to submit descriptions of successful outreach programs and provide enough discussion (including budget) that their programs could become models for other colleges. The first winners were recognized at the AEJMC convention in Kansas City last summer.

First Place - “Summer Journalism Academies,” Vanessa Shelton – University of Iowa

Second Place - “Columbia Scholastic Press Association 2003 Awards Special Edition,” Laura Schaub – University of Oklahoma

Third Place - “A Journalism Partnership,” Mead Loop – Ithaca College

Honorable Mentions:

“The Fort Worth Journalism Project: A Local Partnership to Support High School Journalism,”

Tommy Thomason – Fort Worth Journalism Project

“NewsOhio: A Broadcast Program for High School and Junior High/Middle School Students,”

Candace Perkins Bowen and Evonne Whitmore - Kent State University

“Minnesota Media Collaborative,” Lynda McDonnell – Minnesota Media Collaborative

The top three programs are posted on the Scholastic Journalism Division Web site –

<http://grove.ufl.edu/~sjdaejmc>

JEA Bookstore, Connie Fulkerson

D.C. convention delegates will have the opportunity to attend sessions and book signings by a number of featured speakers. Copies of their books will be available in the bookstore. Except for the keynote speakers, the book signings will be in the State room, where the bookstore will be located. Not everyone has agreed to a book signing at this writing. Look in the convention update for a schedule. I would like to thank Carol Lange for helping to coordinate this.

Thursday

Bob Shieffer - This Just In (after Thursday keynote in International Foyer)

Friday

E. Ethelbert Miller - "Fathering Words: The Making of an African-American Writer" and "Whispers, Secrets and Promises" (session 11 a.m.; book signing noon)
Jamin Raskin - "We the Students: Supreme Court Decisions for and About Students" (session 11 a.m. Friday)
Sari Horwitz and Michael Ruane - "Sniper: The Hunt for the Killers Who Terrorized the Nation" (session 2:30 p.m.)
Bill Strauss - "Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation" and "Sixteen Scandals: 20 Years of Sex, Lies and Other Habits of Our Great Leaders" (he'll talk at the Thursday keynote and also at 2:30 p.m. Friday session)
Charles Haynes - "The First Amendment in Schools" (10 a.m. Friday)

Saturday

Jon Franklin - "Writing for Story: Craft Secrets of Dramatic Nonfiction by a Two-Time Pulitzer Prize Winner" (sessions 9 and 11 a.m.; book signing 10 a.m.)
Linda Monk - "The Words We Live By: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution" (session 10 a.m.; book signing 11 a.m.)
Tom Rosenstiel - "Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect" (session 10 a.m.)
Warren Brown - "Black and White and Red All Over: The Story of a Friendship" (session 2:30 p.m.)

One highlight of the year was the publication of the second edition of "The Radical Write" by Bobby Hawthorne. More than 900 books were shipped the week we received them. The JEA Bookstore is one of only three distributors of this book. Hawthorne tells me he is working on an online teacher's guide for the book. It will be posted on the Jostens Web site when it's done. They're aiming for early 2004.

Check out the book tables at the convention for books that will be added to the 2004 catalog. Work for the new catalog has begun, and it should be published in January.

Northwest Regional Director Steve Matson, MJE

During the summer and fall the local committee and I have been making plans for the spring 2005 Seattle convention, "The Experience Journalism Project." If things work out, we might include some new offerings to the typical convention experience, such as:

- . more sessions on music and arts journalism
- . more sessions on multimedia and electronic journalism
- . a Saturday night party for 2,000 of your closest friends at the Experience Music Project rock and roll museum

We also hope to take advantage of the corporate presence of Adobe Systems in Seattle in some way.

Locally, WJEA held its summer board retreat, its summer conferences, and its "Journalism Day" conference in September.

Southwest Regional Director Ellen Kersey, MJE

Happenings - SCJEA has a new president: Mark Child, yearbook adviser at Downey High School

I participated in summer workshops at Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Long Beach, as well as an Oct. workshop at Cal State Northridge.

North Central Regional Director Bob Bair, MJE

HAPPENINGS

In October I emailed all Region 3 state directors, encouraging them to attend the convention in Washington. I explained the meetings they should attend and the other requirements for receiving the JEA stipend. I also highlighted the members in Region 3 who will be honored in D.C.

In November I again contacted state directors with a list of those advisers in their respective states whose memberships have expired. I encouraged them to contact those individuals personally and explained that I also would be contacting these people to encourage them to renew their JEA memberships.

Finally, I am contacting state high school press associations to offer JEA's resources. I am explaining to them that the JEA president and secretary are in Region 3 and that the JEA vice president formerly taught in Iowa. All of these individuals and other JEA personnel may be available to speak and/or present sessions at their state conventions.

Southeast Regional Director Brenda W. Gorsuch, MJE

Journalism advisers in the Southeast Region are pleased that the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Journalism Teacher of the Year, Beth Fitts from Mississippi, is from our region. Fitts has agreed to give the keynote speech at the Southern Interscholastic Press Association convention banquet in at the University of South Carolina in March.

Arizona State Director Carmen Wendt, CJE

Happenings: The state had Advisor Fests in Phoenix and in Tucson. The fall convention was Nov. 3 at Arizona State University with over 700 students and advisors attending.

Awards/honors: Arizona started a Hall of Fame and inducted 13 initial members. They are journalism advisers and friends of scholastic journalism who were instrumental in the founding of the state organization and workshop (Arizona Interscholastic Press Association). The recognition banquet what held in coordination with Arizona Newspaper Association where they recognized their Hall of Fame inductees and the recipient of the John Peter and Catherine Zenger Award for Freedom of the Press and The People's Right to Know.

Upcoming events: The state's spring convention will be in March at Pima College in Tucson. The AIPA Summer Workshop will be in June at Northern Arizona University. Carmen Wendt and Cathie Parks are the new workshop directors.

Rants and raves: Those I've talked to want to encourage JEA to use convention centers and not put any restrictions on the numbers attending the conventions; they are too valuable.

Colorado State Director Mark Newton, MJE

I spent three days this summer at the Colorado High School Press Association's Advisers Workshop teaching advisers and advocating JEA.

I also was named the CHSPA scholarship coordinator, which will dovetail nicely with my JEA student journalist of the year responsibilities.

I was not able to attend the state fall newspaper conference or the fall yearbook conference, but JEA vice president Jack Kennedy filled in wonderfully for me. It's nice having a member of the JEA executive committee in your state (and on the "right" side of the mountains!).

And, I echo Jack's statement that Coloradans are fired up over the possibility of hosting JEA in

the near future. CHSPA executive director Jeff Browne and I have begun discussions on hosting a convention - we're just waiting for the word.

We had 980 at J-Day. Pulitzer Prize-winning photogs George Kochaniec Jr. and Todd Heisler from The Rocky Mountain News served as keynote speakers. CBS 4 Assistant News Director Tim Wieland, our featured speaker for broadcast journalists, helped kick off our broadcast/video program. Thirty breakout sessions. Two special hands-on sessions: Web journalism and video production. Grand Junction wins 5A sweepstakes.

Connecticut State Director Mary Ellen Minichiello

Happenings: I attended with my 30 students a First Amendment Forum at the University of Connecticut Social Work School in September. Students debated issues relating to the First Amendment. My students are collaborating with a rival high school on a sports supplement for the big Thanksgiving day game. They're sharing information and stories, and both papers will have identical articles done by both staff, but the lay out is up to the individual staff members. Should be interesting. Nice way to prevent the ugly side of rivalry and to promote the positive side of communication.

Not much else to say-conferences and competition are null at this point. Wish I could make it to Washington, but I didn't have enough students.

Florida State Director Anne G. Whitt, MJE

Change in venue

FSPA will hold its annual convention at the Hyatt Regency in Tampa, April 19-21. This marks a change in time and place. The convention had been held at Hyatt Orlando since 1976 in May and was signed through 2007. The Orlando hotel was suddenly closed this fall, so the board chose the new location in Tampa. As the earlier dates conflicted with Mother's Day and AP testing, the board had tried for several years to find a different date.

Beginning in January, Florida will offer Honors credit to some JI-JIV students.

Idaho State Director Steve Beck

Idaho Journalism Adviser's Association (IJAA) held its annual fall conference October 26-28 in Boise, Idaho. Jack Kennedy, JEA vice president, was keynote speaker for the event. Write-off competitions were held and judged by college journalism students. Nearly 600 students attended, and the conference featured workshop sessions for newspaper, yearbook, photography, and video staffs.

Indiana State Director Nancy Hastings, MJE

More than 700 students and advisers met at Franklin College in October for the Indiana High School Press Association State Conference. Besides being inspired by a dynamic-and lyrical keynote speaker, students and advisers attended sessions stressing skills that emphasized Truth, Courage, Integrity and Freedom, the four cornerstones of the organization. Lisa Morris from Connorsville High School earned the Ella Segenberger Journalism Teacher of Year honor and Indiana University's Linda Johnson won the Louis Ingelhart Friends of Journalism Award, given to a non-adviser who supports scholastic journalism activities in the state. Students competed in on sight write-off competitions and were recognized for individual achievements in yearbook, newspaper, broadcast and web publications through the Harvey Awards.

Louisiana State Director Dawayna Sanders

Scholastic Journalism in Louisiana is on the rebound! The state association held a well attended, successful fall conference in October and is planning a summer workshop after a five-year hiatus.

The association has almost 50 schools who are now members, and we are working on getting the JEA membership fee incorporated into the state fee. The state has several contests each year, which include categories for newspaper, yearbook, photography, and broadcasting. Louisiana had several schools who received grants from ASNE and NAA, and have had several advisers attend the ASNE summer institutes. The state organization has increased its support of advisers and programs across the state, and has agreed to underwrite the expense of sending the state association president to the national JEA convention each year. Although the turnover rate for advisers is still high, there is more communication and support available to them than in the past several years. We have a state association website (www.lspa.net) and an association list-serve with over 50 individual members. As a result of some of these steps, we are all more aware of the common problems we may face as advisers, and are able to offer support and guidance to each other.

Missouri State Director Gavin Brady, CJE

The Missouri Interscholastic Press Association has been doing well. Our Summer Media Workshop held at the University of Missouri—Columbia was a complete success. Highlights included a keynote speech by the Kansas City Star reporter Yvette Walker and a visit by DJNF Teacher of the Year Don Bott. Bott also taught a Journalism Methods class for advisers who wanted to become certified. We are also looking forward to next year's SMW. We will be including a new section on CD/DVD authoring and the methods course will continue to be offered for advisers.

Also, a lot has been happening in Sponsors of School Publications, a group composed of scholastic journalism advisers from the St. Louis area. Recently we've gotten a web site up and running (www.ssp-stl.org). The site offers information on our 2004 spring convention and offers lesson materials available for download. This year's convention was held at Saint Louis University and was a huge success. 744 student journalists from around the area came to SLUH to hone their craft.

Montana State Director Linda Ballew

Montana has reported a slight decrease in membership because of retirements and resignations of several journalism advisers. The good news is that two members have been welcomed into the fold and both of them will be at the San Diego convention this spring.

Beth Britton is currently teaching journalism and advising the CMR Stampede in Great Falls, MT, as well as ninth grade English. She graduated from Barnard College in New York with a degree in English. She has taught both middle and high school English in Whitefish, MT, Japan and Glenrock, WY. However, she briefly left teaching to pursue a Masters Degree in Journalism from the University of Montana. She then worked as a reporter for a newspaper in North Bend, Oregon, "The Bulletin" for two and half years. Moving back to Great Falls, she worked as reporter and editor for the "Great Falls Tribune" for two years. Returning to teaching this year she said, "I missed being in the classroom. It has given me a chance to work with kids along with an opportunity to do some freelance writing as well as other writing projects. This is the best of both worlds."

Flathead High School in Kalispell, MT has welcomed Ted Burnham to teach and advise both the high school's yearbook and newspaper, "The Arrow". Having graduated from the University of Oregon as a journalism major, he worked for five years at weekly and daily papers. He indicated that his interest in teaching happened when he joined the Peace Corp and served as a teacher of English in Mozambique. While he was there, he decided that he could teach kids, and so he returned from the Peace Corp to attend Southern Oregon University and earned a Masters Degree in English.

He said, "My first year is going fine. It's going all right and I have found that newspaper is easier than yearbook because of the large deadlines involved with yearbook."

Nebraska State Director Marsha Kalkowski, MJE

Nebraska had a great summer workshop with incredible speakers from around the country. Thanks to Scott Winter, Lori Oglesbee, Margaret Sorrows, Duane Roberson, Rod Howe, Jeff Bowen and Spencer Tirey. I assisted (very loosely defined) Scott with the Design track and learned so much - more than the students in the session. The camp directors are Susan Baird and Cathy Davis. We're proud to be able to offer this calibre of camp for a great price to our students.

At the Nebraska High School Press Association Fall Convention we renewed or initiated 12 JEA members. The convention was held at the University of Nebraska and nearly 500 students were in attendance.

We are getting entries now for our JEA Nebraska contest and are excited to give Nebraska students an extra avenue for recognition. Special thanks to regional director Bob Bair for all his assistance!

North Carolina State Director Monica Hall, CJE

HAPPENINGS

N.C. Scholastic Media Association continues to expand courses offered for secondary journalism teachers and advisers.

Spring 2004 Online Course:

JOMC 103

Mass Communication Law in the Secondary School

Three hours of graduate credit

Registration (www.fridaycenter.unc.edu/cco) began Oct. 11; late registration (with \$20 late fee) ends Jan. 13.

From The Scoop, newsletter for N.C. Scholastic Media Association: The course will explore ethical decision making models and court cases governing secondary school journalism. The course will cover the history of media law, with emphasis on three Supreme Court cases (Tinker v. Des Moines, Bethel v. Fraser and Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier) and their influence on high school journalism. Participants will explore online resources, write case briefs and share discoveries with online classmates. Fellowships covering tuition and books will be awarded to the first three N.C. advisers who register for the course.

Summer 2004 Courses:

JOMC 191, Teaching Broadcast Journalism in the Secondary School,
June 28?July 9, UNC-Chapel Hill

JOMC 105, Desktop Publishing and Design in the Secondary School,
July 12-22, UNC-Chapel Hill

JOMC 102, Journalism Education in the Secondary School,
Online course spanning both summer sessions

Fall 2004 Online Course:

JOMC 104

Mass Communication Writing and Editing in the Secondary School

UPCOMING EVENTS

N.C. Scholastic Media Institute will be June 14-17 in Chapel Hill. Students and advisers may participate in newspaper, yearbook, photography, literary magazine, desktop publishing and TV news sequences

Ohio State Director Georgia Dunn

The fall began with Great Lake Interscholastic Press Association's 51st annual workshop. Highlighting the event was keynote speaker Rick Bragg. The state is thrilled that Kent State University's ASNE summer workshop will return in 2004. Congratulations to Candace Perkins Bowen and her staff.

Lakota West adviser Wayne Dunn was named a Distinguished Adviser by the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund. He will receive his award at the Washington convention. Also at the convention the Lakota East Spark and the Lakewood Times are both finalists in NSPA's Pacemaker Award for Newsmagazines. Jenni Dallas, who graduated from Lakota West last year, will receive the first place News Story Award from the Los Angeles Times Story of the Year contest.

The Journalism Association of Ohio Schools will hold its annual workshop and awards convocation at Ohio State on December 12 and the Northeast Ohio Scholastic Press Association will end the year with its Press Day on April 21. Throw in the JOY contest with an entry date deadline of receipt by February 17, and that's it for Ohio.

Oklahoma State Director Joe Nations

Due to school budgets, schools unfortunately continue to look at journalism programs as an area to cut. The worst of these cuts appears to be over. Newspaper programs are the hardest hit. This is also due to the fact that many schools are going to video and eliminating their newspaper. Journalism teachers from around the state attended the OIPA Fall conference on the campus of OU October 27. Yearbook awards were announced.

South Dakota Regional Director John Rothenberger

At the South Dakota High School Press Convention in October, the advisers again discussed the South Dakota High School Activity Association's academic, age and attendance eligibility requirement for fine arts and athletic activities. Briefly, students of publications published as course work must meet the same eligibility requirements even though the teacher/adviser may not request that ineligible students not take the journalism course. (The area of concern in regards to eligibility is academics. If a student has failed several courses during the previous semester, he/she becomes ineligible.) So, if the ineligible student's work is published as required for his grades, he affects the entire publication's eligibility. Those publication issues may not be submitted for any contest, state, regional, or national.

I was wondering what other state activity associations' policies are in regard to this eligibility issue.

Texas State Director Neva Hand CJE

Fall Fiesta, the Texas Association of Journalism Educator's convention, welcomed 747 students and advisers to the new Adam's Mark Hotel in San Antonio in October. Freedom Sings from the First Amendment Center provided entertainment with a lesson on the final morning of the three-day event. Among those on hand to present sessions and judge contests were JEA executive director Linda Puntney and president Ann Visser. During the convention, TAJE recognized three veteran Texas teachers as Trailblazer award winners: Susan Komandosky, Belinda Goodsell and Bill Kopf, and awarded a Friend of Journalism to the Laredo Morning Times.

TAJE regional directors also organized and staged seven one-day workshops throughout Texas during the first weeks of the fall semester. Each one provided free training and instruction in various areas to journalism teachers and publications advisers.

A new TAJE-sponsored mentoring program for journalism teachers is currently assigning mentors to teachers who request one. The idea is that experienced advisers may be able to reduce the stress level of their younger counterparts with pointers and advice not available on their own campuses.

Utah State Director Chris Sloan, MJE

I don't ever remember a time when Utah had a lot of JEA members, which I think is unfortunate.

Last year I arranged for the teachers who participated in the adviser strand of our fall state convention to receive a half-year trial membership to JEA through an agreement with the University of Utah. The university agreed to underwrite the cost of the adviser workshop and donate the \$20 fee the advisers pay for the workshop to the JEA, and in turn that \$20 was used as a half-year trial membership for these advisers. Then any adviser who renewed their JEA membership would get the \$20 fee to the clinic waived again for this year's Writers and Photographers Clinic, which will be held on November 21, 2003. Incidentally, last year's attendance of approximately 800 was the highest in recent memory.

I thought that people would see firsthand all that JEA had to offer and then would all rush to renew their memberships. Well, it hasn't turned out that way. Early numbers show that only a couple of advisers have re-upped. I rationalize that there are still a couple of weeks before this year's conference, so I'm anticipating a few more JEA members in the coming weeks. At this year's adviser workshop I'm going to poll advisers on their attitude toward JEA and its services. By analyzing the reasons why people join JEA (or not) I might be better able to try to serve their needs in the future.

Virginia State Director Fran Sharer, MJE

Hurricane Isabel forced us to cancel our fall Publications Advisers Workshop at the Scripps Howard School at Hampton University. However, this year the Virginia High School League Publications Workshop was a great success in October at Virginia Commonwealth University. (It was cancelled last year because of the sniper shootings.) Many of us on the state board presented sessions at the workshop. Obviously, a great deal of our energy right now is devoted to the D.C. convention, and Carol Lange and I are going on to NCTE in San Francisco to present our all day session on Intensive Journalistic Writing on November 24.