

Semi-Annual Report

April 18, 2010 • Compiled by Bob Bair, vice president

**Jack Kennedy, MJE, President**

As JEA prepares for a changeover in executive directors (in just three months!), it's a good time to get a debate going about where the organization wants to go in the future. To that end, I and the rest of the elected officers have proposed a number of ideas in the form of motions to amend bylaws and generally begin streamlining the organization. These motions will be debated by the entire board in Portland. Some may pass. Some may not. But I hope the debate will be vigorous and healthy for us all.

The twin challenges of increased efforts to censor the high school press (from school leaders, primarily) and ever-tightening funding for education (due to the Great Recession, primarily) are looking a bit overwhelming right now. JEA will need to continue the vigorous fight against unlawful and unethical restrictions on student (and faculty) speech, and needs to increase its efforts in helping journalism programs of all types simply survive in trying economic times. Neither of these are easy challenges to overcome.

I am personally and professionally quite concerned about the quality of reporting, writing and leadership I am seeing in scholastic newspapers, particularly, and am worried that we are not devoting enough energy and resources to this area.

Tough times call for tough people, and I am glad to be part of JEA, an organization made up of fine educators fighting every day for student rights and student excellence.

**Bob Bair, MJE, Vice President**

Despite the difficult driving conditions, I was able to attend the Iowa High School Press Association's Winter Thaw in Des Moines in February. David Schwartz and the IHSPA board offered another fantastic job despite the regrettably low turnout.

Also in February I attended the executive board meeting in Kansas City where we developed the proposed budget and discussed ways to streamline the organization.

In preparing this report, I have tried to acquire color mug shots of all who are reporting. The effort wasn't completely successful.

**Linda Drake, CJE, Secretary**

Let me begin by saying that my admiration for Susan Hathaway Tantillo has only grown more by leaps and bounds since trying to replace her as JEA Secretary and Awards Chair. Her organizational skills are phenomenal and her boundless enthusiasm is impossible to match.

Since my first initiation to JEA board meetings, I have been trying to find a routine that will work for me. I must say that the help and support that I have received from Linda Puntney, JEA board and staff members and JEA members has been wonderful. They have been very patient as I try to work my JEA duties into my hectic teaching schedule.

One of the greatest honors for me was my first Awards Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. when I had the opportunity to work with a well-staffed committee dedicated to honoring some of our outstanding advisers across the nation. The committee members' professionalism made my job very easy during our selection process.

It was an honor to announce the following advisers as recipients of awards to be presented in Portland:

Teacher Inspiration Award

- Janet Levin, John Hersey High School, Arlington Heights, Ill.

Rising Star Awards

- Mary Dempsey, CJE, O'Fallon Township High School, O'Fallon, Ill.
- Justin Daigle, Brighton High School, Brighton, Colo.
- Christopher Greenslate, La Costa Canyon High School, Carlsbad, Calif.
- Erinn Harris, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, Va.
- Rachel McCarver, CJE, Columbus North High School, Columbus, Ind.

Since my election, I have been busy doing workshops and conferences in North Carolina, Florida, Colorado and several in Kansas. As I have in the past, I do my best to promote the many advantages of being a member of JEA, an organization that has been such an inspiration to me during my teaching.

**Ann Visser, MJE, Past President**

- Attended the Iowa High School Press Association Winter Thaw in February.
- Attended the Executive Board Meeting in Kansas City in February.
- Attended the year-out meeting in Anaheim, Calif., in March. Plans are already rolling for the April 2011 convention.

**Mark Newton, MJE, Certification Commission Chair**

We completed the following projects:

- Created a second version of the "new" CJE exam and study guide.
- Continued to develop "Get Certified" convention sessions around key areas of journalism education, all aligned with the teaching standards and assessed in the exams.
- Offered both the CJE and MJE exams this winter in Wisconsin and South Carolina and plan to offer both exams this spring in Indiana and Florida. JEA will pay for someone to administer the exam(s) if any association can secure five or more approved Certification candidates.

The following projects are in progress:

- Update the MJE exam, application, project guide/rubric and study guides.
- Use social media to market and educate about the Certification process and exam content

Our next action items are:

- Aligning Certification initiatives with other JEA commissions, committees, initiatives.
- Identify more coursework/professional development that will help members complete the three required courses for CJE-Option A (news writing/reporting, media law and advising student media).
- Explore the development of Web-based professional development in journalism education.
- Explore using JEA Certification for state-approved certification in journalism.

We are exploring the following and welcome all comments:

- Post on the JEA website the fact that graduate credit from Kansas State can be earned for acquiring MJE status (project, exam, etc.).
- Post on the JEA website a database of all MJE projects.

Information items:

- Our current active files show the following: Portland CJEs, 20; MJEs, 4. Current CJEs, 374; MJEs, 123. Total granted certification: 1,065, including 185 who became MJEs.

**Anita Marie Wertz, CJE, Junior High/Middle School Commission Chair**

Happenings

Changes have been made to the Write Offs at convention. Junior High/Middle School students may enter all categories, and have their entries judged/evaluated as junior high/middle school if they wish. Due to new submission rules, photography will not be included in this new format. Junior high/middle school entries will be judged as a group, not individual categories. The Junior High/Middle School Commission is pleased to pilot this change.

Awards & Honors

Entries for the Aspiring Young Journalist Award on being evaluated, and the winner and runners up will be announced during the awards ceremony in Sunday in Portland.

#### **Norma Kneese, MJE, Multicultural Commission Chair**

Zena Whitworth and Artise Gill were the Outreach Academy Chairs for the fall convention 2009 in Washington, D.C.

Portland 2010 Convention Outreach Academy Chair is Kate Moore. She was in attendance at the Washington, D.C. Outreach Academy. She had several new ideas and suggestions for the Portland convention.

Sharon Martin has been appointed the 2010 Kansas City Convention Outreach Academy Chair.

The Teacher Cadre of Stan Zoller, Linda Shockley and Steve O'Donoghue are working with the local Outreach Academy chairs in helping them prepare the curriculum and program of each academy.

An Outreach Academy brochure created by Steve O'Donoghue and Stan Zoller was produced for the Washington, D.C. convention and is in use again at the Portland convention.

Linda Shockley and Carol Lange created a survey that polls previous Outreach Academy participants. This poll should help identify the Academy's effectiveness with its participants. It should also help guide future Multicultural Commission and Outreach Academy agendas.

There were no applications for the Diversity Award. Members at the board meeting and the Multicultural Commission meeting were encouraged to submit names for the Diversity Award. The due date for applications is October 15.

At the Washington D.C. convention, several workshops were presented that addressed diversity in the classroom as well as in the media. Several featured speakers touched on issues of diversity.

Steve O'Donoghue proposed a change to the Outreach program in its design and operation. This proposal will be discussed in Portland.

#### **John Bowen, MJE, Scholastic Press Rights Commission Chair**

Beginning with our report to The Poynter Institute in January, members of the Scholastic Press Rights Commission set out to add services to JEA members, their student staffs and their schools.

Our programs springing from that retreat include:

- A Student Press Partners Program called 45words composed of eight students chosen from around the country who will work to assist the commission on press rights issues by approaching them from a student point of view. Sarah Nichols and Matt Schott are the main coordinators for this group. The students will also design methods to alert students around the country about censorship issues and incidents using social and multimedia approaches. You can follow the group on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=268257200265&ref=ss> and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/45words>.
- Updated materials added to the Commission's blog, <http://www.jeasprc.org>, including links to teaching resources; Lifelines, a compilation (mainly the work of HL Hall) of legal and ethical terms often needed in the study of law and ethics, and a listing of key scholastic journalism cases. Concerns about ethical use of social and new media represent another menu for discussion on the blogsite.
- An innovative approach to implementing JEA's Adviser Assistance Program called Panic Button where one can click on the panic button and go to an interactive map at <http://new.jmc.kent.edu/csj/JEAcontactmaps/states.html> that lists JEA officials and others who can offer initial support to those facing censorship issues or needing assistance about legal and ethical issues. The map was created by Kent State University graduate assistant Stacy Stevenson.
- Implementation of a booth at Portland and future conventions where Press Partners and commission members will distribute information on legal issues and conduct interviews with convention attendees about various aspects of the scholastic press rights and responsibilities.

In addition, commission member Randy Swikle hosted a Protocol For Scholastic Journalism conference in February sponsored by the Illinois Press Association and the McCormick Foundation to take the first steps in developing a protocol, or process, to head off censorship. The protocol will outline an ethics-based process all parties involved in school media decision making can turn to that still would protect students' rights and responsibilities. Attendees included students and adults representing administrative groups, commercial media, school boards, legal interests and advisers.

As usual, commission members have been involved in states across the country where freedom of expression, student and/or adviser, has been questioned.

Additional information on the Press Partners program, 45words:

Each of the students wrote essays that accompanied their applications, sharing their thoughts about the First Amendment. Some of them have experienced censorship, while others have enjoyed all of the freedoms guaranteed to the professional media. See their individual statements below:??

Morgan Brewster (The Mustang Express, Multi-media Editor) of Sunrise Mountain High School in Peoria, Ariz. says the First Amendment means freedom, "Freedom to express myself anyway that I want, whether by speaking out in one of my classes, to writing about controversial topics in my articles, to practicing a religion which I believe in."??

Christopher Kim (The Tiger Times and Kaleidoscope, Copy Editor) Seoul International School, Seoul, Korea believes the public has a right to the truth though some truths are ugly. "The First Amendment guarantees our right to talk about these ugly truths; the court is there to expose those who misuse these rights and whereas there have been cases of libel and otherwise unethical practices, there are far more cases of important truths being revealed for all to know. The risk is one we have to take."

Zachary Knudson (The Crier, Managing Editor) of St. Francis High School, St. Francis, Minn. wants to continue to fight to keep student press rights for students in his own community and to broaden the reach into other communities in the state and nation. "It is important that we have students fighting with a passion to keep and inform other students of our rights to free press," he said, "So that we will not be shushed or written off as unqualified to report because of age."

Meghan Morris (The Spoke, Assistant Managing Editor) of Conestoga High School in Berwyn, Pa. quoted John Milton. "'Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties.' This liberty is the essence of the First Amendment, and the core of journalism. Through freedom of the press and speech, journalists have the power to better our democracy, an influence that few Americans ever have, and an influence that too few high school students fully understand. As a Scholastic Press Student Partner, I will raise awareness of the First Amendment and its relevance to both high school journalists and high school students in general."

Zoe Newcomb (The Broadview, News Editor) from Convent of the Sacred Heart High School in San Francisco, Calif., has experienced censorship first-hand and said, "The job of a journalist is inform people about the events around them that are important, a job which cannot be done without the rights given to us by the First Amendment. I think a lot people take for granted the gift of freedom that we are given — so many people around the world do not have that luxury. I want to be involved in what goes on around me, and not just be a bystander."

Ted Noelker (Central Focus, Managing Editor of Multimedia) of Francis Howell Central High School, St. Charles, Mo. wants to be a part of any effort against censorship, having seen the effects of censorship on others and within his own publication. "Censorship is an action which I believe occurs all too often unjustly. I know the hard work that goes into making a high school newspaper, and I know of the frustrations of having that work carelessly tossed aside under inadequate reasoning. I wish to offer my support in resisting acts of censorship in high school publications."

Sara Rogers (The Hi-Lite, Cover Story Editor) of Carmel High School, Carmel, Ind. said the freedom of the press allows her to thoroughly fulfill her duties as a journalist every day without hesitation. "While I don't seek out controversial topics, it is important to me that when those issues do arise I am able to cover them. As a journalist, it is my job to educate and inform students and other receivers of our 5,000-circulation publication. I've always considered my voice and pen my two most important tools. I am grateful every day to have the opportunity to speak my mind freely. Seeing the oppression and censorship of other countries really solidifies my drive to preserve the rights and freedoms stated in the United States Constitution."

Joseph Weber (The Kirkwood Call, Features Writer) of Kirkwood High School in Kirkwood, Mo. said, "From the moment I wrote my first story for The Kirkwood Call, I knew where I belonged. Going out of my way to get an interview, staying up until 2:00 a.m. to finish a story, it has become my passion. Where most high school students have no idea what they are going to do when they leave school, I already see my future: A journalist. But the journalism world is changing more drastically than ever. It is up to my generation to lead it in the right direction. Some may see the newspaper as a dying industry, but I see an opportunity to reshape how everyone receives, uses and appreciates the world of journalism."

Individual reports:

Jane Blystone:

During the SPRC retreat at Poynter Institute in January, I was able to participate long distance one day via Skype. The great technologies we have available today permit those from far locations

to participate in many JEA opportunities such as the SPRC.

It was my great pleasure to participate as a member of the SPRC panel discussion at the DC convention. We had the great opportunity to interact with some great students about problems of censorship at their schools. During the winter, I was able to work on some of the legal terms that visitors now see at the [www.jeasprc.org](http://www.jeasprc.org) site and I posted several blogs during this time. In addition, I was able to work with a local teacher, in Pennsylvania, on a censorship issue that we now believe to be resolved.

Candace Perkins Bowen:

I participated in the McCormick Foundation Conference, "Protocol for Free and Responsible Student News Media," Feb. 8 and 9, Cantigny Park, Wheaton, Ill. The concept of commission member Randy Swikle and funded by McCormick, the two days brought together journalism teachers/advisers, students, administrators (admittedly not as many of those as hoped), lawyers and representatives of other stakeholders. Commission members in attendance included Swikle, John Bowen, Mark Goodman and Tom Gayda. My part, early on the first day, was to set up "The Value of Student News Media," and, not surprisingly, this emphasized media that operate as forums of student expression are most valuable and teach students the most far-reaching lessons.

At the JEA/NSPA convention in Washington, D.C., in November, on behalf of the Center for Scholastic Journalism at Kent State, the presenting sponsor, I gave the adviser Courage in Student Journalism Award to Barb Thill of Stevenson High School in suburban Chicago. For a video about Thill's battle and that of the students who won the other part of the award -- Seth Zweifler and Henry Rome, the current and immediate past editors-in-chief of Pennsylvania's Conestoga High School newspaper -- see the video on YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBRXGGnWAqY>

In other activities since November, I continue to help those from the Ohio Scholastic Media Association and former fellows from the ASNE High School Journalism Institute with legal (and ethical) issues, including such things as appropriate reaction to demands of prior review (five instances), questions about copyright (four instances) and policy development (three instances). I help the articulation between the Scholastic Press Rights Commission and the Certification Commission, on which I also serve, by overseeing the test questions concerning law and ethics on the CJE and MJE tests.

HL Hall:

I posted several commission blogs, and have been working with 11 students in the Kent State University's Media Management class trying to convince them students should make content decisions and that they should be wary of prior review and/or prior restraint.

I also contributed to the definitions of terms in the Lifeline part of the blog.

Sarah Nichols and Matt Schott:

Updated information on future goals for the Student Partners:

1. We would like to create an Editor's Emergency Kit, for when students find themselves in a crisis. Contents of this would be up to the students. Sarah and Matt will share ideas.
2. A collection of quotable 1st Amendment quotes to be tweeted or put on Facebook.
3. Urge the students to consider creating a blog that would chronicle other students stories/encounters with censorship.
4. RTNDF Five Freedoms contest has announced its finalists. We'd like someone to get in touch with each school and ask for permission to put them on the Facebook site.
5. Each time a major group announces awards (CSPA, NSPA, Quill & Scroll), we'd like it to be someone's job to get in touch with those papers and talk up 45 words.
6. We'd like to have a friend drive on Facebook and reach 1,000 friends.
7. We'd like to have a follower drive on Twitter. Students could set the goal on this one.

John Tagliareni:

I spoke at the CSPA Spring Conference in New York City this year, from March 17-19. I presented sessions on dealing with Controversial and Sensitive Issues and Student Press Rights, and promoted JEA, SPRC programs. I provided contact information and resources, and I will continue to help advisers and students.

I will again be involved as an officer at the Garden State Scholastic Press Association Spring Conference at Rutgers University, May 7, 2010. Since that conference will focus on technology, I won't have a session, but I will be introduced as a JEA SPRC member, and I will network with other advisers at the conference to offer my assistance and provide resource information.

Earlier this year, I spoke at the JEA Washington, DC conference, and I also spoke at the fall sessions for the CSPA in November and the Fall GSSPA conference in October, 2009. In all cases, I have presented sessions which cover student press rights issues as well as presented other sessions.

I have answered many questions from various students and advisers at conferences where I made presentations on student press rights, censorship issues or legislation.

I have been active in representing the many of the goals of the commission. As a past president of the Garden State Scholastic Press Association and officer, I work in NJ to present workshops to students and advisers, and that platform helps with networking and promoting a high profile with the press.

There have been numerous times when advisers have called me in school or at home or have e-mailed me to ask for advice related to censorship issues. I have attempted to help them as much as possible, and I have offered to speak to their principal or central administrators if they would like. I have also referred them to JEA and the Student Press Law Center for further assistance.

#### **Linda Barrington MJE and Julie Dodd MJE JEA Mentoring Committee – co-chairs**

Membership

Julie Dodd and Linda Barrington (co-chairs), and committee members Bill Flechtner, Nick Ferentinos, Peggy Gregory, Norma Kneese and Judy Robinson

Happenings

- A spring edition of JEA Mentoring Matters will be posted online and with copies for distribution at the JEA/NSPA convention in Portland. The newsletter highlights the activities and people involved in the mentoring program.
- The Mentoring blog (<http://jeamentoring.org>) launched at the JEA/NSPA convention last November in Washington, D.C., and has been a useful tool not only for publicizing the ongoing work of the program, but as a way for mentors to share ideas and happenings with the rest of the group. The mentoring program also uses a listserv for internal communication.
- Training for the next group of mentors is scheduled for July 7-9 at JEA Headquarters at Kansas State University. Although not all applications are in yet, the following new mentors and states are confirmed: Casey Nichols (California), Nancy Hartley (Oregon), Janice Hatfield and Kathleen Zwiebel (Pennsylvania), Marilyn Chapman (South Carolina), Pat Graff (New Mexico).
- Two mentors are retiring from the program at the end of this school year: Rick Brown and Carla Harris. We thank them for their valuable mentoring and contributions to the program and scholastic journalism.
- At the Portland convention Mentor Forum, mentors will begin to develop a Mentor Handbook.
- More than 20 mentors will be attending the Portland convention and presenting sessions for new advisers. Mentors and mentees will have a common meeting time during the convention to discuss the program from both viewpoints.
- Nick Ferentinos attended the 2010 New Teacher Symposium, learning much about e-mentoring for long-distance situations and using technology in mentoring, both of which are of great value to our growing program.
- The JEA Mentoring Program continues to receive funding from Yellow Chair Foundation. We are asked to submit an annual report to the Foundation each October to explain the activities and progress of the program.
- The Mentoring Program also receives funding for mentor stipends from the Newspaper Association of America Foundation. Those stipends support mentors who work with minority mentees or mentor in a school with a minority majority student population.

For the Board

Thank you for supporting the JEA Mentoring Program, which will begin its fourth year this summer. The program to date has trained 30 mentors and has worked with more than 120 mentees in 11 states.

#### **Julie Dodd, MJE, Scholastic Press Associations Liaison**

SPA Roundtables held at each JEA/NSPA convention:

Washington, D.C. - The focus of this roundtable was on how organizations can implement strategic planning and/or incorporate new programming. Speakers were Frank LoMonte (SPLC), Cheryl Pell (MIPA) and Sandy Woodcock (NAAF). Recommendations included:

- Make 3- to 5-year business plans.
- Build in evaluation criteria.

- Review progress annually (or more often) and make adjustments along the way.
- If a goal or plan no longer is crucial to the organization's operation, make a change in the goal.
- All members of the planning team need to work toward success but be willing to acknowledge potential problems.

Portland, Oregon – The roundtable will have two main discussion topics. Several of those involved in regional and national scholastic media initiatives will discuss those to better connect their efforts with state organizations. We'll also have brief reports from the states attending in regards to how scholastic journalism is being affected in their states by national issues – Race to the Top, economic concerns, etc.

Information shared at SPA Roundtables and/or through the SPA e-newsletters:

RTNDF - Carol Knopes

Teaching materials and broadcast examples available on <http://hsbj.org>

JEA Mentoring Program – Linda Barrington

JEA commitment – and Yellow Chair funding – through 2013. Additional funding from NAAF and state-level funders. Thirteen states in program: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin.

#### **Candace Perkins Bowen, MJE, LISTSERV Liaison**

As of March 13, 2010, the JEAHELP list, open to all members, had 1,046, as it continues to inch up in members, 21 more than last fall and 133 ahead of last spring. The JEATALK list, for officers, commission and committee chairs and regional and state directors has 84, exactly the same as last spring.

LISTSERV trivia:

- Sadly, the term "prior review," once rarely used in posts, was in 142 since the November JEA/NSPA convention. One strand, ironically, dealt with Supreme Court Justice Kennedy allegedly asking for that in a student newspaper article about a speech of his. (Later that was corrected when it appeared someone in his office was the control freak.) However, when Stevenson High School in suburban Chicago again used prior review of its student newspaper (the previous time in spring 2009, causing adviser and JEA member Barb Thill to step down), the topic showed up in 132 posts.
- One hundred seventy posts contained the word "Portland" from mid-November until March 13, clearly showing members gearing up for the spring convention.
- Wayne Brasler was up from the fall report, 160 compared to 122, and Bob Greenman pleased the list as he returned to posting New York Times articles of interest, everything from ones related to J.D. Salinger to Facebook settings everyone should know. In addition, he sent the list information about free trials of the Visual Thesaurus, a plus for those who love words.
- No one posted anything on Christmas Day, nor was there a "Happy New Year" post from anyone Jan. 1, 2010.
- The number of gmail accounts continues to grow. At this time, we have 168, up from 142 using that service as of last November. Although I should have kept track, anecdotally I can say many who are using this now are doing so to avoid their school e-mail.
- Technology crises are also a mainstay of JEAHELP, and the word "InDesign" appeared 138 times since the last convention, "Photoshop" 98 times, and "Dreamweaver" seven, "Wordpress" 41 and "Joomla" not at all.
- The most common reason someone gets booted from the list is undeliverable messages, often because of a full mailbox. After a certain number of those, the server deletes the address automatically. (If that happens to you, simply send a message to [cbowen@kent.edu](mailto:cbowen@kent.edu), and we'll get you back on....If you are still a member in good standing.) One member was removed because her e-mail apparently was being used by spammers to send....Viagra ads, which appeared twice on JEAHELP....
- I monitor the lists daily, offering on- and off-list advice related to postings, deleting those members who can't figure out how to do it themselves, changing addresses for those who switched ISPs, checking to see if those who ask to join are really JEA members and adding those Pam Boller at JEA Headquarters sends me. When someone asks to be on the list and isn't a member, Pam also e-mails his or her a nice invitation to join.

My periodic reminders of various functional and ethical matters – such as how to REALLY get off the list, the rationale for not promoting anything with financial gain, how to use the archives, etc. – are ongoing. The list "froze" several times since the fall convention because postings exceeded the 50-message limit, a fail-safe to keep a spam-crazy computer from flooding the list.

#### **Linda Barrington, MJE, NCTE Liaison**

Membership

All membership of JEA are automatically members of the NCTE Assembly for Advisors of Student Publications. Our group is the largest assembly in NCTE.

Happenings

The NCTE yearly convention will be held in Orlando Florida, Nov. 18-23. For that convention I have applied to host a number of events:

- Concurrent session called "Multimedia Blogging: Strategies for creating a community within the classroom and beyond" will be presented by Julie Dodd and Judy Robinson.
- All-day Workshop: Pat Graff and I will present "Persuasive Writing and Teaching Tolerance: NonFiction Writing Techniques That Inspire Students To Lead Literate Lives."
- The booth includes information for advisers of literary magazines, yearbooks, and broadcast media. I also include information from ASNE about their summer program for advisers.

In addition, I follow the National Standards discussion and report periodically on the JEA listserv about what is happening and explain how members might share their opinions when appropriate.

#### **Aaron Manfull, MJE**

##### **Digital Media Committee Chair**

JEADigitalMedia.org completed its first full year in existence. The site has continued to grow, as has the support for the flood of schools moving online. We have started tracking data so we can get a gauge of how we are doing with this. I will put some links at the end of this article for you to see all of the data if you wish as I will only be touching upon a bit of it.

I have decided to compare six month periods of the site {from March 13-Sept. 13 and Sept. 14-March 12} each year that I do this. They are even six month periods and will allow us to get an annual report together in time for each convention.

In the first year, we had more than 140 articles published, 15,910 visits, and nearly 34,000 pageviews. Including myself, there are 26 members of the committee. Ten committee members have posted at least one article to the site. Overall, we have had 26 individuals post something to the site including three high school students.

Traffic to the site is still mainly coming from those coming to us directly and those finding us on Google. Traffic from JEA.org slid from 6.0% to 5.4% since DC and it moved into fourth place in sites that bring us traffic behind a Wiki that a teacher setup for her class.

We also have a presence on Twitter and Facebook (links below). Our goal is to get three post per week. We are pretty close to that. Aside from keeping up with the site, we have worked to increase digital media sessions offered at national conventions.

Those are the two main charges we have focused on.

Personally, I work to answer 15-20 emails a week from people wanting anything from their school added to the site to technical support with their Web site. I do what I can to answer each of their questions promptly or give them a resource to turn to if I don't know the answer.

I will not be in attendance in Portland due to the arrival of our second child (possibly that weekend). Wendy Wallace has agreed to step in and run the Digital Media Committee Meeting. I'm assuming they will agree to stay the course with what we have been doing, lining up speakers and providing content for JEADigitalMedia.org.

As always, if there is anything anyone would like to see on the site, please email us at [info@jeadigitalmedia.org](mailto:info@jeadigitalmedia.org).

Here are the links I said I would make available:

List of individuals who have published articles: <http://bit.ly/c0XBYK>

Visitor data for JEADigitalMedia.org: <http://bit.ly/9fEoUf>

#### **Steve Matson, MJE, Northwest Region 1 Director**

Membership

In the Northwest Region we welcome the new state director for Idaho, Courtney Morgan.

Overall, the Northwest Region has suffered a decline in advisers who have active, voting memberships in the national JEA organization. JEA headquarters reports that, as of March 18, there are 158 members in JEA from our six-state region. The JEA membership numbers reported below also derive from the March 18 report from JEA headquarters. But this figure does not include new or renewing memberships that we expect to result from the national convention held in Portland this April. It has been some time since a national convention has been held in the Northwest, and we hope for a significant "bounce" in membership to occur not only from the Portland convention this year, but also from the spring national convention of 2012 to be held in Seattle.

#### Happenings

Unfortunately, the number of schools in the Northwest region that are reducing or eliminating journalism from their curriculum continues to grow during the nation's economic crisis. I myself will no longer be employed at Charles Wright Academy at the end of this year, and the future of the journalism programs I started 22 years ago at the school are in doubt. The Academy Times student newspaper has lost its print budget and the journalism class has been reduced from a class that met every day to one that will meet twice per week. The management class I volunteered to teach to editors without compensation has been eliminated. An English teacher with no prior journalism experience will replace me. An art teacher with no prior journalism experience will advise the yearbook staff. I will certainly recommend these teachers to JEA, and I strongly hope they become members. In my case—and I suspect in similar cases across the land—layoffs are a convenient cover for administrators who want to remove journalism teachers who defend the student press and scholastic journalism. We all pick the hill we are willing to die on. I have no regrets about the fantastic 22 years I have spent teaching and advising student journalists and being involved with marvelous colleagues in JEA. I don't know what the future holds for me, but I hope to complete my current term as JEA's director for the Northwest region.

#### Awards

Hearty congratulations to the following advisers from the Northwest who have received national recognition!

- Annie Stone, who advises KLA-TA-WA, a Yearbook Pacemaker finalist
- Linda Ballew, who advises Roundup, a Yearbook Pacemaker finalist
- As announced earlier this year, Alaska adviser Gretchen Wemhoff-Stoltz received a JEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

#### From Idaho State Director Courtney Morgan

##### Membership

Idaho has 28 members in JEA.

##### Happenings

Idaho's state journalism association, formerly Idaho Journalism Advisers Association (IJAA), has changed its name to Idaho Student Journalism Association (ISJA). The name change reflects a focus on students and their essential role in the association. In addition, the venue for the state convention was moved from a Boise convention center to Idaho State University, in Pocatello. The college campus allows for students to compete by using state of the art computers and industry-standard software as well as the opportunity to experience the flavor of a college campus. ISJA also has a new website: <http://www.idahostudentjournalism.com>.

The Idaho state convention featured keynote speaker Dr. David Adler, Professor of Political Science at ISU where he teaches courses on the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Presidency. A prize-winning writer and teacher, Adler has lectured nationally and internationally on the Constitution and the Presidency.

##### Awards

In honor of Idaho Adviser Ron Hayes, a scholarship has been established in his memory. This scholarship will be awarded to five students from ISJA member schools.

#### From Montana State Director Linda Ballew

##### Membership

Montana has had a relatively stable interest in membership. Because of new members participating in the Montana Journalism Education Association conference at the state teachers' convention in Billings, MT, in October of 2009, we have had stable numbers as retirement comes for seasoned advisers. So too, interest has increased because of the spring MJEA newspaper, yearbook and photography critiques and contests.

Montana currently has 11 members in JEA.

##### Happenings

The deadline for the MJEA 2010 high school newspaper, yearbook and photography competitions was April 2.

Shauna Kerr from Billings West High School coordinated the yearbook competition. The newspaper competition was overseen by Assistant Professor of Journalism Lee Banville from the University of Montana's School of Journalism, in conjunction with members of the Montana Newspaper Association. The newspaper student journalist chosen as MJEA's High School Journalist of the Year will receive a scholarship from the Montana Newspaper Association to the college of his or her choice and will be a guest along with his parents and adviser at the MNA's annual awards banquet.

Journalism teachers will again participate in the 2010 Educators' Conference Oct. 21-22, 2010, in Helena, MT. We will be allowed to join other curricular groups at the convention and will be supported by MEA-MFT during this startup period for our group. If advisers, teachers or professional journalists are interested in presenting a workshop for the 2010 convention, the time to plan is now. Interested parties may submit an application on the MEA-MFT web site: <http://www.mea-mft.org>. Shauna Kerr from Billings West High School will continue as the conference chair.

At the fall 2009 convention, evening news anchor for KULR 8 News, Greg LaMotte, the keynote speaker, shared his experiences in professional journalism to a standing room only crowd during the Educator's Conference.

One final happening: The Pulitzer Prize Photography exhibit, "Capture the Moment," had been featured at the Montana Museum of Art and Culture and the Gallery of Visual Arts at the University of Montana. This field trip opportunity has given many Montana high school students a chance to experience this largest display of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs ever shown. So too, they have had the chance to tour the school of journalism attending classes and speaking with many of the journalism school's professors and guest lecturers.

##### Awards

Great Falls High School Iniwa editor-in-chief Mary Kopyy has been awarded as both JEA's Montana Journalist of the Year. So too, she has traveled to Washington D.C as the Montana representative to the Freedom Forum. She has received \$2,000 in scholarship monies. The scholarship money for the JEA Montana Journalist of the Year was graciously sponsored by Taylor Publishing, Yearbook Marketing Manager, Mike Taylor.

#### Oregon State Director Steve Carrigg

##### Membership

Oregon has 36 members in JEA.

##### Happenings

The local Portland committee is making final plans for the NSPA/JEA National High School Journalism convention that will be held at the Oregon Convention Center April 15-19. The co-chairs for this event are current OJEA President Erin Simonsen of Lakeridge High School and past OJEA President J.D. McIntire of Sandy High School.

Four retired teachers continue to provide mentoring to about one dozen newer teachers across the state of Oregon.

##### Awards

Two journalism students from Sandy High School swept the student Journalist of the Year awards last month. Spencer Adrian captured first place and will receive a \$1000 scholarship. Kelsey O'Connor took the runner-up position and will receive \$500. Both students are members of Sandy High School's newspaper where J.D. McIntire advises them.

Spring 2010 marks the end of the term for the current OJEA board. Nominations are open to replace the current board, which will be done by election in May.

#### Washington State Director Vince DeMiero

##### Membership

The Washington Journalism Education Association continues to attract new members and re-enlist former members, with current number of state members at about 120. I say about because we

recently had a surge of enrollment preceding our state conference. Historically, this is about the same or a little less than the number of members we have had, however we are continuing to work on ways to attract and retain even more. Washington currently has 74 members in JEA.

#### Happenings

Our WJEA State Conference was a huge success. Hundreds of students, advisers, volunteers and media professionals from throughout the state attended the annual day-long conference held this year at Mountlake Terrace High School. Highlights included a keynote presentation by KING-TV (Seattle's NBC affiliate) consumer affairs reporter Jesse Jones; 20+ seminars presented by media industry experts; 20+ write-off contests, many of which featured timely presentations by local newsmakers; 70+ judges from the Seattle-area media and a wonderful awards ceremony where we presented certificates, scholarships, ribbons and plaques. It truly was a wonderful celebration of scholastic media!

WJEA is very pleased to be participating in JEA's mentorship program. Executive Director Kathy Schrier is our mentor and she is mentoring two educators in the Seattle area who are new to advising – one at Cleveland High School and the other at West Seattle High School. Kathy attended the mentoring session in Kansas last summer in preparation for this year. In fact, after a 12-year absence from the curriculum, Cleveland High School will be reinstating its journalism program next fall!

On the student press rights front, Washington continues to be a hotbed of activity. Most notably, the Puyallup School District will be heading to court later this month to face a lawsuit from four students who claim that the district was negligent in supervising the student editors of the Emerald Ridge H.S. JagWire, which published the students' names (with their consent) in a story about oral sex. Ironically, the district's legal team is going to use as its defense the fact that at the time the JagWire was an "open forum" publication. However, last fall, the district enacted one of the most stringent prior review policies in the state despite the fact that Puyallup had never had prior review in its long, storied history of producing exemplary student publications. Several members of WJEA, including executive director Kathy Schrier and myself, have been called to serve as expert witnesses in support of open-forum publications.

WJEA's two summer workshops (advisers, Aug. 1-4; and students, Aug. 5-8) will welcome H.L. Hall as Expert in Residence. The camp is being promoted nationwide in hopes that H.L. fans will sign-up for a great time at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Wash.

#### Award & Honors

WJEA announced the following major awards at its state conference, including:

Adviser of the Year – Sandra Coyer, Puyallup H.S.

Journalist of the Year – Rebecca Harris, Puyallup H.S.

Lu Flannery Outstanding Journalist – Amelia Furlong, Mount Vernon H.S.

Experienced Adviser Scholarship – Sandra Coyer, Puyallup H.S.

Beginning Adviser Scholarship – Dean Busching, Brewster H.S.

#### For the Board

WJEA exceedingly pleased that JEA and NSPA have selected Seattle for the 2012 spring national convention. We are eagerly anticipating hosting this even once again. Also, we are seriously considering implementing JEA's adviser mentoring program in our state.

#### Wyoming State Director Dawn Knudsvig

##### Membership

Wyoming's state association consists of 17 schools. Wyoming currently has 6 members in JEA.

##### Happenings

Board members have been meeting regularly to plan for next year's fall conference. We have found that using Skype has greatly improved our ability to meet as a board on a more regular basis. The board is currently looking at possible presenters and judges to contact for the conference in October.

Sadly, Aaron Dalton of Evanston resigned his position as Vice-President. WHSAA Representative, Katherine Patrick of Torrington volunteered to take over the position. Secretary Polly Burkett has been contacting advisors over the e-mail about current issues and the conference information. Treasurer Greg Rohrer has applied for non-profit status. We have been approved on the state level and will be looking into federal fees and requirements. President Walter Farwell has been keeping the board organized as we look to our future and the fall convention.

#### Ellen Austin

##### Southwest Region 2 Director

Throughout the region this spring, the repeated and concerning note from Region 2 is about reductions in force and draconian budget cuts. Mandatory furloughs have occurred in Hawaii and California, for example. Several state directors mention their specific concerns that this brings to scholastic journalism, as schools often see journalism programs as an area where cuts can occur. The situations sound especially troubling in Nevada and Utah.

Needless to say, with budget shortfalls, another repeated concern circles around the financial burden of convention attendance in the current economy. Privately, this has led to suggestions from constituent members who wondered when webcasting of major sessions and speakers at a nominal cost will occur.

Ongoing positive initiatives continue to move forward in this region, notably in Arizona, Colorado, and California. Two exciting new initiatives – one in Hawaii for adviser online training, and a new workshop in Nevada called "RENOvation" will be presented in collaboration with University of Nevada (Reno) – these will happen in December and June 2010, respectively.

Southern California will offer "Newspapers2", a workshop run by Joleen Combs and Connie Krislock, which will occur at Cal State Long Beach in August.

Arizona's AIPA two day Summer Workshop has moved to the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication and will take place on July 16-17.

Colorado's CHSPA offers a workshop for both new and experienced advisers July 7-9 on the Colorado State University Campus.

Challenges to scholastic press freedom were on the uptick in this report. Enclosed are several anecdotes from state directors outlining current issues.

#### From Arizona State Director Carmen Wendt, CJE

##### Happenings

The state organization (AIPA) voted and passed constitutional changes at the Fall Convention. The major change was eliminate the Area Coordinators and have Members at Large instead. The ML's will, with other board members chair the standing committees: Communication for Growth & Membership: Jill Jones & Yvonne Johnson; Prior Review/1st Amendment Support: Shari Siwek; Contests: Kristy Roschke; Partnerships: Randi Turk; Education: Peggy Gregory & Carmen Wendt. The committees were formed in January and have started working.

This year the Spring Convention will be replaced by an adviser dinner. Details have not been finalized, but contest awards will be handed out at that time.

##### WORKSHOPS

The AIPA Summer Workshop has gone through some significant changes. It has moved to the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication for a two-day commuter workshop, July 16-17. This is the first time the Workshop has been at ASU and the first commuter workshop.

If all goes well, the hope is to expand to UA and NAU next summer. The Adviser AIPA/JEA Workshop will be held at the same time at ASU this summer. It, too, will be modified by with the advisers completely separated from the students.

##### Awards & Honors

The Arizona Student Journalist of the Year is Heajin Yu of Sandra Day O'Connor High School, Phoenix, AZ.

##### First Amendment Challenges and Related Concerns

The mentors and the AIPA Board are seeing a significant increase in prior review and censorship in the state. Also we are seeing some significant financial cuts that are threatening publication programs, newspapers particularly. Arizona is probably not any different than other states, but we are feeling it.

Censorship Issue at Thunderbird High School, Phoenix, AZ  
Written by Sheri Siwek, The Challenge Newspaper Adviser

Despite the Hazelwood decision which has taken away many student publications' rights the past few decades, students in Arizona are fighting for their First Amendment rights with the spirit of the

old west in Phoenix, Arizona.

Through their sheer persistence, passion, and determination, graduating senior Vaughn Hillyard, editor-in-chief, and junior Sophia Curran, business manager of The Challenge, Thunderbird High School's newspaper, these editors are the epitome of what is right with students in this country, and why democracy is in good hands for future American generations. Through every step of the way, Vaughn and Sophia went through the appropriate channels to fight for a story to be published in their paper. As the last paper of the year, a censored story was not the way these students wanted to end their senior and junior years.

During our last issue, the student journalists wanted to explore the district testing system called Performance Based Assessments. Through a staff reporter's research, it was found that many teachers were unhappy with the mandated district testing. After interviewing the principal through a press conference, in which he told me afterward "we need to dance around" this issue, questions were asked why the testing was the best form of assessment, along with questions of how much they cost, etc. The principal suggested that the reporter interview district officials to obtain more information about why the testing was so important, how it was nationally recognized, and how much they cost. After over a week, the reporter still received no response from the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. The reporter then decided to send an email to the district superintendent. The response was for the reporter to discuss the matter with the adviser and the principal. The principal instructed me the adviser, that he was unhappy with the story and that it should go away and no questions would be answered. In addition, he said he was very unhappy with the survey, and he cited the Hazelwood case that he was concerned that it would cause a "physical disruption" on campus and that it was teacher issue that did not belong in a school paper. He said the students should stop writing the story.

However, the students continued to write and finished the story, and met with the principal one last time to plead their case about why the story should run. The principal denied their request, and they were out of time and had to send the issue with the front page blank to print three days before graduation. Even after the fact that Vaughn was graduating, the students pursued the matter through a Level II hearing which was conducted with the students and the principal with the superintendent as the hearing officer. The students thought they were going into a meeting; however, it turned out to be a hearing without their knowledge. The superintendent ruled against the students saying the story was inaccurate and biased. The student reporters thought this was disingenuous because they tried to get all of the facts from the district, but the district would not comment on any part of the story or provide any information the students requested. Finally, the students attended a Level III hearing during the summer which an outside attorney hired by the district prevailed over the case, and he ruled in favor of the district.

In September, Vaughn and Sophia spoke at the district school board meeting pleading for the board members to forgo the attorney's recommendation and let the story run. Vaughn made this statement at the meeting (in reference to a quote from Walter Cronkite), "The following statement caught my attention he said, "It's always been my firm belief that the integrity of the news the American people get is critical to the functioning of their democracy...and that's why people like me always are harping about freedom of the press. Only a free press can protect the people from those who would prefer to do the public's business in the dark." This fall, I'll be attending the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, and it would be a shame if I simply walked away from the accusations made by Dr. Johnson that my newspaper's reporting is biased and inaccurate."

Neither Vaughn nor Sophia walked away. They immediately solicited the services of David Bodney, one of the top First Amendment attorneys in the country. David took on the case pro-bono. During the next couple of months, Vaughn and Sophia met with David many times to discuss the case and move it along. In the meantime, The Arizona Republican an article profiling Sophia and Vaughn's experience in dealing with censorship and another editorial in which they printed the original story. They wrote, "We don't get it." In January, both parties met to try and settle the case. The students standing behind their story, the district agreed to let the story run with just changing a few minor words. The survey stayed and Dr. Johnson and Matt Belden agreed to give written statements. The censored story was published Feb. 15, 2010.

This is a huge victory for student journalists at our school and in the district. The First Amendment is still alive and well because of students like Vaughn Hillyard and Sophia Curran. I am so proud of how these two editors stood up for their First Amendment rights in a very professional manner throughout the entire process and proudly nominate them for the Courage in Journalism Award.

Note: The superintendent has mandated that all principals implement prior review, and the principal refuses to participate in any press conferences.

**From Northern California Director Lynn McDaniel**  
**lmcDaniel@cebridge.net**

#### Membership

Based on memberships current on March 11, 2010, JEANC has 159 members.

#### Happenings

"Boldfaced Journalism" at San Francisco State on Feb. 27, hosted by the Center for Integration & Improvement of Journalism. The day included a session on legal issues from CNPA's Jim Ewert.

San Joaquin Valley Scholastic Press Association spring conference March 6 at CSU Fresno, which included on-the-spot contests for students, adviser roundtable. Participants included Ed Galdrikian and Steve O'Donoghue as well as former San Francisco Chronicle ombudsman and current high school mentor Dick Rogers and Joe Wirt, CNPA Foundation secretary-treasurer.

RENOVation hosted by JEANC at University of Nevada-Reno at the Reynolds School of Journalism:

June 27-July 1, cost is \$375 (housing included) with strands on all aspects of journalism but a focus toward visual storytelling, writing for multiple media forms, moving publications online

California Scholastic Press Association Journalism Workshop at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo:

July 18-30 (Application deadline: April 16)

August Adviser Workshop:

JEANC will sponsor workshops in the Bay Area and Central Valley to take place Aug. 7 or 14.

Information and registration will be available at [www.jeanc.org](http://www.jeanc.org).

One of the success stories in our area is the continued publication of Oaktown Teen Times (Beatrice Motamedi and Lisa Shafer, advisers). It's a newspaper done entirely outside of school with a staff of mostly urban at-risk kids on their own time. The advisers had a matching grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and JEANC donated \$500, helping them achieve the grant-matching goal for additional funding. These students are covering important topics and making a difference in their communities through this experience.

Creative Commons project among Esther Wojcicki, Paul Kandell, Ellen Austin, Michelle Balmeo and others. [Ellen - please feel free to share as much as you'd like]

JEANC would like JEA to consider offering its affiliate members (each state's organization) to host us on their secure server for e-commerce purposes. Smaller organizations at the state level cannot afford the estimated \$1200-1500 annually to offer credit card payment online for things like convention registration or other services. JEA has a large enough base with the JEA Bookstore, and enough affiliate members, to offer this as a benefit of membership. Our organization is willing to pay an increased annual membership fee to offset this expense. We respectfully ask JEA to consider this idea.

With the economy as it is and the high foreclosure rate in Northern California, student publications are struggling with ad sales, subscriptions and yearbook orders. We need to continue to share ideas and innovate in terms of generating revenue for our programs. A recent Sacramento Bee article featuring Jim Jordan (Del Campo), Casey Nichols and Sacramento-area high school journalists help raise awareness and generate interest in saving or protecting the traditional high school yearbook.

The state of education in California is horrendous and most districts have planned according to "worst case scenario" by issuing hundreds of RIF notices. We have not been notified of any journalism teachers/advisers in risk of layoff, but all schools are affected. A larger concern at this point is the possibility of program cuts and elimination of stipends at many NorCal schools. At this point, advisers are expecting salary reduction, increased adjunct duty and supervision requirements, program cuts, furlough days and freezing step and column on the salary scale.

With electives programs at risk, it is especially important for advisers to stay connected to their local and national journalism groups and to share their success stories. JEANC sends congratulatory letters to advisers and their principals for Pacemaker Finalist, Pacemaker, Crown Finalist and Crown Awards to help highlight the outstanding achievements in scholastic journalism.

Our JEANC annual mail-in contest was a success again this year. Many Northern California schools entered student work, and 163 newspaper and yearbook students received certificates for their efforts in 33 categories.

We are working on compiling winning contest entries from the JEANC Annual Contest to create a CD for sale as "Best of the NorCal Press" or something similar. We moved the contest to digital submission this year and have feedback to share if other states are considering this idea.

In other news, JEANC officer terms changed in January, with president Tracy Anne Sena beginning her two-year term. The board appointed Michelle Balmeo as membership coordinator and is making plans for some fall journalism J-days in addition to its ongoing initiatives. Our organization looks forward to Tracy's leadership and wants to acknowledge our Past President Sarah Nichols for all of her hard work and dedication to scholastic journalism.

#### Awards & Honors

##### NSPA Online Pacemaker Finalists:

The Feather Online, Fresno Christian H.S., Greg Stobbe, adviser  
The Saratoga Falcon, Saratoga H.S., Mike Tyler, adviser  
The Paly Voice, Palo Alto H.S., Paul Kandell, adviser

##### NSPA Digital Yearbook Pacemaker Finalists:

Wingspan, James C. Enochs H.S., Tamra McCarthy, adviser

##### NSPA Yearbook Pacemaker Finalists:

Titanium, Antelope H.S., Pete LeBlanc, adviser  
Tonitrus, Rocklin H.S., Casey Nichols, adviser  
Details, Whitney H.S., Sarah Nichols, adviser  
Eye, Evergreen Valley H.S., Jan Gliozzo, adviser  
The Valkyrie, Pleasant Valley H.S., Cindy Hopkins, adviser  
Decambian, Del Campo H.S., Jim Jordan, adviser  
Wingspan, James C. Enochs H.S., Tamra McCarthy, adviser  
Shield, Thomas Downey H.S., Heather Jacquemin, adviser  
Rampages, Casa Roble H.S., Dan Austin, adviser

##### CSPA Crown Online Finalists:

El Estoque Online, Monta Vista High School, Michelle Balmeo, adviser  
Winged Post & Talon, The Harker Upper School, Chris Darren, adviser  
Berkeley High Jacket, Berkeley H.S. Dharini Rasiah, adviser  
The Feather Online Fresno Christian H.S., Greg Stobbe, adviser  
The Paly Voice, Palo Alto H.S., Paul Kandell, adviser

##### CSPA Crown Online Newspaper:

El Estoque, Monta Vista H.S., Michelle Balmeo, adviser  
The Gazette, Granite Bay H.S., Karl Grubaugh, adviser  
The Saratoga Falcon, Saratoga H.S., Mike Tyler, adviser  
The Titan Times, Antelope H.S., Pete LeBlanc, adviser  
The Winged Post, The Harker Upper School, Chris Darren, adviser  
Verde, Palo Alto H.S., Paul Kandell, adviser

##### CSPA Crown Online Yearbook:

Details, Whitney H.S., Sarah Nichols, adviser  
Rampages, Casa Roble H.S., Dan Austin, adviser  
Titanium, Antelope H.S., Pete LeBlanc, adviser  
Wingspan, James C. Enochs H.S., Tamra McCarthy, adviser

##### JEANC Anetta Garcin Scholarship (Nor Cal Journalist of the Year):

- First Place: Ina Herlihy, Convent of the Sacred Heart High School
- Second Place: Samved Sangameswara Monta Vista High School
- Third Place: Nicolette Gmoser-Daskalakis, Davis Senior High School

##### California Journalist of the Year:

Ina Herlihy, Convent of the Sacred Heart High School, San Francisco (Tracy Anne Sena, adviser)

##### JEA-SPRC Student Partners:

Zoe Newcomb, Convent of the Sacred Heart High School, San Francisco (Tracy Anne Sena, adviser) was selected as one of eight students for Student Partners, a group formed in January by the Scholastic Press Rights Commission (specifically, Sarah Nichols of Whitney High School and Matthew Schott from St. Louis). The student group serves to spread First Amendment awareness, help students battling censorship issues, utilize social media to create a wider community of student journalists and promote responsible student journalism.

##### Mentors:

Rick Brown (Colfax) will be finishing his two-year commitment as a mentor and leaving the program. Casey Nichols (Rocklin) is the new Northern California mentor replacing him. Sarah Nichols worked with Julie Dodd and Linda Barrington to find a replacement and plan for training, etc.

##### First Amendment Challenges and Related Concerns

Despite the California Ed Code 48907 and last year's Adviser Protection Act, schools in our area are still experiencing pressure from administrators and threats of censorship. Several advisers in the area (Ellen Austin, Sarah Nichols, Tracy Anne Sena) have offered support for advisers in need and have connected them to the SPLC, John Bowen of the JEA-SPRC or Jim Ewert of CNPA.

On a positive note, Senator Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) proposed legislation clarifying ed code to include charter schools (SB438). Paul Kandell was able to attend the January committee hearing in support and Sarah Nichols submitted an official letter of support from JEANC. The bill moved through the senate easily and is on its way to protect charter school students specifically with the same rights as students in a traditional public school.

#### **From Southern California Director Mitch Ziegler**

##### Membership

111 members in southern California

##### Happenings

Newspapers2, a workshop run by Joleen Combs and Connie Krislock, will occur at Cal State Long Beach in August: [http://web.mac.com/amara\\_media/Newspapers2/Home.html](http://web.mac.com/amara_media/Newspapers2/Home.html)

##### First Amendment Challenges and Related Concerns

Despite California law, school administrators continues to censor newspapers in southern California. A recent incident occurred at Jordan High School in Los Angeles, where the administration is trying to censor an issue the since admin thinks it makes the school look bad before accreditation. The adviser, Lacey Buidosik, posted about this on the listserv. Her problem is that her students do not have the resources to fight—not the SPLC and other organizations, but they do not have the cognitive resources. Her population is among the most underprivileged in Los Angeles County, and it is particularly easy for administrators to stomp on the rights of these students.

Fortunately legislation in Sacramento is moving forward to provide student media in charter schools the same protection as public schools. This legislation was prompted by the attempt of the principal at the Orange County School of the Arts to censor the student newspaper, advised by Connie Krislock. In the long run this incident will aid students and advisers. A similar incident occurred a couple of years ago at Amino High School, another charter school.

#### **From Colorado State Director Kristi Rathbun**

##### Membership

State membership is up to approximately 144; the state organization is working to boost the number of dual CHSPA/JEA memberships. Membership forms are going out to schools this month with places for schools to join both JEA and CHSPA. Schools can join as they enter sweepstakes and other contests as well.

##### Happenings

Spring is contest time in Colorado. Among the offerings for student journalists: Colorado High School Sports Photojournalism contest, Colorado Press Women contest, Maestro and Photo contests, Governor's Press Conference, "Body Worlds" exhibit/press conference at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Additionally, Administrator and Teacher of the year applications are



due at the end of March.

CHSPA offers a workshop for both new and experienced advisers July 7-9 on the Colorado State University Campus.

Colorado is facing a huge budget shortfall that is affecting many districts drastically. The effects on workshops and staffing at schools will be seen more clearly this summer and fall. Some immediate results are being seen in the elimination or decrease in stipends for advisers as well as reduced or eliminated budgets/funding for publications.

CHSPA is also continuing to work with school districts whose publications policies contradict or do not align with the state's Student Freedom of Expression law. Additionally, discussions are underway regarding establishing legal protection for publications advisers in tandem with the student law.

#### Awards & Honors

Scholarships have been awarded to two Colorado student journalists. Marcela Palefsky of Montrose High School was awarded the Dorothy Greer Scholarship as the top journalist in the state. Heidi Gruber of Hotchkiss High School was awarded the Eric Benson Scholarship for both her journalistic skills and financial need.

Two advisers will be awarded the Colorado Medal of Merit May 8 at the Dorothy Greer Scholarship Gala. Dianne Gum (Centennial, CO) and Katy Gray (Craig, CO) have been instrumental in the mentoring program throughout the state, and have been fixtures in student journalism in Colorado.

Two Colorado yearbooks have received special recognition from JEA/NSPA. The Prowl yearbook from Powell Middle School in Littleton, and the Eagle Eye View from Sierra Middle School in Parker each earned this honor.

#### From Hawaii State Director Karin Swanson

##### Membership

Active members (per JEA membership directory): 11

##### Happenings

The Hawaii Publishers Association will hold the annual High School Newspaper Contest this spring. Deadline for submissions is March 26. The awards luncheon will be April 28.

I have been working with regional director Ellen Austin and local contacts on a workshop for December 2010. Northern California Advisers Paul Kandell and Tracy Sena have agreed to conduct a mini-workshop to enable advisers to construct news websites for their schools. The dates are still in flux, but we're tentatively looking at Dec. 17-20, 2010.

This residential workshop would target advisers in rural districts and neighbor islands, bring them to Honolulu, and give them instruction in constructing and maintaining a website. We are working on hosting the advisers at Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama campus. Kamehameha is a residential and boarding school whose trust, Bishop Estate, has as its mission education of native Hawaiian peoples. Kamehameha journalism adviser Lionel Barona has received a commitment from the campus principal to support the workshop with classroom, computer, and dormitory facilities.

This initiative has received support from the national JEA. We are also looking for funding from Honolulu private schools and a high school journalism fund not affiliated with JEA.

Thanks to "Furlough Fridays," Hawaii public schools gained the dubious distinction this year of having the fewest instructional days in the country. With a state economy based largely on the tourism industry, tax revenues have fallen.

##### Awards & Honors

2009 NSPA Broadcast awards:

Waianae High School's Searider Productions garnered two second place rankings and four honorable mentions for broadcast stories. Searider Productions was a Pacemaker finalist.

#### From Nevada State Director Susan Thornton

##### Happenings

2010-2011 CCSD District wide Journalism/Publications Staff Development

Career and Technical Education day at College of Southern Nevada, April 9, 2010

After many attempts, finally Clark County School District, (fifth largest) is working with advisors to create a district wide staff development pull out for Journalism/Publications advisors.

Nevada, like so many other states is looking at a state budget shortfall for the upcoming school year. Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons has informed state educators that he is cutting the state education budget by 6.9 percent, equaling \$166 million. While each school district will address the budget cuts in different ways, the cuts will affect the continuation of student programs, employees and new technologies. Clark County School District is looking at RIF (reduction of force) and reassignment of 550 to 1000 employees including, support staff, teachers and administrators.

##### First Amendment Challenges and Related Concerns

A northern Nevada high school teacher named the school district superintendent, her high school principal and the Churchill County High School journalism advisor as defendants after an article alleged that the teacher failed to submit voice tapes by all eligible students seeking to audition for the all-state Honors Choir program. According to the AP, the teacher's union tried unsuccessfully to block the article's publication in the school paper.

##### Awards & Honors

- Nevada JOY is Clarke Knight, Green Valley High School
- 33rd annual Las Vegas Review-Journal High School Journalism Award winners:  
Best newspaper in standard format: The InvestiGator, led by co-editors Olivia Scott and Jennifer Watson  
Best newspaper in reduced format: The Crusader Chronicle of Faith Lutheran High School, under editor Olivia Makinson
- R-Jeneration scholarships: Caitlyn Belcher, Foothill HS; John Callahan, Arbor View HS

#### From New Mexico State Director Albert Martinez

I am glad to say that through the efforts of Pat Graff and Rebecca Zimmerman, the NM Scholastic Press Association is back. We held our state championships on Saturday, April 10.

Since New Mexico has not had a state association for five years, not much was done in the interim.

The search continues for a new state director.

#### From Utah State Director April Squires

##### Happenings

November 2009: state-wide conference, sponsored by and at the University of Utah, The Salt Lake Tribune, The Deseret News and Brigham Young University. Includes carry-in contests, workshops by professionals in writing, reporting, photo, and design. Critique of newspapers by the U's college paper adviser, Jim Fisher (Pulitzer prize winner for Photo when he was with the Boston Globe). About 30 attended.

Individual mentoring of new high school and middle school advisers. For the first time a middle school attended the state conference, one of my feeder schools, and rode bus with my staff.

Sunshine Week Speaker event extended to all advisers.

Meeting planned for June to mentor area advisers and to initiate more participation at national conventions. So far, two public high schools attend on a regular basis, Riverton and Taylorsville, and a charter middle school, Lincoln Academy. There is more interest but I need to guide.

#### Gary Lindsay, MJE

##### North Central Region 3 Director

##### Happenings

Three general concerns have become the focus of attention in the region:

- Stress on journalism programs resulting from declining budgets and enrollment. JEA membership has declined, and both school and student membership has declined in a number of state affiliates.
- Censorship and student free speech crises in a number of locations
- Curriculum issues as some schools have experienced problems with universities recognizing the credits earned by student journalists.

I have been monitoring the JEA Help and offering assistance and advice in a number of these areas. Please note specifics of these trends in the reports that follow.

#### **From Illinois State Director Randy Swikle, CJE**

##### Membership

The IJEA membership is about 95 (71 lifetime memberships). The current JEA teacher/adviser membership in Illinois was 113. We believe many of our new activities, our partnership with the Illinois Press Foundation, our involvement with the Illinois High School Association journalism competition, and our excellent rapport with regional student press organizations will help inspire more advisers to join IJEA and JEA.

##### Happenings

Our statewide IHSA contest holds its fifth competition in April 2010. In addition to providing exciting opportunities for students to compete in various journalism categories, the IHSA also provides important information and resources that have assisted several IJEA projects.

The IJEA appreciates the support of the Illinois Press Foundation and its Illinois First Amendment Center. The IPF has sponsored our state awards luncheon and has supported IJEA in countless ways. Last spring we had our IJEA awards luncheon, sponsored in part by the IPF, at the governor's mansion in Springfield. The IFAC continues to provide free First Amendment curriculum materials, posters, presentations and other support to schools in Illinois and around the nation.

The Illinois Press Foundation and the McCormick Freedom Museum have committed to working with the Illinois JEA director in creating a protocol for a free and responsible student press.

The IJEA is celebrating its 21st anniversary during the 2009-10 school year.

##### Awards & Honors

###### Illinois Journalist of the Year:

- Jimmy Hibsich, Editor in Chief, The Pacer, Rolling Meadows High School, Rolling Meadows, IL 60009 (Stan Zoller, adviser)
- First Runner-up, Pam Selman, Editor-in-Chief, The Statesman, Adlai E. Stevenson High School, Arlington Heights, IL 60069 (Lisa Lukens, Barb Thill, advisers)
- Honorable Mention, Andrea Behling, Belvidere North High School, Belvidere, IL 61008 (Mike Doyle, adviser)

##### JEA Mentoring Program

Babs Erickson and Randy Swikle have been working with their mentees in Illinois. Babs works with Brittany Glidden of Rockford East HS, Rockford, and Greg Reilly of Harlem HS, Machesney Park. Randy works with Alissa Calabrese of Elk Grove HS, Elk Grove, Jennifer Reiser of Washington Community HS, Washington; Brian D. Callahan, St. Charles North HS, St. Charles; and Keith Carlson, Naperville Central High School, Naperville, IL.

##### JEA Medal of Merit

- Janet B. Levin, MJE, John Hersey HS, Arlington Heights, Ill

##### JEA Lifetime Achievement Award

- Herman Albers, Red Bud, Ill.
- Laurie Erdmann, DeKalb, Ill.
- James Starnes, Herrin, Ill.

##### Protocol for Free and Responsible Student News Media

Randy Swikle worked with Kim Ruff, director of the Illinois Press Foundation, and Shawn Healy, director of the McCormick Freedom Project, to host a two-day conference at Cantigny to create a protocol for a free and responsible student news media. The event was Feb. 8 and 9, 2010. More than 50 journalism educators, students, administrators, school board members, and representatives from many stakeholder organizations attended the event. Randy is writing the protocol report, and it goes to the printer in June. It will be distributed in Illinois and around the country.

#### **From Iowa State Director Leslie Shipp, MJE**

##### Membership

- 18 JEA members have paid their dues through combined membership with IHSPA.
- 41 advisers are currently JEA members.
- 55 schools in Iowa are currently IHSPA members.

##### Happenings

###### Election

Timm Pilcher, adviser at DM Hoover, was re-elected President. Heather McKay of Atlantic HS was elected Secretary.

###### New Board Member

Board members voted to ratify the constitution and add a professional media person to the board. The newly formed position has not yet been filled.

###### Winter Thaw

Grand View University in Des Moines was again the site of the sixth annual IHSPA Adviser Winter Thaw held in February. Three people presented. Arturo Fernandez, photo editor for The Des Moines Register, demonstrated various photojournalism techniques such as toning, framing, selection, and Photoshop uses. Barbara Mack, Iowa State University professor and expert in student media law, discussed the climate surrounding media advisers today as well as the resources and tools available to them. Chris Snider, assistant managing editor for digital for The Des Moines Register, talked about cheap/free and easy ways to get the most out of websites. Again, Friday's dinner was cancelled due to snow. Despite snowy travel, 12 advisers attended Saturday.

##### Awards and Honors

The following people were honored during the past six months:

- Stratton Award for scholastic journalism supporters: Vanessa Shelton, Quill and Scroll, former director of IHSPA
- Administrator of the Year Award: Dennis Walsh, principal, Mt. Vernon HS
- Student Journalist of the year from Iowa was Kallen Kramer of Johnston High School, Leslie Shipp adviser.

##### Censorship Situations

###### Council Bluffs Abraham Lincoln

A new principal who had formerly worked in Minnesota tried to dictate to the student publications at the high school last fall. For example, he wanted the publications to use titles such as Mr. and Mrs. like in the Harrisburg, Illinois situation from last year. Recently, he has been complimentary of the publication and has not prior reviewed it. He does prior review the broadcast program at the school.

###### Bettendorf

After the editor of the school's newspaper published a recapping the football season and the troubles of some of its players, the principal confiscated all the papers. He cited disruption and invasion of privacy. The editor had all sources sign off on their quotes. She checked with them a second time to make sure they wanted to go on the record. The editor was asked to apologize for what she had done. She did not. The principal removed her from her position of editor and from the class.

#### **From Minnesota State Director Laurie Hansen, CJE**

##### Membership

The ongoing recruitment for new members in preparation for upcoming National Convention. Minnesota advisers who can join JEA for a discount rate of \$25 as part of a recruitment effort to raise membership. Total membership has increased to 28.

##### Happenings

The Minnesota Wild event

MHSPA in cooperation with the Minnesota Wild, held a sports writing, photography and broadcast contest on January 26, 2010 at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Students attending this event were able to attend and report on a Minnesota Wild practice session, interview several team officials and Head Coach Todd Richards. Then they write a story or submit photos/broadcast on deadline. Twenty-five students attended the event.

The winners attended the game on March 14 and sat in the press box with the professional media. Their names are printed in the programs and the winning broadcast plays on the big screen. We also publish the winning entries on the MHSPA Web site. Broadcast winners were Luke Braun and Ryan Linne from Lakeville South High School and the Story winner was Ryan Williamson from Eden Prairie High School. The photography winner was Maddie Butler from St. Paul Academy.

#### Journalism Day at the Guthrie

Twenty-eight students participated in Journalism Day at the Guthrie on Wednesday, February 24. At this event, students gather in the morning to hear about the job of the public relations coordinator for the Guthrie, and enjoy a tour of the theaters and behind the scenes areas such as props, costumes and rehearsal rooms. Then they have a talk by a professional reviewer/arts editor. Following the arts critic, students viewed a matinee of Shakespeare's Macbeth. Arts writer Graydon Royce agreed to speak with the students, judge the reviews and post winning reviews on the Star Tribune website. He ended up posting five of the top reviews. A nice variety of schools were represented: Emily Schirvar of Stillwater Area High School, Emilia Burns and Tim Journey from Eastview High School, Brigid Kelly from Minnehaha Academy and Nadja Leonhard-Hooper from St. Paul Academy.

#### Adviser's gathering

In early February, some members of MHSPA met with Logan Aimone at a social event where we talked about possible future programs, and starting discussing plans for the upcoming Minneapolis Convention. We are also planning a convention-planning meeting for this April.

#### Awards & Honors

Our 2009 journalism teacher of the year is Nick Fornicoia of Eastview High School in Apple Valley for his work with the Flash and 4Cast broadcast programs. Fornicoia was honored at the broadcast department's end-of-the-year banquet at the school on May 31, 2009. The award's for Fornicoia's programs include:

- 17 regional Emmys
- Awards from Student Television Network and Channel One
- Winners in MHSPA broadcast contests with Minnesota Wild
- MHSPA Gold Medallion winners
- Featured on website and broadcasts locally and nationally
- More than 250 students participating in broadcast journalism
- Dozens of students earning high honors and pursuing careers in broadcast journalism

#### Censorship Issues

The battle on the censorship front continues...

Last year, Andrea Kruger of Centennial High School took steps to loosen the control by her principal on the student newspaper. Her efforts have been slowly gaining momentum, and the principal attended the Minnesota High School Press Association Convention in October. He expressed enthusiasm for what was going on in student journalism. He loosened his grip slightly, letting the paper operate under a "limited open forum" this year. Baby steps...baby steps.

Recently, Mounds View High School's newspaper, advised by Martha Rush, a Dow Jones Special Recognition Adviser, came under pressure from the principal to switch immediately to prior review after the paper published a story on an inappropriate Facebook posting and the student punishments that were a result of the incident. Students interviewed and worked with the principal to get the story published, which included getting signed waivers from students and parents involved, but the principal changed her mind and wanted to pull the story when it was already too late. The paper had already gone to print.

The prior review issue was reported to both the St. Paul Pioneer Press and the Star Tribune. Both papers covered the issue, and Martha was advised to let her students make the decisions on fighting the decision, and was given all the necessary contacts such as the SPLC and John Bowen, etc.

The superintendent intervened and requested that a process be followed, so Martha gathered sample newspaper staff and district publications policies with anti-Hazelwood language so as to properly prepare for a board-level discussion and decision-making process. This one took us by surprise because the students had worked with the principal prior to having the story published, and they thought they were doing everything above board, only to have it get blown out of proportion post-publication.

Martha Rush met with the principal and AD on Tuesday, March 23, to develop the "process."

As of last week, Mounds View High School was in the process of adopting the publications policy from Stillwater Area High School, which is basically written in "Tinker" language — no administrative interference unless a substantial disruption. That's a total 180 from the prior review issue that was happening there in February.

I'd like to give thanks to Minnesota advisers who also helped adviser Martha Rush with support and feedback on sample policies:

Glenn Morehouse Olson, St. Francis High School  
Tim Dorway (Principal, Rochester Mayo High School)  
Rachel Steil, Stillwater Area High School  
Liz Keeling, Champlin Park High School  
Lori Keekley, St. Louis Park High School  
Riley Worth, Albert Lea High School

#### From Nebraska State Director Marsha Kalkowski, MJE

##### Membership

Membership in Nebraska continues to be strong.

- 18 JEA members paid their dues through combined membership with NHSPA.
- 37 Nebraska JEA memberships were active as of March 15, 2010. Emails went out to those who have allowed their membership to lapse.
- 88 high schools in Nebraska are currently registered for journalism through the NSAA, making them eligible to compete in our spring state journalism contest.

##### Happenings

JEA Nebraska 2010 Winter Contest: 19 schools submitted more than 500 entries to a winter contest that generous JEA advisers and board members judged for us. The final results can be found on line at <http://marian.creighton.edu/~nhspa/jeaneb/2010nejea.htm>

2010 NSAA/NHSPA Contest: preliminary entries are being judged right now for the May 10 final contest at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. This was the first year that we went electronic for all entry submissions (There were more than 1800 entries!). Thanks to the generous folks at UNL, on the NHSPA Board and "digital commons" for their work. We'll let you know next fall how it all turned out.

NHSPA/UNL Summer Journalism Camp: July 28-August 1, 2010. Scholarships are possible and tracks have been updated for truly motivating and inspiring high school journalists in newspaper production, yearbook production, journalistic writing, photography, broadcasting, and editorial leadership. For more information, contact camp directors, Cathy Davis and Courtney Archer at [nhspaworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:nhspaworkshop@gmail.com).

NHSPA Fall Convention: Last October, NHSPA sponsored the annual fall convention at the University of Nebraska with special guest presenters from

This fall's conference will be on Monday, Oct. 18. We extend an invitation to neighboring states; contact NHSPA executive director, John Bender at [jbender1@unl.edu](mailto:jbender1@unl.edu) for more information.

##### Awards and Honors

- Joanne Chapuran of Millard South High School was named Distinguished Adviser for 2010. Joanne was the previous adviser at Millard West High School. She is active on the NHSPA Board and is a frequent presenter at yearbook workshops around the country.
- Named Nebraska's 2010 Friend of Journalism is Ron Deyo and the Deyo Photography Studio in Omaha and Jim Bovee, Principal at Clay Center High School.
- Student Journalist of the year from Nebraska was Mary Susman of Omaha Westside High School, Rod Howe is her adviser. The first runner-up was Amy McConnell of Papillion-LaVista South

High School, where Ami Carper Adler is her adviser. Second runner-up was Alyssa Amen, of Millard North High School, where Sarah Cushman is her adviser.

#### For the Board

A small group of middle school teachers in Nebraska want to get more involved in JEA. Do any states have both a middle school state director and a high school state director? Just curious. Can I name someone as that?

An adviser really wants to find a contest for her students who are producing a DPS in Spanish every month. Do you have any suggestions for her?

#### Censorship Issues

The Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska along with the League of Women Voters and ACLU-Nebraska have been pushing the Student Free Expression Bill. The hearing produced a lot of testimony on both sides. The hearing was in late January and there's been no action since then.

#### From North Dakota State Director Susan Skalicky, CJE

##### Membership

I would still love to see a significant increase in North Dakota JEA membership during the 2009-2010 school year. Jeremy Murphy (NIPA director) and I have been calling advisers throughout North Dakota to establish a relationship and encourage membership in both NIPA and JEA. We had planned to travel to several schools in January to meet advisers face-to-face but were not granted the time off to do so. I will be bringing JEA materials to NIPA spring competition March 21 in Grand Forks and visiting with the following advisers and others.

##### Current North Dakota JEA members:

Sue Skalicky, Century High School - 9/13/2010  
Annie McKenzie, Bismarck High School - 8/19/2010  
Karen Bauer, Bismarck State College - ?

##### Recent membership expirations:

Toni Nelson, West Fargo High School - 3/31/09  
Elizabeth Anderson, New Town High School 8/29/2009  
Becky Mohr, Marion School District - 9/1/2009  
Keith Henderson, Bismarck High School - 12/01/2009  
Brenda Werner, Bismarck High School - 10/28/2009  
Jeremy Murphy, West Fargo High School - 2/18/2010

##### Advisers considering membership:

Angela Cassidy, West Fargo High School  
Lara Prozinski, Devils Lake High School  
Carol Foth, Valley City High School

##### Happenings

During our many phone conversations with advisers, we discovered the need to alternate the location of our state convention between Grand Forks and Bismarck in order to draw in advisers from the western part of the state. We plan to hold the NIPA fall workshop in Bismarck Oct. 2010 and the spring convention in March 2011. Then we would go back to Grand Forks fall 2011 and spring 2012.

##### Awards & Honors

2009-2010 journalism awards (since last report):

- North Dakota JEA state high school journalist of the year: Jordan Kalk, Century High School, Sue Skalicky, adviser.
- Adrian Dunn Adviser of the Year – Meghan Brown – New-Rockford Sheyenne
- North Dakota High School Journalist of the Year : Jordan Kalk – Century High School - Sue Skalicky (adviser)
- Al Neuharth Free Spirit Scholarship award: Macy Egeland – Century High School - Sue Skalicky (adviser)
- NIPA 2009-2010 Overall newspaper:

2nd – The Hi-Herald – Bismarck High – Annie McKenzie (adviser)

HM – The Century Star – Bismarck Century – Sue Skalicky (adviser)

- Overall yearbook

2nd – “Amplified” – Bismarck Century– ALL NORTHERN – Sue Skalicky (adviser)

##### Censorship Issues

NIPA director Jeremy Murphy who was released from his position as newspaper adviser at West Fargo High School in West Fargo, ND at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, is currently pursuing legal action. At this time, there is nothing new to report.

#### From South Dakota State Director Deb Rothenberger, MJE

##### Membership

The state director presented information about JEA membership and the national conventions at the South Dakota High School Press Association's convention.

##### Happenings

The South Dakota High School Press Association conducted its Spring Writing Contest with the entries due March 5, 2010. Results will be announced in April.

The South Dakota High School Press Association will also be conducting its 2010 Summer Publications Institute in June at South Dakota State University. The newspaper session and the desktop publishing sessions are June 7-10, and the yearbook session and the desktop publishing session are June 14-17. The photography session is offered June 7-10. Moviemaking, a new session, will be offered June 14-17. Participants will produce a newspaper and/or yearbook. Advisers may earn graduate credit. For more information, contact coordinator Jessica Jensen at [jessica.jensen@sdstate.edu](mailto:jessica.jensen@sdstate.edu).

#### Wayna C. Polk

##### South Central Region 4 Director

#### From Arkansas State Director Stephanie Emerson, MJE

##### Membership

ASPA continues to work to increase membership. We continue to encourage our members to enroll in JEA when they join the state organization. Several JEA members continue to be active at the national level. There are approximately 118 members in our state AJAA organization; 77 of those are in JEA. We have 172 different publication members in ASPA.

The Arkansas Scholastic Press Association is housed on the campus of Pulaski Tech in North Little Rock under the direction of Allen Loibner, MJE, of Pulaski Tech. Our organization's website: [www.arkansascholasticpress.org](http://www.arkansascholasticpress.org) Several links are there for additional information.

##### Happenings

The State Convention will be held in Rogers on April 15 & 16, 2010 at the new John Q. Hammons Center adjacent to the Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas that served as the convention hotel. On-site contests will include 10 in newspaper; 9 in yearbook; 5 in literary magazine; 2 in photography; 8 in broadcast. We usually average about 30 entries in each category. Twenty workshops will be held in different areas for students and advisers to attend.

The 2011 convention is scheduled for Hot Springs.

June 28-30, our organization's annual Camp ASPA will be held on the campus of Pulaski Tech in North Little Rock with a record attendance. See our website for more information or email me (address below).

## From Kansas State Director Susan Massy, CJE

### Membership

Membership numbers remain down slightly for both JEA and KSPA as a result of continuing financial difficulties being faced by school districts across the state.

### Happenings

- On Feb. 24-25, the six KSPA regional journalism contest sites drew 2,420 entries from about 1,000 students. The regional contest offers opportunities for students to compete in 20 contests. About half of the contests call for carry-in entries and the rest are live, head-to-head contests. Approximately 600 students will travel to the University of Kansas in Lawrence on May 1 for the state competition that will crown 60 state champions. Sweepstakes awards will be presented to six schools in each of the classifications, 1A through 6A.

More than 40 students from 15 schools converged on Topeka on a cold Kansas morning, and spent the day in pursuit of a story about the budget issues facing the state legislature in its 2010 session as part of the Statehouse Reporter for a Day program sponsored by the Kansas Scholastic Press Association and the Kansas Families for Education Foundation. Fourteen of the 15 schools submitted written stories, and four other schools turned in video news stories after the event. Judges from the University of Kansas School of Journalism honored the following schools for stories that resulted from the event:

Class 1A to 4A: Humboldt High School; story written by Alexis Hosack and Valerie Weilert;

Class 5A and 6A: Mill Valley High School; story written by Sarah Darby and Sarah Fulton;

Video Story (above): Blue Valley High School; story produced by Matt Hamblin and Josh Montague. Each of the winning entries splits a \$50 prize offered by the Kansas Families for Education Foundation, which also provided six KSPA member schools with travel stipends.

- the biggest concern for advisers across the state continues to be vocational education — or VE-2 — funding. The state decided this fall, as a reaction to declining state funds, that journalism is not a high-growth or technologically advanced industry and will cease to provide technology funding for journalism after the 2011-12 academic year, according to the most recent plan. In many schools across the state, VE-2 funding provides all or a significant portion of the funding for the journalism program.

In response to this concern, KSPA director Jeff Browne is working to generate interest in convening a task force to address the funding problem that so many schools face if Perkins Grant funds disappear. So far, he hasn't much success, despite stated interest.

### Honors & Awards

- Congratulations to Dow Tate, Shawnee Mission East, and Rebecca Tate, Shawnee Mission North, who received Gold Keys from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in New York.

- At the state contest, KSPA will honor not only student champions, but also advisers and an administrator. Nancy Hall, former adviser at Shawnee Mission North and a representative for Herff Jones Publishing Company, will be inducted into the KSPA Hall of Fame. The Administrator of the Year as well as the Engel Award winner will also be named on that day.

- Senior Tim Shedor from Shawnee Mission East High School has been named the Kansas 2010 High School Journalist of the Year. Shedor is the co-editor-in-chief of East's newspaper, The Harbinger.

"I do journalism because I have not found a class that can teach me, reprimand me, and correct me as quickly as journalism can," Shedor wrote in the essay that accompanied his voluminous JOY application.

Shedor will be recognized at the KSPA State Contest on May 1 in Lawrence, where he will be awarded a \$1,000 check.

The second- and third-place winners will also be recognized at the State Contest. Nikki Wentling from McPherson High School will accept the \$500 prize that comes with second place, and Phoebe Unterman from Shawnee Mission East will accept the \$250 that comes with third place.

- Congratulations to Blue Valley West Journalism teacher Michael Dunlap who has been named a master teacher by Emporia State University. The awards are presented annually to teachers who have "served the profession long and well and who also typify the good qualities of earnest and conscientious teachers." Dunlap serves as mass communication department chairman and is the program facilitator for journalism for the Blue Valley School District.

- The Columbia Scholastic Press Association recently named its Crown Awards, recognizing several Kansas publications and websites:

#### Middle School Yearbook Gold Crowns

Eagle, Maize South Middle School, Wichita, KS;

#### High School Online Gold Crowns

smnw.com, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, Shawnee, KS;

The Harbinger Online, Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, KS;

#### High School Yearbook Gold Crowns

Hauber, Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, KS.?

The Lair, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, Shawnee, KS;

#### High School Newspaper Silver Crowns

Lion's Roar, Goddard High School, Goddard, KS;

#### High School Yearbook Silver Crowns

Indian, Shawnee Mission North High School, Shawnee Mission, KS;

Seven Kansas high school yearbook staffs and two website staffs will be hoping to hear their publications named Pacemakers in Portland. The following media have been named Pacemaker Finalists:

#### Online Pacemaker Finalists

- The Spotlight, Blue Valley West HS, Overland Park, Kan.? <http://www.bvwnews.com/>

Beth Shulz, Kati Youris, editors; ?Michael Dunlap, adviser

- The Harbinger Online, Shawnee Mission East HS, Prairie Village, Kan.?

<http://smeharbinger.net/>

Taylor Haviland, Michael Stolle, editors?; C. Dow Tate, adviser

#### Yearbook Pacemaker Finalists

- The JAG, Mill Valley HS, Shawnee, Kan.?

Courtney Colin, Carolyn Gatewood, Karl Sparrman, editors?; Kathy Hill Habiger, adviser

- Indian, Shawnee Mission North HS, Overland Park, Kan.?

Kevin Moore, editor; ?Becky Tate, adviser.

- Saga, Shawnee Mission West HS, Overland Park, Kan.?

Kelsey Heller, Cheryl Hinman, Tina Tadros, editors; ?Amy Morgan, adviser

- Hauber, Shawnee Mission East HS, Prairie Village, Kan.?

Andrea Tudhope, Alexandria Norton, editors; ?Dow Tate, adviser

- Lair, Shawnee Mission Northwest HS, Shawnee, Kan.?

Bailey Reimer, editor; ?Susan Massy, adviser

Jr. High/Middle School Special Recognition

- Eagle, Maize South MS, Wichita, Kan.?

Chloe Davis, Jessi Holman, editors; ?Mary Patrick, adviser

### For the Board

#### Censorship Issues

Two Kansas schools are currently facing censorship issues:

Junction City High School is going to court apparently, and the situation at McPherson High School seems to be improving now that the adviser has been removed. Successful outreach by KSPA Board members has helped MHS Principal Bret McClendon understand the role of a professional adviser with journalism credentials. KSPA director Jeff Browne and KSPA Executive Board members are helping him as much as possible in identifying a new adviser for that school. Details on both of the situations can be provided if desired.

Browne has been trying to work with Frank LoMonte and University Daily Kansan general manager Malcolm Gibson in convening a panel this year (2010) to assess the state of the First Amendment in scholastic journalism in Kansas. The panel would be charged with making recommendations for improving those areas where we are lacking.

Is there news from the endowment that we want to talk about? (Always like to brag that we have that!)

A KSPA/JEA member wrote, "I'm hoping the JEA board will seriously consider revamping the write-off photography downloading system. The listserv is alive with complaints (most legitimate) about the process. While I appreciate trying something new, this something new needs to be revisited. I've never had students participate in the contest since the new procedures were created, but I can tell you that if the process required downloading a trial version of software, we wouldn't get to compete. That's the biggest unfair part about it. We should never assume anyone has access to up to date technology. Surely there's a way to make this work without having to use Photoshop (and a trial version, at that)? I know JEA is still working out the bugs, but I'm hoping this topic will come up at the Portland meeting and that everyone involved will keep the best interests of ALL our members in mind when making changes to the process."

The speaker above is a well-respected, vocal member of KSPA who produces outstanding publications. Although she is the only one I heard from, I believe that she speaks for not only for most of our middle-sized and smaller high schools, but also for some of our larger schools who would be unable to quickly download software onto their computers due to the security that many schools have in place (including my own school). Although I have had little to no difficulty navigating the system, I believe that her concerns are valid and reflect not only the varying levels of technology, but the varying levels of expertise found across our state. Her request that we consider the lowest common denominator must not fall on deaf ears. The board needs to respond to these concerns with, at the very least, a statement. The changes Bradley has brought to the contest are terrific and, I think, of tremendous benefit to the students who can compete in them. We just need to make sure that any student who wishes to is able to reap those benefits.

#### **From Louisiana State Director Angela Watkins**

The Louisiana Journalist of the Year is Rachel Weaver of Slidell, Louisiana.

#### **From Missouri State Director Nancy Freeman, MJE**

Since Missouri has no state JEA, I have gathered information from Missouri Interscholastic Press Association as well as regional adviser groups.

#### **Membership**

JEA Membership—110 voting members as of Feb. 24, 2010

The following include memberships from last year. Members are still joining this year:

Missouri Interscholastic Press Association—During the 2009-2010- School Year we had 52 schools with 72 advisers. Of that number, 11 were new schools.

JEMKC-- In 2008-2009, we had 71 members, including 60 returning members and 11 new members. We have 35 high schools represented in our membership from both sides of the state line.

Sponsors of School Publications of Greater St. Louis— As of March 2010, we had 29 schools, 31 advisers.

#### **MIPA CONTACT:**

Missouri Interscholastic Press Association (MIPA)

Anna M. Romero, executive director

Missouri School of Journalism

76 Gannett Hall

(Office in 372 McReynolds Hall)

Columbia, MO 65211

573-882-2422 or 573-882-6031

Fax 573-882-6031

romeroa@missouri.edu

Doris Barnhart, administrative assistant

76 Gannett Hall

(Office in 370 McReynolds Hall)

573-882-6031

barnhartd@missouri.edu

#### **SSP:**

<http://www.ssp-stl.org>

Members: Junior and senior high school journalism advisers in the St. Louis area

Conference: Spring conference in mid-March at a St. Louis university

Scholarships: Curtis Kenner Memorial Summer Conference Scholarships; H.L. Hall Adviser scholarship, Bruce Schneider Adviser Scholarship

Contests: Individual and overall contests of newspaper, yearbook and broadcast, January deadline

#### **Officers:**

Co-Presidents: Nancy Smith, Lafayette High School, 17050 Clayton Road, Wildwood, MO 63011, (636)458-7200 ext. 2338, FAX (636) 458-7219, e-mail: smithnancy@rockwood.k12.mo.us

Beth Ann Murphy, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, 1201 S. Warson Rd., St. Louis, Mo 63124, (314)993-6447, FAX (314) 993-1467, e-mail: bmurphy@ladue.k12.mo.us

Vice-President: Mitch Eden, Kirkwood High School, 801 W. Essex, Kirkwood, MO 63122, (314)213-6110, Fax 314.984.4412, e-mail: edenmit@gw.kirkwood.k12.mo.us

Treasurer: Otto Schultejeans, Maplewood-Richmond Heights High School, 7539 Manchester Road, Maplewood, MO 63143., 314-644-4401, FAX 314-644-3681, e-mail: o.schultejeans@mrhsd.k12.mo.us

PR/Secretary: Erin Moeckel, Mehlville High School, St. Louis, MO 63125, Phone: 314.467.6240, Fax: 314.467.6099, Email: moeckele@mehlville.k12.mo.us

Webmaster: Nancy Freeman, Clayton High School, 1 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton, MO 63105, 314-854-6668, FAX 314-854-6734, e-mail: nancy\_freeman@clayton.k12.mo.us

#### **Happenings**

##### **MIPA**

Scholastic Journalism Day will be held April 7, 2010, and continues to evolve with more sessions every year, including a write-off and photo shoot-off competition.

##### **Summer Media Workshop:**

Dates for the 2010 Summer Media Workshop are July 6-8

The following sessions will be offered:

New Media Convergence

Redesigning and Reinventing Your Publication

Digital Photography and Photo Editing

Journalism Bootcamp

Sports Reporting

Teaching Scholastic Publications (Advisers Only)

##### **Missouri Urban Journalism Workshop formerly known as AHANA:**

-We continue to encourage MIPA member schools to have their best kids apply for MUJW. The 10-day intensive journalism like boot-camp is open to ALL high school students regardless of their ethnicity. It is open to all to apply. If selected, 16-20 students will work with students from around the country and journalists and educators on producing a publication for the daily Columbia Missourian. Remember, if your student is picked, they are sponsored by the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund and other media. This means very little expense on the students' part. They pay for some lunches and transportation in Missouri to Columbia. Also, if an MIPA adviser wants to work side-by-side with our many national journalists, contact MUJW director, Anna Romero. The 40th Annual Missouri Urban Journalism Workshop will be held July 10-18, 2010.

#### **OTHER MIPA STUFF:**

-Thanks to Aaron Manfull at Francis Howell North, is revising our website. Christina Geabhart at Oak Park HS in KC keeps us informed with her hard work on the News Gram. Boonville's Stephanie Carey took over the job of securing judges for our contests and critiques. All of these advisers along with our other officers like Marc Russell from Lee's Summit HS are working hard to keep MIPA in a positive direction.

University of Missouri Journalism School will also host one of the ASNE Missouri ASNE HSJ Institutes at the University of Missouri Columbia, MO from July 18-30, 2010

#### JEMKC

Spring activity: We held our annual contest at Johnson County Community College. Over 1,000 entries from 23 high schools in the metro had their entries critiqued by over 20 local and national journalism professionals. We gave out 240 certificates in 54 categories on Wednesday, April 29 and as well as 9 scholarships and other awards. The journalism department at Johnson County Community College hosted the event, with director Anne Christian-Bullers helping to secure the venue and coordinate the food and set up. The Kansas City Star continues to support high school journalism by donating \$1,000 for 3 scholarships and JEMKC paid \$650 for the remaining awards. Entries in the contest continue to remain steady, although finding judges is increasingly difficult.

Most of our summer was spent brainstorming a theme and keynote speaker ideas for the convention. We sponsored three contests for students to help create our promotional materials for the convention. One contest asked students to take photos of the convention area and interesting Kansas City landmarks, and three students and their photos were selected as winners. The second contest was for an official contest logo, and a student from Lee's Summit High School won that contest. The final contest is a promotional video to be played for the convention attendees at the closing session of the conventions in DC and Portland. Winners of that will be announced in late October. The theme for the convention will be KConverge (KC + Converge) and we plan to focus our featured speakers and sessions on how to combine print, broadcast and web journalism to keep pace with the changing nature of the profession.

Fall begin with a majority of the local committee meeting with Logan and Linda at our "year out" meeting in September to get the ball rolling officially. We toured the convention center facilities and planned where critiques, a photo display of student work and performances by local jazz bands would be during the convention. We solidified chairs for each convention committee as well as generated a lengthy list of possible keynote speakers for Logan and Linda to contact on our behalf.

On Oct. 8, we also sponsored our sometimes-annual "Fall Fling," an event for advisers to attend to get to know one another and to plan for upcoming events. This year's event was held at a local eatery in Missouri and 24 advisers attended. We signed up five new volunteers for various convention committees and gave away door prizes and goody bags to everyone who attended. Free food and cash bar were available.

In the coming months, we will meet regularly with the convention committee to work on various duties in getting ready for November 2010.

#### SSP

We meet monthly at area schools and restaurants to support each other and to plan events for students. We host contests every January and a conference every spring. On March 8, we hosted our spring conference at Webster University in March and we had 30 breakout sessions featuring local area professionals and experts in the field. Nearly 600 area students attended. With the proceeds from the conference, we give out scholarships for students and teachers to go to summer workshops or take classes. We also awarded a \$1000 leadership scholarship to a local journalism senior, which went to Peter Krusing of Kirkwood High School this spring.

#### Awards & Honors

The awards will be presented at the JEA/NSPA Adviser Awards Luncheon in Portland, Oregon on Saturday April 17, 2010:

##### Rising Star 2010

Mary Dempsey, O'Fallon Township High School, O'Fallon, Ill. (Member of SSP)

##### 2009 Yeabook Adviser of the Year

##### Distinguished Advisers

Nancy Y. Smith, MJE, Lafayette High School, Wildwood, Mo

##### 2010 Online Pacemaker Finalists

Dart News Online, St. Teresa's Academy, Kansas City, Mo.

<http://www.dartnewsonline.com>

Sydney Deatherage, editor

Eric Thomas, adviser

FHNtoday.com, Francis Howell North HS, St. Charles, Mo.

<http://fhntoday.com/>

David Hoehn, Katie O'Neil, editors

Aaron Manfull, adviser

PN Media, Kickapoo HS, Springfield, Mo.

<http://www.khsprairienews.com>

Chase Snider, editor

Leslie Orman, adviser

##### CSPA Crown Awards

The grand total of all Crowns to be presented in 2010 consists of 37 magazines, 64 newspapers and 56 yearbooks 36 online newspapers, two online magazines and one workshop publication. Crown Award finalists are guaranteed to receive either a Gold or Silver Crown Award in March 2010. No further judging will take place. Finalists from Missouri this year:

##### Newspaper Finalists

The Globe, Clayton High School, Clayton, MO;

North Star, Francis Howell High School, St. Charles, MO;

The Prep News, Rockhurst High School, Kansas City, MO;

The Rock, Rock Bridge Senior High School, Columbia, MO

##### Online high school finalists

FHHS Today

Francis Howell High School

[www.fhhstoday.com](http://www.fhhstoday.com)

FHNtoday

Francis Howell North

[www.fhntoday.com](http://www.fhntoday.com)

#### From Texas State Director Lisa Van Etta

##### Membership

TAJE currently has 235 members; 231 Texas advisers are members of JEA. Following the state convention. The Fall Fiesta, TAJE's executive director Rhonda Moore will execute a follow-up, contacting members from last year who have not rejoined.

##### Happenings

TAJE held an executive board meeting Jan. 16 in Austin at the UIL offices.

I gave a report on the national convention at Washington DC – promoted and talked about the Spring convention to be held in Portland.

The national JEA/NSPA convention was a major topic of discussion..

Pat Gathright and Rhonda Moore will be co-chairmen for the event to be held in San Antonio 1212. At the business meeting to be held in April during the ILPC convention – recruiting for sub chairmen committees will be actively pursued.

Currently journalism teachers throughout the state are rallying to address the journalism state TEKS/standards which drive the journalism courses and textbooks. The teachers found out very late

that these standards were being revised without consideration for convergent media, etc. A online petition is being circulated for signatures.

Five portfolios were submitted for the Texas High School Journalist of the Year. Chase Wade from Crandall High School was chosen at the winner.

TAJE operates its own website and listserv. The site recently redesigned by TAJE's webmaster Dianne Smith-Harper features current curriculum and instructional materials including PowerPoint lessons that educators can download. The site is found at [www.taje.org](http://www.taje.org).

ILPC is planning its spring convention at the University of Texas at Austin April 10-11 2010 with over 100 sessions. In addition, ILPC coordinates and sponsors academic contests for journalists in editorial, feature, news and headline writing in May.

#### Awards & Honors

The following schools from Texas have been recognized at Pacemaker finalist:

#### Online Newspapers

The Rider, Legacy HS  
Uproar, Mansfield HS

#### Digital Yearbooks

The Lion, McKinney HS  
The Bronco, McKinney Boyd HS  
The Legend, Flower Mound HS

#### Yearbooks

Governor, John B. Connally HS  
Bobcat, Hallsville HS  
Leopard, Lovejoy HS  
SHS Yearbook, Saginaw HS  
Triune, Trinity HS  
The Lion, McKinney HS  
Reflections, McKinney North HS  
The Hawk, Pleasant Grove HS  
The Arena, Legacy HS  
The Bronco, McKenney Boyd HS  
El Paisano, Westlake HS  
Marksmen, St. Mark's School of Texas  
Pride, Franklin HS

The following schools were recognized as Crown Finalists:

#### Magazine

Montage, Greenhill School  
Vibrato, Hockaday School

#### Newspapers

Eagle Edition, Episcopal HS  
Panther Pride, Midothian HS  
Stampede, Burgess HS  
The Chronicle, Tom C. Clark HS  
The Connection, John B. Connally HS  
The Edge, Pleasant Grove HS  
The Evergreen, Greenhill School  
The Liberator, Liberal Arts & Science Academy HS  
The Remarker, St. Mark's School of Texas  
The Tiger Times, Texas HS

#### Yearbooks

Carillon, Bellaire HS  
El Paisano, Westlake HS  
Governor, John B. Connally HS  
Hawk, Pleasant Grove HS  
Hoofbeats, Burgess HS  
Marksmen, St. Mark's School of Texas  
Pride, Franklin HS  
Arena, Mansfield Legacy HS  
The Belltower, St. Thomas Episcopal School  
The Bronco, McKinney Boyd HS  
The Lion, McKinney HS

#### Online Newspapers

The Rider, Legacy HS

#### **Brenda Gorsuch, MJE, Southeast Region 5 Director**

In early March, more than 400 students and advisers attended the Southern Interscholastic Press Association convention at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Participants traveled from as far away as Virginia, Texas and southern Florida.

We were pleased that Mark Newton, JEA Certification Commission chair, attended the convention to administer the CJE test, and Aaron Manfull, JEA Digital Communications Committee chair, attended to present on topics related to convergence and digital communications. The convention included the Southeast Regional Journalism Quiz Bowl won by Freedom High School (Christie Gold, adviser) from Tampa, Fla., and the yearbook and newspaper WED (Writing, Editing and Design) contests.

SIPA has initiated plans to help fund JEA mentors in Region 5 states. North Carolina continues to participate in the JEA mentoring program with two mentors, Martha Rothwell and Kay Phillips. Rothwell's mentees attended the JEA convention in Washington, D.C., in November. Alabama also participates in the mentoring program, and South Carolina will soon be added. We are very pleased that the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund recognized Susan Newell, MJE, from Northridge High School in Alabama and Renee Burke, MJE, from William Boone High School in Florida.

The Region 5 state directors and I have worked hard since November to contact advisers whose memberships have expired and to seek new members.

#### **From Alabama State Director Susan Goins Newell, MJE**

Much of the information for this report was furnished by Alabama Scholastic Press Association's (ASPA) director Meredith Cummings and the ASPA Web site. Cummings worked at The Tuscaloosa News before becoming ASPA director and a faculty member at the University of Alabama. At the news, she wrote columns, editorials, news, and feature stories and was in charge of the teen section of the newspaper. Her knowledge and contacts have greatly improved ASPA workshops and conventions. ASPA has a new website and a presence on Facebook and Twitter.

#### Membership



I am a lifetime member of JEA and encourage others to also become lifetime members.

#### JEA Mentoring Program

Alabama Scholastic Press Association (ASPA) has three mentors — Marie Parsons, JoAnn Hagood and Nora Stephens — in the Journalism Education Association mentoring program. JEA committed to three scholarships for Alabama. This is a huge step in training new publications and broadcast advisers in our state. Mentor training for our three mentors took place in Kansas City in the summer of 2009. By providing an ongoing support system to improve the retention rate of new journalism teachers, we hope that new advisers in this program will stay with their publications and build them into strong, effective programs.

#### Happenings & Events

Alabama has several summer workshops, including The Long Weekend at the University of Alabama sponsored by ASPA, the Multicultural Workshop sponsored by the U of A, and a summer workshop sponsored by Auburn University.

The Long Weekend Summer Journalism Camp will be held June 18-20.

The Multicultural Journalism Workshop, a residential camp at the University of Alabama, is June 18-27. High school students are being recruited to attend the 27th annual Multicultural Journalism Workshop. Students who will be in the 9th grade through freshman year in college in fall 2010 are eligible to attend the workshop.

The students will study and practice journalism under University of Alabama faculty and top journalists, learning how professionals report, write and present the news in print, online and by broadcasting.

The first Minority Journalism Workshop, as it was originally called, was held in 1984. Each year, about 20 high school students are selected to attend the workshop.

Auburn University is offering a High School Journalism Workshop June 20-25. Up to 20 students from Alabama will gain hands-on experience in journalism during the eighth annual summer workshop hosted by Auburn University's Department of Communication and Journalism. The workshop will take place at AU and is free to selected participants. Students will have the opportunity to compete for six \$1,000 scholarships to Auburn University.

ASPA's Fall Regional Workshops are September 13-17, 2010. Each fall the Alabama Scholastic Press Association holds regional workshops across the state. Two new sites have been added (Mobile and Montgomery), while the Auburn location has been dropped.

Sept. 13: Mobile

Sept. 14: Montgomery

Sept. 15: Break (back home in Tuscaloosa to reload supplies, make copies, repack, etc.)

Sept. 16: Tuscaloosa

Sept. 17: Huntsville

ASPA also has a state convention usually held in late February. Additional information about ASPA can be found at <http://www.aspa.ua.edu/>.

Erin Coggins, newspaper and yearbook advisor at Sparkman High School, is president of the advisor group for Alabama Scholastic Press Association. Her email address is [ecoggins@madison.k12.al.us](mailto:ecoggins@madison.k12.al.us).

ASPA and SIPA work together. ASPA and the Southern Interscholastic Press Association (SIPA) coordinate their conferences. Susan Newell and ASPA director Meredith Cummings are on the SIPA board. SIPA's convention is in early March.

SIPA's summer workshop, CJI, will be June 9-13. Information about SIPA events can be found online at <http://www.sc.edu/cmciis/so/sipa/>.

#### Awards & Honors

- Adviser of the Year: Jody Evans, Hillcrest High School
- Rick Bragg Award for feature writing: Alicia Perez, Sparkman High School
- Bailey Thomson Award for editorial writing: Amy Vu, Grissom High School
- Journalist of the Year: Megan Hager, Sparkman High School
- J.B. Stevenson Scholarship Award: Megan Hager, Sparkman High School

#### For the Board

"I began advising over 25 years ago. I owe the Alabama Scholastic Press Association. Almost everything I have learned about advising school newspapers and yearbooks comes from attending their events. It is now time for me to help educate younger advisers and their students. I encourage advisers from Alabama to become active in their state (ASPA), regional (SIPA) and national organizations (JEA/NSPA & CSPA). In this way students can best be prepared for college and the world of work and your school can publish quality publications," Susan G. Newell, adviser The Northridge Reporter and blueprints yearbook at Northridge High School, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

#### Censorship Issues

No censorship issues have been reported, but members are encouraged to contact the Student Press Law Center should a problem occur.

#### From Florida State Director Renee Burke, MJE

##### Membership

Florida is working to maintain our current JEA memberships, as well as to increase membership and certification. Recently, our Florida Scholastic Press Association President, Joe Humphrey, has been named as one of the two new Certification Commission members. He has also worked with JEA to offer the certification testing at the state convention April 29-May 1.

##### Happenings

Currently the board is preparing for the annual state convention, FSPA 2010: "Welcome to the Jungle." The convention is at the Hyatt Regency Tampa and they are hoping to get 1,000+ attendees at the three-day event. Lane Degregory, a Pulitzer Prize-winning feature writer from the St. Petersburg Times and Wendy Wallace of the Poynter Institute are just two of the outstanding lineup of speakers scheduled. More up-to-date info can be found at <http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa/>

We are also please to introduce Wayne Garcia as our Interim State Director. Wayne is an award-winning political journalist, working in Florida newspapers and campaigns for more than 25 years. He is passionate about journalism and is enjoying working with the state organization at the University of Florida.

##### Awards & Honors

There are five district teachers of the year for FSPA. In alphabetical order: Elizabeth Cardenas, Felix Varela HS, Miami; Suzette Cook, Newberry HS, Newberry; Kurt Doster, Cypress Bay HS, Weston; Sean Marcus, Chamberlain HS, Tampa; Elizabeth Sivco, Viera HS, Viera.

Congratulations to the following finalists for the Todd C. Smith Student Journalist of the Year Award, also in alphabetical order: Alex Clarke, American Heritage School, WAHS News; Laura Herrera, Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High, The Lightning Strike; Jose O. Perez, Hillsborough High School, Hillsborean yearbook.

Winners of both will be announced at our 2010 state convention April 29-May 1 in Tampa.

- 2009 NSPA Newspaper Pacemaker Finalists: The Prowl, Coral Glades HS, Coral Springs, Fla.; The Red & Black, Hillsborough HS, Tampa, Fla.; Oracle, Olympia HS, Orlando, Fla
- 2009 NSPA Broadcast Pacemaker Winners: Broward Teen News, BECON, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; DSOA Today, Dreyfoos School of the Arts, West Palm Beach, Fla.
- 2009 CSPA High School Magazine Crown Finalists Literati, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Miami;
- 2009 CSPA Middle School Yearbook Crown Finalists Panther Pride, Lawton Chiles Middle School, Oviedo; Spartan, Milwee Middle School, Longwood;
- 2009 CSPA High School Yearbook Crown Finalists: Legend, Boone High School, Orlando; Palm Echo, Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Pincrest
- 2009 CSPA High School Yearbook Crown Finalists: Hi-Lights, Boone High School, Orlando, FL; The Prowl, Coral Glades High School, Coral Springs; The Galleon, Spanish River High School, Boca Raton;

##### For the Board

At the fall convention in Washington, DC, Joe Humphrey, MJE, President, Florida Scholastic Press Association, Certification Commission and Renee Burke, MJE, Florida JEA State Director, invited the board to consider bringing the JEA/NSPA convention to Florida. We know the Sunshine State has everything the board and its attendees would seek when choosing a new venue.

#### From Georgia State Director Joe Dennis

This report focuses on the activities of the Georgia Scholastic Press Association (GSPA), which I serve as director in my role as director of diversity and high school outreach at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at The University of Georgia.

#### Membership

As of this writing, GSPA has 121 paid memberships, down from 129 memberships the previous year. This includes eight broadcast news programs (decrease of two from last year), 20 literary magazines (increase of two), 59 newspapers/newsmagazines (decrease of 10) and 33 yearbooks (increase of one).

#### Programs

- GSPA held a statewide conference in fall 2009. More than 450 students and advisers attended the conference (a decrease of 50 from 2008). The conference kicked off with a live concert from a local blues musician, followed by a press conference. Also held at the conference: an on-the-spot photojournalism competition, a review writing contest, a first-issue carry-in competition and newspaper and literary magazine on-site critiques.
- GSPA held the Georgia Journalism Academy in summer 2009, a weeklong, residential journalism camp for high school students. Held at the University of Georgia, the Academy was attended by a record 86 students and offered courses in broadcasting, news writing, editorial writing, feature writing, photojournalism and graphic design. Journalism faculty and area media professionals taught the courses. CNN and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund provided \$14,000 in grants to fund primarily minority student scholarships.
- GSPA is currently in the process of accepting entries for its 2009-10 General Excellence Competition. It is expected that we will receive more than 1,000 entries in 41 individual categories, as well as staff entries for broadcast, newspaper, literary magazine and yearbook. Awards will be distributed on April 29 at the GSPA Awards Ceremony, a luncheon banquet that last year was attended by roughly 500 students and teachers. The keynote speaker will be Elliott McLaughlin, a senior writer for CNN online and a former AP correspondent.

#### JEA/National Involvement

- Due to budget constraints, I was unable to attend the fall convention in Washington, D.C. However, I did attend the Southern Interscholastic Press Association Conference in Columbia, S.C. and conducted a session on sports writing, served as an on-the-spot judge and moderated the Newspaper Writing, Editing and Design competition.
- We conducted the Georgia Champion Journalist Competition and received a record 13 entries. We will forward the top entry to JEA for the National Journalist of the Year Competition.
- A colleague presented a study I co-authored, Millennials and the Media, at the AEJMC Southeast Colloquium at Chapel Hill, N.C. We are seeking publication.
- A synopsis of my study, Prior Review in the High School Newspaper, was published in the Winter 2010 issue of DOW JONES ADVISER UPDATE.
- I was recognized with a Distinguished Service Award from the Southeastern Interscholastic Press Association.

#### From Mississippi State Director Beth Fitts, CJE

This reports details the activities of JEA as related to the activities of MSPA. JEA members are very involved in this local organization and are making efforts to recruit new JEA members for the state. Publicity efforts at the spring convention and the summer workshop will focus on JEA-friendly benefits and speeches.

#### Membership

The Mississippi Scholastic Press Association continues to offer JEA with its MSPA membership application, encouraging advisers to become a part of this adviser-help group. Even though the economy has forced a few advisers to take a leave for the time being, this form and the promotion of JEA at state fall workshops and at spring conventions have helped to double membership in Mississippi JEA over the last five years. We hope to get our enrollment figures up by the fall.

#### Programs and Plans

MSPA hosts the adviser workshop sponsored by the Mississippi Press Association. In that environment, advisers are introduced to JEA and learn the importance of a strong adviser base. The staff teaches them skills in all areas of journalism education. MPA pays all expenses for these advisers to attend, especially seeking out new advisers who may lack knowledge and experience in the field of journalism.

This MPA/MSPA partnership is one of the top strengths of Mississippi scholastic journalism. It is a constant source of encouragement to me, as the director, to know that we have such a strong alliance in our state.

MPA also provides scholarships from local newspapers that allow students to come to the student camp, run during the same time as the adviser camp. After the workshop, the newspapers then give the student(s) they sponsored two-week internships at their newspapers so that they many receive hands-on experience in the field.

MSPA sponsors two fall regional workshops that allow students and advisers to learn skills that will help their current publications. One workshop is in Oxford at the University of Mississippi. Students and advisers there are able to take a number of lab classes to strengthen their skills in photo editing and in desktop publishing/design. Of course, other classes in writing, advertising, design, broadcast, and editing are offered as well. The southern workshop was in Pascagoula, Miss. near the coast. These workshops pulled over 350 students and advisers into the state operation.

Competition and the spring convention bring participation from about 500, as we finish out the year with classes and labs to prepare students for the coming year, to offer leadership information to seniors attending college next fall, and to present awards for competition. This year, MSPA has added carry-in competitions to the normal award base. Five general categories for entries are offered with multiple contests in each category. This type of competition should give yearbook and magazine staffs a chance to receive acclaim for their current publication, and extends newspapers, broadcast and on-line staff another month of editions past the normal Feb. 15 competition deadline.

#### Involvement

As JEA director, I attended JEA sessions, critiqued, judged and presented sessions at the St. Louis convention. In addition, to teaching an advertising session, Buck Ryan from the University of Kentucky and I teamed to present an adviser session on using the Maestro Approach in the classroom.

I also attended the Southern Interscholastic Press Association convention in Columbia, SC. I also am on the executive meetings and help with new adviser session. In addition, I will be teaching in several summer camps around the country.

#### From North Carolina State Director Monica Hill, CJE

#### Membership

Journalism Education Association membership reminder letters were distributed in February from the N.C. Scholastic Media Association offices to advisers whose JEA membership was up for renewal. NCSMA continues to include JEA membership as an option on all membership forms. North Carolina Scholastic Media Association also offers an onsite JEA Bookstore during the N.C. Scholastic Media Institute in the summer and at some regional workshops in the fall.

#### Happenings

NCSMA continues to offer summer graduate-level courses in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at UNC-Chapel Hill. The two 2010 courses offered on campus will be "Teaching Online News in the Secondary School" and "Desktop Publishing and Design in the Secondary School." The design class offers instruction in Illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign, plus design principles and teaching methods. The online news course is new this summer. Both courses will be offered July 6-16 at UNC-Chapel Hill. The course will be "team taught" by Professor Ryan Thornburg, online news assistant professor at UNC-CH; Bill Pitzer, news graphics editor at The Charlotte Observer; and Bradley Wilson, student media adviser at N.C. State.

These instructors will cover online publishing technologies, search engine optimization, writing for the Web, writing a FAQ using Dreamweaver, creating a blog in WordPress, using social media for news, designing and hosting a site, video and audio basics and much more. North Carolina scholastic journalism teachers and student media advisers are invited to apply for this Journalism Teaching Fellowship course. Fellowships covering tuition, lodging and books are valued at \$1,230 each.

A self-paced study course, "Journalism Education in the Secondary School," is offered online for N.C. high school journalism teachers. Teachers may take up to nine months to complete the online course.

The summer N.C. Scholastic Media Institute will again provide four days of intense instruction in yearbook, newspaper, broadcast, literary magazine, design, advising and photography for students and teachers from across the state. Dates for summer 2010 are June 14-17. Registration fee remains \$200 each. That fee covers lodging and instruction.

North Carolina continues to participate in the JEA Mentor Program. Kay Phillips and Martha Rothwell serve as mentors in their second year of service. Rothwell has added an additional mentee and is now serving three schools.

NCSMA is now home to the N.C. College Media Association. The office coordinates an annual one-day conference for N.C. college media advisers and staffs. Now entering its fourth year, the association offers these conferences on a different college campus each year. Appalachian State will host the 2011 event. This year the association also launched a statewide contest service for North Carolina's college student media.

The UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communication will sponsor the fourth annual Chuck Stone Program for Diversity in Education and Media July 11-17 on the UNC-Chapel

Hill campus. Rising high school seniors may apply online at [jmc.unc.edu/stoneprogram](http://jmc.unc.edu/stoneprogram). The one-week program covers airfare, lodging, meals and more. Twelve students will be selected to participate.

NCSMA has also been active again this year in the Minority High School Journalism Program sponsored by Carolina Association for Black Journalists. This event has changed from a weekend program to a one-day Saturday program. Students registered at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27. By 6 p.m. that day they had produced a newscast and a blog to share with their journalism teachers and parents who attended a wrap-up dinner that evening.

Elon University's Sunshine Center, part of the N.C. Open Government Coalition, continues to invite and involve high school teachers and students in its activities. Sunshine Day 2010 will be March 16 at the International Civil Rights Museum. In addition to instructional and informational sessions, the event will feature a keynote by Nina Totenberg.

NCSMA's fall regional workshops concluded Nov. 10 in Charlotte. These co-hosted workshops were offered in six cities across the state. These October and November events were scheduled in the following locations: Asheville at University of North Carolina at Asheville; Boone at Appalachian State; Chapel Hill at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Greenville at East Carolina University; Charlotte in The Charlotte Observer building and Greensboro at North Carolina A&T State University. Some 1,020 attended the workshops.

#### Awards & Honors

South Iredell (Statesville) High School journalist Molly Hudson was named the Rachel Rivers-Coffey North Carolina High School Journalist of the Year. Hudson will receive a \$2,000 from the N.C. Press Foundation.

Alternates were Jessica Tobin of West Henderson (Hendersonville) and Olivia Nastasi of Ravenscroft (Raleigh) School. The N. C. Press Foundation established the annual scholarship award and named it in honor of professional journalist and former NCPA president Rachel Rivers-Coffey, who was killed in a horseback riding accident.

NCPF will award \$500 to each alternate at the Summer Institute's annual Awards Brunch. Each student's journalism teacher will receive funds for use in his or her journalism classrooms.

Westwind yearbook and Wingspan newspaper at West Henderson (Hendersonville) High were named Crown finalists by Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Results will be announced March 19. Westwind was also named a Pacemaker finalist by National Scholastic Press Association.

National Scholastic Press Association named Providence Senior High's literary magazine, Roars & Whispers, a finalist in the Design of the Year competition's Magazine Page/Spread category.

Geoff Belcher, adviser at Wake Forest-Rolesville High in Raleigh, and Mark Harrison, adviser at T.C. Roberson High in Asheville, received NCSMA's 2009 Kay Phillips Distinguished Service Award.

Erica Mesnard of T.C. Roberson High in Asheville won the 2009 Don Curtis scholarship in electronic communication. These competitive \$625 cash scholarships annually recognize up to two students in the TV News sequence of the Summer Institute.

Taylor Swankie of First Flight High in Kill Devil Hills won the 2009 Daily Tar Heel scholarship in newspaper journalism. These competitive \$625 cash scholarships annually recognize up to two students in the newspaper sequence of the Summer Institute.

N.C. Scholastic Media Advisers Association board member Brenda Gorsuch has been reelected regional director for the Journalism Education Association. Melanie Huynh-Duc of Northwest Guilford High received the Joseph W. Shoquist Freedom of the Press Award from Southern Interscholastic Press Association. NCSMA Director Monica Hill received the Pioneer Award from National Scholastic Press Association.

#### From South Carolina State Director Karen H. Flowers, CJE

##### Membership

Although it may appear our South Carolina JEA membership is down, it is not. I have checked the names of those who have not renewed and in every case the "loss" is an adviser who has left the classroom or one who is no longer advising, or in one case, the adviser died. We have THREE NEW MEMBERSHIPS.

Putting JEA membership on our SCSPA membership forms really helps, and I try to send a reminder to JEA members weeks before their membership expires.

##### Happenings

CELEBRATIONS: We have selected our S.C. Journalist of the Year, Travis Langley Horne from Lugoff-Elgin High School. Horne will be recognized at our spring conference April 26 and receive a check for \$500. He will be our S.C. representative in the JEA JOY competition.

Second place honors will go to William Maxwell Fowler, also from Lugoff-Elgin High School. Fowler also will be recognized at the spring conference April 26 and receive a certificate.

The SCSPA 75th anniversary committee has selected a writer for the history, former James Island newspaper adviser Will Felts from Charleston, S.C. Felts has begun gathering material and getting interviews set up.

The celebration will take place Oct. 16, 2011.

CONFERENCES: Although we were concerned about numbers because of the recession, the SCSPA fall conference was a success.

COMMUNICATION: Getting the word out about our services, activities, deadlines, etc. continues to be a challenge. We use our Web site, e-mail, snail mail, a printed calendar and Facebook, but advisers continue to miss deadlines and don't follow directions. I think it all boils down to they are just overwhelmed.

EVALUATIONS AND CONTESTS: Our numbers remain about the same in both evaluations and competitions – we lose some but new ones come in.

##### Awards & Honors

These will be announced at our spring conference April 26 and results will be in the October 2010 report.

#### From Tennessee State Director Denise Croker

##### Membership

The number of Tennessee JEA members has dropped from 66 to 22, as of November 2009. I think this means they need a reminder to renew memberships. I will send out an email reminder and ask JEA if there is an update.

##### Happenings

THSPA held its annual Awards Day March 1 at Lipscomb University.

Two Nashville universities will again offer their summer workshops in June: David Lipscomb University/THSPA and Belmont University.

##### Awards and Honors

THSPA awarded hundreds of awards in 44 categories on March 1.

##### Highlights of Awards

Bonnie Hufford Outstanding Student Media Adviser

Joy Oettel, Hume Fogg Academic Magnet High School

H.L. Hall Outstanding Student Journalist

Josh Lockhart, Coffee Country High School

Best Overall Newspaper: Logos, Harpeth Hall School

Best Overall Yearbook: Lion's Roar, Christ Presbyterian Academy

Best Overall Literary Magazine: Hallmarks, Harpeth Hall School

Best Web Site: Kenwood High School

Best Online Publication: Panther Tales, Franklin Road Academy

Mark Madison Best Television Station Award: WBHS, Brentwood High School

#### Tom Gayda, CJE

### **Mid-Atlantic/Great Lakes Region 6 Director**

As regional director/Scholastic Journalism Week chair/Scholastic Press Rights Commission member it has been a busy winter! The majority of my time was focusing on SJW, promoting the week on the listserv and providing materials supplied by myself and other volunteers.

As regional director I continue to look for a Delaware and Kentucky state director. It is my goal to somehow increase membership in those states (as well as all of the others in the region). I have imposed a two-term limit as regional director on myself, so I have about one more year to accomplish this goal.

At the Washington, D.C. convention I was assigned to a committee to evaluate the JEA Web site, however that committee has had no activity or I have not been included in any committee discussions.

### **From District of Columbia Director Reginald W. Ragland, CJE**

#### **Happenings**

The focus of DCJEA activities this reporting period have centered upon two events: 1) the planning and coordinating the fall JEA/NSPA convention in DC and 2) helping and supporting teachers cope during a period labor arbitration and pending layoffs. DC lost three media teachers to layoffs (see membership).

In addition to continuing its ongoing partnerships, DCJEA initiated only one additional outreach activity as noted below:

1. A new joint DCJEA-Professional Media Liaison initiative is in the works with the News Literacy Project and Children's PressLine to coordinate its activities within DC Public and charter schools.

Anticipate launch time is the fall of 2010.

Both organizations are being considered for JEA endorsement status;

2. Two DCJEA teachers participated in the spring membership campaign with media partner WAMU, a 2005 Friend of Scholastic Media recipient.

This is the sixth consecutive year (and 11th campaign) DCJEA has been represented;

3. DCJEA continues its ongoing assistance to the Urban Journalism Workshop sponsored by the Washington Assn. of Black Journalists and The Washington Post.

It provides exercise materials, handouts and teaching tips for professional journalists and works to partner scholastic journalism organizations' presence into the eight Saturday workshop sessions;

4. In a preliminary post-convention agreement, DCJEA, VAJTA and the Maryland Scholastic Press Assn. will partner to develop teacher-mentor/teacher training seminars to boost membership and journalism teacher competencies.

The training, at least from DCJEA, will have primary support focus on, but not be exclusive to, teachers who participated in the Outreach Academy.

5. Five students from DCPS schools Ballou and Roosevelt will participate in the spring SKILLSUSA national broadcasting competition in California.

This competition is akin to JEA Write-Off contests for broadcast-specific journalism activities.

As these numbers continue to dwindle over the years because of economic pressures on travel budgets, these schools will embark on constructing a "local version" of this competition under DCJEA guidance.

#### **Membership**

While DCJEA took some potential membership hits this reporting period on multiple fronts (due to teacher layoffs and two others who have moved on from teaching), it is encouraged by potential memberships from the JEA Outreach Academy. Eight teachers from DC were selected for the pre-convention training last fall and seven of the eight have expressed interest in receiving a one-year subscriptions. (See "For the Board" entry).

This opportunity was identified as a DCJEA "wish list" for various teachers and is pending funding from convention revenues.

#### **For the Board**

The unique three-jurisdictional host convention arrangement of the D.C. fall convention, while garnering hugely successful outcomes with its record attendance and in generating revenues.

But it also revealed some issues involving the post-planning revenue sharing policies.

The following recommendations should be considered standard operating procedures and possibly included in the "Real Simple" convention guide, in order to avoid the practice or perception of acting in poor faith and in assuring equal voice and representation of each;

1. Convention revenue sharing policies (on percentages) should be provided in writing, even if generally outlined;
2. The agreement should be discussed with the jurisdictional parties in the year-out meeting and, when settled, also put in writing. No changes can occur afterwards unless all parties are notified in advance and are in agreement;
3. The national organizations should NOT be involved, or give the impression of being involved, in local committee's revenue sharing negotiations;
4. Final negotiations should meet the needs of all parties, not be arbitrarily determined by the majority;
5. JEA/NSPA must seek to the greatest extent possible to have the selection of convention chairs/co-chairs represent the jurisdiction of the host city. A long-distanced, single-chair concept should be avoided. A thorough and transparent selection process should be enacted to consider the broadest selection of candidates.
6. To boost membership in host convention cities, the local committee should develop a system to reward a minimum percentage of Outreach Academy participants with one-year memberships to JEA to support their teaching professionalism.

A poll of 2009 Outreach Academy participants indicated that 93% (26 of 28) felt that a one-year membership, if offered, would be a significant offering to continuing and enhancing their professionalism after the academy.

These recommendations are not the result of any "sour grapes," but of the need for fair and open negotiations obviously impact the longer-term membership growth of the region and serve to address strengthening ties beyond the convention activities.

Professional Media Liaison — The Professional Media Liaison report is pending due to requested clarification on the abrupt cancellation of its program activities and budget allocations by the board president.

This information was not received as of the March 15 report submission date.

As mentioned in the October semi-annual report, an assessment of the impact of the program, particularly on growth and diversity of participation by professional media in the JEA/NSPA national convention, will be presented to the board in April.

### **From Indiana State Director Nancy Hastings, MJE**

#### **Membership**

Membership holds steady, despite school budget cuts and tight funds.

The Indiana High School Press Association Adviser officers continue to organize the state's activities. Officers include: President Carrie Wadycki, from Lake Central HS in St. John, IN, President Elect Chad Tuley, from Scencina HS in Indianapolis, Vice President Rachel McCarver from Columbus North HS, Secretary Nicole Wilson from Carmel HS, and Past President Sarah VerPooten from Lake Central HS. At Large Members rounding out the board include Robin Bilinski from NorthWood HS in Nappanee, Melissa Deavers from Portage HS, Julie Elston from Crown Point HS,

and Jim Lang from Floyd Central HS.

Some members came together to help fight censorship at Lake Central High School, after administrators confiscated the student newspaper the Scout. With strong leadership from student editor Mike Macjrowicz and rousing support at a school board meeting, the administration returned the newspaper three weeks later. The students, with help from the Indiana High School Press Association and the Student Press Law Center, hope to overturn an administration prior review policy.

#### Happenings

Nearly 400 turned out to celebrate the First Amendment at the 4th First Amendment Symposium in the Statehouse in Indianapolis in early March. After his inspiring talk at the fall national convention in Washington, D.C., keynote Nick Clooney joined Indiana student journalists as he encouraged students and advisers to continue to fight to report the truth as they value the importance of the First Amendment and a free student press. The symposium also recognized Indiana's journalism All Stars, the finalists for the Student Journalist of the Year Honors. Sharing the spotlight with Student Journalist of the year Sean Jordan of Lawrence Central High School in Indianapolis, were Robby Howard of Munster HS, Michelle Hu of Carmel HS, Christina Kladis of Portage HS, Andrew Perrin of North Central HS in Indianapolis, Deanna Sheaffer of Crown Point HS, and Jordan Steiger of Portage HS. All finalists were editors of at least one publication in their schools and had a combined average GPA of 4.15. IHSPA Executive Director Diana Hadley said this was the strongest group of finalists she's seen in quite a while.

Three special awards recognized students exhibiting the organization's core values. A Courage award recognized Portage HS senior Jordan Steiger and her success working with administrators to overturn prior review and censorship of the Pow Wow student newspaper. Junior Mike Macjrowicz of Lake Central also earned a Courage award for his continuing work to try to overturn his school's censorship and prior review policy. An Integrity award recognized Robby Howard of Munster HS and his positive, working relationship his school administrators.

Three students earned recognition in the David Adams First Amendment Project competition for their poster designs. The award was established to recognize Indiana University's David Adams and his involvement with fighting for First Amendment issues.

#### Awards

Highlighting the spring honors list is Student Journalist of the year Sean Jordan. He serves as editor of two publications at of Lawrence Central High School.

Rachel McCarver of Columbus North HS will be recognized as a Rising Star in Portland in April.

Earlier this school year, Ryan Gunterman from Bloomington North High School was named the Ella Sengenberger Adviser of the Year. Recognized for his newspaper and yearbook staffs' achievements, IHSPA also recognized Gunterman for his work in planning the last three state conventions.

Steve Tripenfeldas from Munster High School earned the Administrator of the Year honors for his hands-off approach in supporting student journalists.

#### Special News

After more than 14 years serving as Journalism Department Chair at Ball State University, Marilyn Weaver will retire in June. Honored as the Scripps Howard Foundation Administrator of the Year in 2009, Weaver has been connected to Ball State for more than 30 years. As director of the journalism secondary education division, Weaver was instrumental in the growth and expansion of the summer journalism workshops. She oversaw the construction of the journalism building and the growth of the department. Indiana will truly miss her leadership and inspiration.

#### From Michigan State Director Brian Wilson

##### Membership

MIPA has formed several committees, chaired by board members, to address various needs within the state and to, ideally, get more advisers active in statewide initiatives. So, for instance, one of the committees deals with membership. I am the chairperson, and we've started on some projects to help increase MIPA membership, which will, hopefully, increase JEA membership as well. We have started a Facebook fan page, which already has over 500 followers, to give students and advisers another place to get journalism info. We are hoping to meet sometime soon to discuss ways to get more advisers to be active in journalism, both at the statewide and the national levels.

There have been some other encouraging signs in terms of adviser activity in the state. Our one-day design workshops in February, covering InDesign, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Illustrator, and included two redesign clinics, were extremely well-attended, despite the fact that the weather, as usual, was not overly cooperative. And submissions to the statewide individual award competitions held steady in most categories and actually increased in a few.

##### Happenings

We are encouraging advisers and students to participate in the "Heart of a Spartan" walk/run being held at MSU on May 2. MIPA is using the event as a scholarship fundraiser for the summer workshop, and individual students are able to use it to get sponsors who will hopefully help them raise money attend the workshop

NEOLA (Northeastern Ohio Learning Association) is starting to creep into the news lately, as the organization sinks its claws into school board policies across Michigan and several other states. The group serves to write templates for school district policies in a variety of areas. Of particular concern to advisers is 5722, which sets prior review standards for a district. In Michigan, it seems, several school boards have already enacted 5722, and it looks like this may become even more of a trend. As if Michigan didn't have enough reasons to be annoyed with Ohio. Totally kidding on that last part.

MIPA will again be running a northern Michigan conference for advisers and students in May in Traverse City. Response to this workshop has been very positive, with many advisers asking for a return appearance. The original motivation for the conference was to reach more programs that aren't in the lower third of the state. Professional membership numbers suggest that many teachers north of, say, Mt. Pleasant, aren't being reached. Few journalism kids from the northern part of the state are able to make it south for workshops and conferences, and so MIPA is attempting to reach them instead.

##### Awards and Honors

Two Michigan yearbooks were named Pacemaker finalists: Carlson High School and Fenton High School.

Several Michigan schools are in the running for Gold Crowns: Orchard Lake Middle School for middle school yearbook, Cranbrook Kingswood School for magazine, Utica High School and Grosse Pointe North High School for newspaper, and Fenton High School for yearbook.

For what is, I think, the first time, Michigan has a finalist for the digital Pacemaker. Community High School in Ann Arbor, which just went online this fall, is up for the award. Congratulations to adviser Tracy Rosewarne and her staff.

#### From Ohio State Director Georgia Dunn

##### Membership

Membership in Ohio has shown a 25% increase this year. Last year at this time, we had 52 members. Currently we are at 65 with a few more new memberships to be forwarded from OSMA, our state affiliate organization.

One of the ways that we are attempting to find new JEA members is through our partnership with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). OHSAA asked each of its member schools to list its newspaper, yearbook, and broadcast adviser's name on their directory. From this, we have contacted each of the advisers about our spring activities.

##### Happenings

Ohio Scholastic Media Association (OSMA)

The group will hold its second state conference at Kent on April 9 & 10, 2010. We will be announcing our state Journalist of the Year as well as the many overall and individual award winners for the year in newspaper, newsmagazine, yearbook, and broadcast. We will also be conducting day-of contests and awarding those prizes at the banquet on Friday evening.

##### Partnership

OSMA is also embarking on a partnership with the Ohio High School Athletic Association. We will work to improve the accessibility of high school journalists to area and state-wide tournaments. In addition, we want to educate high school journalists, including photographers, about the rules for obtaining press credentials as well as what is expected of them at athletic contests.

The Greater Columbus Sports Commission is sponsored a Be a Sports Journalist program for the OHSAA Boys Basketball Championships during March 25 - 27, 2010.

High school students had the opportunity to be a member of the working media during the OHSAA Boys Basketball Championships. This program provided an opportunity for students to be involved with the OHSAA Boys Basketball Championships in a new way giving real journalism experience for high school students that are interested in this as a career.

The Ohio Scholastic Media Association holds an annual contest, which includes a sports news category. The top five students who received a superior ranking in this category were chosen as the

program participants.

This year's participants were Michaela Marincic (10th grade) Findlay High School, Nate Atkins (12th grade) Ashland High School, Jesse Unk (12th grade) Akron North High School, Tate Moore (11th grade) Wadsworth High School, and Ellie Fenton (12th grade) Revere High School. Program participants received a media credential for the tournament.

The high school reporters filed a story by a deadline. All of the stories were published on The Columbus Dispatch Web site. A representative from the OHSAA and The Columbus Dispatch selected the best story which was published in the print version of The Columbus Dispatch.

#### Mentoring

We have begun the third year of the JEA mentoring project, underwritten by the Ohio Newspaper Association. The first year mentors Wayne and Georgia Dunn mentored four advisers: three in the Columbus area and one in South Central Ohio. Last year, they added one more in the Columbus area. This year they have four in Southwest Ohio and three in the Columbus area.

#### Award & Honors

Congratulations to these two schools from Ohio who won in the National Scholastic Press Association's Pacemaker Awards.

#### Newsmagazine

The Spark, Lakota East High School, Liberty Twp., OH

#### Broadcast

2A Today, Findlay High School, Findlay, OH

#### Censorship Issues

As in all states it seems (even those with laws protecting student speech!), we deal with censorship issues in Ohio. Currently, we are not aware of any high-profile cases, but we continue to monitor situations as they are brought to our attention. The Scholastic Media group at the Kent State University school of Journalism and Mass Communication keeps an interactive map of all reported censorship issues not only in Ohio but also throughout the country.

#### For the Board

The requirement that state directors be working toward their MJE status seems very reasonable for those who are still actively engaged in the teaching profession. For those of us who are retired, it seems more difficult to attain. Perhaps the board could revisit this requirement.

#### **From Kentucky State Director David Greer**

##### Membership

KHSJA is now 13 years old. It was established by the Kentucky Press Association. We have 100 member schools across the state. More than 60 percent of those schools have had their \$50 annual membership fee paid by one or more local newspapers. In past years, the sponsorship rate has been more than 70 percent but the recession decreased that number this year.

##### Happenings

The winter of 2009-10 was unusually harsh in Kentucky with record snowfall amounts. School districts statewide used far more snow days than typical and that resulted in the state Department of Education changing the dates for statewide school testing. The new testing dates then conflicted with our May 4 and 5, 2010, state convention. That forced KHSJA to reschedule its annual convention for Nov. 8 and 9, 2010. The event will be held in Louisville at the Crowne Plaza.

The spring 2009 state convention saw record attendance of 850 students and teachers in a conference center just outside of Louisville. It's a good thing the local fire marshal had conducted his annual inspection the day before our convention because if he had shown up the next day, he surely would have closed us down since the building's capacity is just 700. Former Associated Press Middle East Bureau chief Terry Anderson, held hostage for six years in the 1980s by militants in Lebanon, was our keynote speaker. His topic was the importance of journalism in a democracy.

Murray State, Western Kentucky and the University of Kentucky all held high school journalism events during the school year as well.

Search for new state director continues.

#### **From Virginia State Director Val Kibler, CJE**

##### Membership

Our membership has remained fairly consistent with 101 VAJTA members, 97 JEA members from Virginia. (33 VAJTA members are not JEA members and 31 JEA members from JEA in Virginia are not VAJTA members, so a concerted effort is being made by the director to get all members in both organizations)

##### Happenings

Over 40 teachers/advisers/retired teachers from all over Virginia worked to make the Fall JEA/NSPA National Convention in Washington, D.C. the largest convention in history, with a record attendance of 6,350+. Virginia brought the largest delegation to the convention, with over 940 attending. The diligent work of the local committee in areas like on-site critiques, t-shirt sales, trade show and advertising contracts and media tours paid off with the highest revenue ever received by the local committee for a national convention. We were also very pleased to raise \$5,788 for the Student Press Law Center at the adviser auction at the convention.

We are continuing several programming initiatives that have proven successful. We will be partnering with Educational Media Services at Virginia Tech for the fourth summer to offer jCamp in July as our numbers have grown substantially in each of the three years we've held the training program. Additional strands are being added this year. Online media will be a new course and advanced and beginning strands will be offered in photography and design.

We are planning to work with the Maryland and D.C. associations to offer a fall advisers' retreat that will rotate between the three jurisdictions and provide programming to help both new and veteran advisers.

To replace the Virginia High School League Fall Championship Workshop which has been cancelled, we are proposing a spring J-Day for 2011 which will offer training for students and advisers, write-off competitions, carry-in competitions, best of show and keynote speakers.

Efforts are underway to revamp our state website and to organize traveling training teams to help new advisers around the state.

##### Awards & Honors

Our state Student Journalist of the Year winner is Charles Stevens of Annandale High School in Annandale, VA. Charles' adviser is Alan Weintraut. Charles will receive a \$500 cash award from our association. Second place went to Arvin Ahmadi of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Arlington, VA. Arvin's adviser is Jennifer Seavey. He will receive a \$300 cash award. Third place went to Ismail Vera of Prince George High School in Prince George, VA. His adviser is Chris Waugaman.

We're very proud of multiple Virginia advisers who have been recognized nationally this year. Chad Rummel of Oakton High School and Pat Hinman of Robinson Middle School (both in Fairfax County) will be award the Yearbook Special Recognition Award at the Portland convention in April. Hinman is also receiving a Gold Key Award from CSPA at the Spring Convention in New York in March as is Charles Stevens of Lee-Davis High School in Mechanicsville, VA. Erinn Harris of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology has been named a JEA Rising Star and will receive her award in Portland.

Carol Knopes of the Radio-Television Digital News Directors Foundation received the JEA Media Citation at the fall convention in D.C. Valerie Kibler received the Southern Interscholastic Press Association's Distinguished Service Award at the SIPA annual spring convention in Columbia, SC.

#### **From West Virginia State Director Ruby A. Dyer**

##### Happenings

Approximately 110 student journalists from West Virginia and Pennsylvania and their advisers attended the West Virginia University West Virginia University Perley Isaac Reed School of Journalism High School Journalism Workshop March 12. Journalism professor Gina Martino Dahlia served as workshop director. Workshops were offered in advertising, broadcast news, editorial writing, yearbook layout and design, feature reporting and writing, Final Cut Pro digital video editing, newspaper layout and design, news reporting and writing, photo journalism, public relations and sports writing. A behind-the-scenes look at the award-winning campus radio station U92 and the college newspaper, the Daily Athenaeum was also provided. Teachers could attend workshops in Final Cut Pro; blogging, twittering and other forms of social media; and converting publications to digital: freeware and shareware solutions. An awards banquet followed at the Hotel Morgan

that evening where the following students were announced as winners.

Also Marshall University will host the 83rd annual United High School Media (UHSM) convention March 19. Approximately 100 area journalists are scheduled to attend. Students can choose from workshops on yearbook design, advertising sales and design, interviewing techniques, broadcasting, story ideas, photography and sports writing. Advisers also will meet to discuss issues and concerns. Students and advisers will also compete in the Media Challenge before an awards banquet which will recognize winners in eight yearbook categories and nine newspaper categories. Individual winners in editorial, feature, news, sports and column writing, feature photo and infographics will also be announced. \*Attendance at both state workshops was down because of excessive snow days during January and February.

For the second straight year Marshall University will sponsor a high school journalism workshop June 21-25. The application deadline is April 10. Those applying must have at least a "B" average, a letter of recommendation, parental permission, an essay explaining their interest in journalism and samples of their work. Participants will live on campus in a dormitory, work with top-of-the-line equipment and will study layout, design, copy editing, reporting and much more. The workshop is being funded by The Herald-Dispatch (Huntington, WV) and directed by journalism professor Burnis Morris. More information can be obtained from Morris at [morrisb@marshall.edu](mailto:morrisb@marshall.edu). Awards & Honors: (See lists above for UHSM and WVU winners.) Maryl Lambros, a senior at Wayne High School, has been named a Free Spirit scholarship winner. The Al Neuharth Free Spirit Scholarship and Conference program annually awards \$1,000 to one high school senior from each state and the District of Columbia who are interested in pursuing a career in journalism and who demonstrate qualities of a "free spirit." Winners receive, in addition to the scholarship, an expense-paid trip to D.C. where they participate in a variety of journalistic activities, including the Al Neuharth Free Spirit of the Year ceremony. Lambros is news editor of The Pioneer newspaper and has won writing awards at UHSM and WVU.

#### For the Board

I guess this is my last year to serve as state director of JEA. I began my stint as state director back in 1983 or 1984. I also guess I've been a delinquent state director since I do not have CJE or MJE status. However, with a B.A. degree in journalism and English (a double major, not a major and a minor) and a M.A.J. degree, plus extra hours in journalism beyond my degrees, I never felt the need to get a CJE or MJE. I have professional experience with newspapers and magazines and have been adviser to high school newspapers for 36 years now, 35 with the award-winning The Pioneer newspaper, a regular Gold Crown winner. I've also advised the award-winning Pioneer yearbook since 1982. I've done this while also serving as president of the West Virginia Journalism Teachers Association and while teaching at the Ohio University and Marshall University journalism workshops each summer. While I understand the need and the push to get teachers who do not have an academic background in journalism certified, I do not understand the need for those teachers like myself, who have confidence in our abilities and in the education and training we received in college and the professional field.

#### Membership

Membership in JEA has remained steady though certainly less than we would like to see. Hopefully increased membership can be a goal we can attain in 2010-2011.

#### **Jane Blystone, MJE** **Northeast Region 7 Director**

As of this report the region has 187 members minus 22 libraries for a total of 165 individual members.

The North East Region, especially the folks in Massachusetts, are gearing up for the Boston convention in two years.

As you can see from the Ct. report thanks to Stacey Wilkins, we now have a new state association. Brian Barons, Ma., did a live chat on his NING during the fall convention. Pennsylvania student Henry Rome, national Student Journalist of the Year, has been doing some great things with his former staff member Seth Zweifler to promote First Amendment rights around the state and country.

Several states have been involved or are in the process of participating in the JEA mentoring program.

Susan Houseman from Conestoga High School in Pa. was recognized as one of four Special Recognition advisers for the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Journalism Teacher of the Year.

As a member of the JEA Scholastic Press Right Commission, I have written various blogs for [www.jeasprc.org](http://www.jeasprc.org) and have helped the commission to develop a working vocabulary of legal terms for the commission site.

We were very excited to see a huge crowd from Region #7 of nearly 20 at the JEA fall convention Meet, Eat and Greet – the largest group in a number of years. We hope many will visit us there at the Portland convention Friday morning for a great time of sharing and food. Working with the Write-offs at the DC convention was a great opportunity to meet old and new friends. Just prior to the national convention, I spend a day at Point Park University (Pittsburgh, Pa.) presenting a workshop for advisers at their Media Day.

I am also very excited to start work as one of the two new JEA Certification Commissioner.

This region has 20 CJE's and four MJE's among its members, so we encourage more members to consider this opportunity for certification at upcoming conventions.

#### **From Connecticut State Director Stacey Wilkins, CJE**

##### Membership

The Connecticut chapter has officially launched the Connecticut Academic Press Association (CAPA) with a new Web site. <http://www.ctacademicpressassociation.com/>

Thirty-two members have joined. In coordination with this effort I mailed out JEA membership packets to 166 public and private schools. This now gives the Connecticut JEA chapter a master list that includes every secondary school, adviser's name and the name of their newspaper and other media.

##### Happenings

The Connecticut chapter will hold its first ever spring conference on the campus of Central Connecticut State University in New Britain on May 3. This event gives CAPA the opportunity to expand JEA membership beyond the Fairfield County area. The event will feature speakers from ESPN, Billboard magazine, The New York Times and JEA's own Northeast/Region 7 regional director Jane Blystone.

##### Awards and Honors

The Connecticut chapter has started its first contest to be awarded at the spring conference. The Courage in Journalism contest will honor student journalists who display moral, ethical or physical courage in pursuit of news coverage in their school newspapers, broadcasts or online news platforms.

##### Censorship Issues

JEA member and Staples High School Inklings adviser Steve Rexford is drafting a "Your Rights" guide for Connecticut advisers on the CAPA Web site. This section will help advisers and students learn more about student press rights in the state of Connecticut. Steve Rexford is also coordinating a workshop on press rights at the spring conference in May.

#### **New Hampshire State Director Eileen Regen, CJE**

Search for new state director continues.

#### **From New Jersey State Director Susan Everett, MJE**

##### Membership

The Garden State Scholastic Press Association includes JEA membership on its registration form. GSSPA's year runs from October - September, beginning with the Fall Press Day. 29 members were added/renewed this way in October.

##### Happenings

JEA membership information was distributed to the members of GSSPA at the Fall Press Day, 10 / 26 / 09, and will be distributed at the Spring Advisers' Conference on May 7, and at a possible summer workshop in August.

Two retired NJ journalism educators - Susan V. Everett, MJE, and Ron Bonadonna, CJE, are in their first year of the JEA mentoring program. Ron has three mentees, and Sue has one, and will be seeking another for the 2010-2011 school year.

##### Awards

GSSPA has established an award called the Thomas Engelman award for Innovations in Scholastic Journalism, named for Tom, a long time JEA member who recently left his position at the NJ

Press Foundation. Tom was instrumental in founding GSSPA in the late 1970s / early 1980s when he was Director of the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund.

The NJPF and the Kilgore family present a \$5,000 scholarship (called the Bernard Kilgore Memorial Scholarship) annually to the NJ JOY winner. NJPF handles the judging of portfolios for the JEA / GSSPA state contest.

#### **From Pennsylvania State Director Wanda Pletcher**

##### Membership

I continue to encourage all Pennsylvania schools to join JEA. A joint membership form for PSPA and JEA is available on the PSPA website. I received the report of non-renewing schools this week and will begin the process of emailing reminders. With enough notice I can attend regional or state events; however, I need at least 2 months notice at this point to get permission from my district. I am now only allowed out of school 3 days per year, and I must miss 2 days to attend the national convention. I can get around this by taking kids because field trips do not count toward my three days so it is helpful for me to have advance notice. I can also take personal days if needed.

##### Happenings

PSPA has decided to hold their annual convention in November. The Holiday Inn Harrisburg East will host the convention for Thursday evening, 11/4 and Friday 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. 11/5. Already scheduled events include:

- Thursday evening 11/4: Former editors of the Conestoga HS newspaper, The Spoke, will speak at the Thursday evening PSPA dinner. Topic: censorship of the press. Both students, Henry Rome and Seth Zweifler, were involved in censorship discussions at the high school - at the same time that Henry Rome was being named Student Journalist of PA and the national student journalist of the year.
- Friday speakers who have confirmed: a producer from ABC 27 News, Kathy Zweibel, Susan Houseman, Bob Hankes, and Mike McVitty. Bloomsburg's newspaper staff will run a session, as will Big Spring's staff. The plan is to offer ten sessions simultaneously six times on Friday, one beginning every 75 minutes.
- The TV station next door to the hotel, WITF, will give tours all day of the facility, and some will be led by experts in certain areas of journalism (so there will be a reporter's tour, and then a graphic designer's tour, etc.)
- At noon Harrisburg veteran evening news co-anchor Valerie Pritchett will do a live feed from the hotel for ABC 27 News, then give the lunchtime address and take questions. Afterwards, Valerie will take ten students back to WHTM and give them a tour.
- Friday's registration and lunch: \$45 total per student. This should be affordable for most mid-state students.

Pennsylvania had three students submit portfolios for the SJOY contest. These portfolios will be judged at the February board meeting and the winner will be forwarded for the national convention.

I attended the Washington convention and plan to attend next fall's convention where I will present sessions and help with judging and critiques.

Janice Hatfield has renewed her application for the JEA mentoring program. She plans to attend the summer training. Kathy Zweibel is undecided and will announce her plans soon.

##### Awards and Honors

Students, advisers and administrators engage in confrontations every day about the limits of free speech for student journalists. Students and advisers often must act bravely, putting their reputations and even careers on the line in the name of press freedom. And yet, despite courageous efforts, those involved in conflicts over First Amendment issues rarely receive the attention deserved for their heroism in defending principles of free speech.

Each year, in an effort to recognize some of those efforts, the SPLC and the National Scholastic Press Association give out the Courage in Student Journalism Award, which is endowed by the Kent State University Center for Scholastic Journalism. This year's winners in the student category were Pennsylvania's Henry Rome and Seth Zweifler.

Wanda Pletcher received the Gold Key award from CSPA at the March convention.

##### Censorship Issues

Students of Council Rock High School South have united to form South Students Against Literary and Cinematic Censorship in order to combat attempts by some parents to limit media use in the curriculum.

#### **From Massachusetts State Director Brian Baron**

##### Activities To Promote JEA, Membership, and Journalism Education

- Ning Site

We used the site to run a live chat session from the JEA/NSPA convention in the fall. The activity was surprisingly easy to pull together from a technological standpoint, and I'd like to try to pull off another one this spring at some point (maybe to generate some interest for the NESPA convention in April). Only a handful of people joined in, but it seemed useful to those who did partake.

Some members of the chat session suggested an editor's meeting at some point during the year, but no one has yet picked up this ball and run with it.

- Conferences

I will present a session at this April's NESPA conference, and will contact Helen Smith to make sure we distribute JEA materials at this convention.

- JOY

Despite numerous email reminders and browbeating, I have been unsuccessful in my attempts to get state members to enter the Journalist of the Year contest. We again had only one entrant this year, the editor of my newspaper. He was a strong applicant, and I have my doubts that anyone would have been stronger even if they had applied. The contest will be better, however, once more students are participating. We have had Massachusetts applicants three of the last four years, but they have all been editors of the paper I advise.

- Survey

I sent the results of the nationwide survey I did last fall and summer to JEA officials and posted some of the results on the ning site. I look forward to using the results to plan future activities.

##### Future Plans

Planning for Boston 2013 - Three years seems like a long time. On the other hand, not many of the people who formed the local committee in 2001 are still in the game, and given the low membership numbers in the region the prospect of holding a convention here seems somewhat daunting. I visited with Colleen Gacic of Scituate and Peter B-G of South Hadley over the summer, and I have high hopes for their energy and activism.

#### **From New York State Director Sherri Taylor**

##### Happenings

There was a good turnout for the state press association fall conference was in October.

We didn't have any students apply for Journalist of the Year.

#### **From Rhode Island State Director Elizabeth Martin**

Search for new state director continues.

#### **From Vermont State Director Nancy Olson**

##### Membership

Vermont has two members currently. I am recruiting two possible new members.

##### Happenings

Vermont Independent Media, a local community-journalism organization, sponsored a two-hour workshop called "Journalism Is Not Dead" for teachers and others who work with youth. Among those in attendance at Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro, Vermont, on February 10, 2010, were two women from Nigeria who want to teach the youth in their home communities how to produce a community newspaper. Nancy Olson co-taught the workshop.

##### Awards and Honors



For the first time in a decade or more, Vermont will have an entry in this year's Journalist of the Year competition.

Censorship Issues: None known