

JEA

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

■ President's Report, Candace Perkins Bowen (MJE)

Information in this report for the spring 1996 convention in San Francisco comes from JEA board members and state directors. It is not intended to be a complete report of all JEA activities. Another report will be handed out at the fall JEA convention in Chicago.

■ Two main projects have been the focus since last fall's report: combating the NCAA stand on journalism credit and spearheading JEA's lawsuit against the Communications Decency Act. (CDA).

■ After NCAA representative Bob Oliver presented his group's position to the Board at the Kansas City convention, it became apparent our members needed more information about core requirements for students hoping to participate in college athletics. Changes in the NCAA evaluation of core courses made journalism unacceptable much of the time, particularly newspaper and yearbook production courses. After researching the situation more — including conversations with Dr. Jerry Kingston, chair of the NCAA's academic requirements committee — and gathering additional articles, I completed a four-page insert for the Winter *C:JET*, even more appropriate because it was about high school sports.

■ One conclusion: JEA members need to know how to write their course descriptions and syllabi so these reflect the emphasis on writing, grammar, word usage and the English skills all advisers realize go on in their classes. Evidently how to write these is information many advisers want since requests for additional copies of this issue of *C:JET* have almost exhausted supplies.

■ To further help advisers craft a curriculum description that reflects all the English skills in a production course, I will offer a session with Molly Clemons at the San Francisco convention on this topic.

■ The president's second major project since fall came as a surprise. In January, the ACLU contacted JEA about participating in a lawsuit against the "decency" section of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, if and when Congress passed it and the President signed it. During most of February, I worked with the ACLU lawyers to draft an affidavit reflecting JEA members' concern with such a law.

■ JEA's portion of the affidavit, filed Feb. 7 in the case, cites the growing use of on-line communications to help members' students research topics and the increased number of school newspapers with their own Web sites. It explains... "the chance for students to try on-line research and on-line publishing for themselves is crucial to the education of (JEA members') students."

■ However, since the new law does not really define "indecent" and since "net

surfing” for information often leads to unexpected places, the affidavit states, “JEA members are concerned that they will risk criminal prosecution or sanctions under Section (d) (2) of the statute if they ‘knowingly permit any telecommunications facility under their control to be used’ to display to minors material that is patently offensive.”

■ Could we be held liable under this act if a student searched for information about media depiction of women and stumbled into a sexually explicit Web site? Quite possibly we could be. Even if the student was using a computer at home to gather information for a story for a paper we advise, if he or she accessed “indecent” material, we could be in trouble.

■ This points up another problem with the legislation. Areas may be deemed “indecent” by some but still contain valuable resources for legitimate articles. For instance, some available sources covering Bosnia contain graphic descriptions of rapes that have occurred there, yet still have details students may want and need for an article they might write about the war-torn country.

■ A final concern for JEA — and what makes this such a no-win situation — is it possible a student could sue a teacher for being too stringent in preventing access to on-line offerings? Could he or she be sued for abridging that student’s First Amendment rights, for censoring what was available? This, too, is possible.

■ At the time I am writing this report, the government has agreed not to prosecute anyone on the “indecent” or “patently offensive” portions of this law until the suit has been decided. Now the ACLU and the original 19 plaintiffs have been joined by another group which includes the American Library Association. Additional testimony and depositions will be required of some of the plaintiffs, but it is still unknown if JEA will be one of these. I have been in almost daily contact with the ACLU lawyers and will have an update at the San Francisco convention.

■ Vice President's Report, H. L. Hall (MJE)

■ At the regional directors meeting in Kansas City plans were made to hold a summer meeting to discuss goals for JEA and to discuss ways to build membership. Final plans for that meeting will be made at the San Francisco convention. Rik McNeill initialized contact with the Poynter Institute and asked representatives there to host the meeting. He also asked Poynter to provide an individual or individuals to serve as Strategic Planners for the group, and Poynter has agreed to do so. If the JEA board approves the proposal in San Francisco, regional directors and the president and vice president will meet with a Poynter representative on Friday, July 26, and then they will meet on their own on Saturday, July 27, to discuss suggestions which the Poynter strategic planner had for the organization. It is hoped that this meeting will provide JEA with a vision of how to increase membership and with ideas of how to better serve its members.

■ Plans are to conduct an exit survey at the San Francisco convention to find out from those in attendance how the convention helped them and to find out ways JEA might improve future conventions. The idea for the exit survey was Judy Knudtson’s. After considerable discussion, the board approved the idea at the Kansas City meeting.

**■ South Central
Region Report,
Kathy Craghead
(MJE), director**

Texas — State Director Gary Harlow, MJE

- Texas has 196 members, more than any other state, and up five since last year. This is the third consecutive year Texas has topped all other states in JEA membership.
- The TAJE state convention in San Antonio drew over 900 students and teachers from around the state. JEA President Candace Perkins Bowen attended. This was her first visit to San Antonio in 18 years. The JEA Bookstore sold over \$2,000 in items in a one-day period.
- Texas had a large delegation in San Francisco for the western JEA convention.
- Rhonda Fowler, of Alief Hastings, has just been hired as TAJE's new executive director replacing Pat Brittain who resigned after eight years of service. Newly elected officers for TAJE are: Randy Vonderheid, president; Susan Roberts, president elect; Patricia Kuppmeier, treasurer, Peggy Miller, secretary, Pat Gathright, convention director; and Gary Harlow, state director.

Oklahoma — State Director Darlene Jones Tresner, MJE

- Oklahoma's journalism instructors are currently battling diminishing budgets and program cuts as the state's educational system continues to be impacted by the declining economy of the state overall.
- Another dilemma that we face is that the state regents for higher education do not include journalism as a college-bound elective. Therefore, fewer students are enrolling in journalism at many schools and many of those who are are not academically motivated youngsters.
- We are hoping to have a record turnout in the number of portfolios submitted for the state journalism student of the year competition, and plans are underway for a summer adviser retreat and leadership camp for new editors.

Kansas — State Director Cheryl Attebury

- New in Kansas journalism is a Hall of Fame made possible by donations from advisers, student publications and other individuals. At the JEA-NSPA national convention in Kansas City Nov. 16-17 inductees were honored at a dinner at the Hyatt Regency. John Mohn, adviser at Ellinwood High School and Richard Johns, executive director of the Quill and Scroll Society, spoke at the dinner.
- Other activities KSPA is active in are the JEA High School Journalist of the Year competition, a mentor program, fall conferences at four sites, a Student Board that meets with the KSPA board and sponsors various activities such as a T-shirt design contest for student journalists to purchase, and an All-Kansas critique service for newspapers and yearbooks.
- This year's regional journalism contest is its silver anniversary. Six of the competitions are carry-in and 11 are on-site.

Arkansas — State Director Beth Shull

■ After successfully passing scholastic press legislation last April, Arkansas advisers have been working with local school administrators to create a student publications policy, as mandated by the legislation. A policy was to be in effect for each school district by January 1. After battling the state legislature for eight months during the 1994-1995 school year, House Bill 1777 was passed and included three specific directives. Student journalists and their advisers are especially excited about the inclusion of First Amendment rights: "Student publication policies shall recognize that students may exercise their right of expression, within the framework...of this act," states the bill. Most of us were a bit disappointed when the state school board association distributed a suggested policy which omits this recognition, focusing instead on the school building principal's responsibility for material in school publications. Their version of the policy even states, "Only material that has been approved by the building principal may be published." After successfully battling the Hazelwood decision, it is discouraging to have our administrators pushing for even stricter censorship control. Most advisers have been able to get this point deleted from their policies. After doing some checking with the state school board association, it became apparent that the committee had not studied the bill, nor did they have any knowledge of previous scholastic press regulations. Most local school boards and administrators have not seen the legislation, either.

■ The Arkansas High School Press Association Executive Secretary, Dr. William D. Downs at Ouachita Baptist University, has resigned from his position and will be replaced by Gary Lundgren at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Lundgren will take over full ASHPA responsibilities following the spring convention, April 26-27.

■ Students and advisers from six schools in the state shared two busses and caravanned to the Southern Interscholastic Press Association's annual convention, Feb. 29-Mar. 4. The bus ride is 17 hours one way and is organized each year by Lori Oglesbee at Fairview High School in Camden. In addition to attending the SIPA convention, the group also visited Stone Mountain National Park in Georgia and the Hard Rock Cafe in Atlanta.

Missouri — State Director Bill Hankins

■ Missouri has been rejuvenated under the leadership of Anna Romero, the new Missouri Interscholastic Press Association director.

■ Approximately 500 students and advisers will attend state Journalism Day later this month at the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri. Jack Kennedy will be the E. W. Tucker lecturer at this event. Advisers will vote on a new constitution for the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association.

■ Advisers in the state continue their struggle to pass a student freedom of expression act in the legislature. The bill was heard by a House committee in February, and students, teachers, and administrators testified in favor.

■ H. L. Hall, Kirkwood High School was named as the first recipient of JEA's

■ **North Central
Region Report,
Judy Knudtson
(MJE), director**

National Yearbook Adviser of the Year Award. He will receive his award in San Francisco.



Illinois — State Director Linda Kane, CJE

■ IJOY for '95 is Jill Eckert from Buffalo Grove High School, Arlington Heights. IJEA received nine entries for the Illinois Journalist of the Year, more than ever before.

■ Last summer's IJEA meeting was held at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, July 29, and the Illinois State High School Press Association met at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Sept. 29. Approximately 375 students from 33 schools attended. The spring IJEA meeting was in Naperville, March 2. Illinois Representative Mary Lou Cowlshaw (R-Naperville) was the guest speaker. She is sponsoring the state's anti-censorship freedom of expression bill in the Illinois House of Representatives.

■ IJEA continues to prepare for the 1996 JEA/NSPA national convention to be in Chicago at the Hyatt Regency downtown. Susan Tantillo is the local convention chairperson. Local committee members have met twice. Any suggestions for judges or speakers would be appreciated.

Iowa — State Director Ann Visser, CJE

■ Iowa City High School's Jack Kennedy was the 1995 recipient of the Rod Vahl Teacher of the Year Award presented by the Iowa High School Press Association at its October conference. The award is named after the late Rod Vahl who was a former National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year. Kennedy was also a recipient of that award. Also honored at the conference was Joan Hoffman, adviser at Centerville High School. She received the Stratton Award in honor of the long-time journalism educator, publications adviser and textbook author. Officer elected were Ann Visser (Pella), president; and Jim Tredway (Des Moines Roosevelt), secretary. Statewide directors (a change from regional directors) elected were Robin Fields (Ankeny); Steve Lyle (Davenport West); Salli Nichols (Storm Lake); and Brian Thies (Hampton).

■ Winners in the fall yearbook contest were Clarksville, Class A; Washington, Class B; Ft. Madison, Class C; and City High School, Iowa City, Class D.

■ Four Iowa journalism teachers had the opportunity to participate in the internship program sponsored jointly by the Iowa Newspaper Association and Iowa High School Press during the summer of 1995. Most internships are planned for this summer.

■ IHSPA plans to celebrate its 75th year with a grand event in October. Plans are to inaugurate a Hall of Fame at this time to honor those who have made significant contributions to Iowa scholastic journalism. Members of the organization will once again be present at INA's annual spring meeting in Des Moines in April to support and promote scholastic publications in Iowa.

■ Merle Dieleman and Visser received their CJE's at the Journalism Education Association's convention in Kansas City in November.

Minnesota — State Director Kelly Zwagerman

■ Journalism Educators of Minnesota (JEM) continue to promote scholastic journalism and support advisers although the organization has been in transition for the last two years. Because of the increased numbers of new or inexperienced advisers in Minnesota, JEM will affiliate with JEA by August 1996 in an attempt to increase membership and create a stronger state organization.

■ JEM will continue to work with the Minnesota High School Press Association (MHSPA), an organization that is also in transition since Don Reeder left. MHSPA coordinates the state convention every year held at the University of Minnesota in September. The organization also sends out a newsletter and sponsors various competitions. JEM will continue to help MHSPA with these activities.

■ JEM no longer sponsors an adviser retreat in February because JEM membership is so low. JEM helps promote state and national conventions and workshops as activities that benefit advisers and their students. JEM would be interested in sponsoring and/or attending regional adviser workshops.

■ JEM is involved with the following activities:

All-State Publications Contest for newspapers, art/literary magazines and yearbooks. The contest used to be free, but schools will now have to pay a \$10 entry fee per publication so JEM can compensate judges. Judges fill out a detailed score sheet for each publication entered. Winners are announced at the state convention in December. All publications entered receive either Gold (All-State), Silver or Bronze recognition. The contest was set up this way so more schools would be recognized. MHSPA sponsors a best of Show contest at the convention.

Adviser Certificates of Achievement — This award is for advisers with more than 10 years advising experience.

Adviser Mentor Program — Information will go out this May about the program which was started in response to information gathered at the NSPA/JEA fall convention.

Minnesota Journalist of the Year — Minnesota averages about four entries per year for this contest. A score sheet has been developed that has simplified judging and makes the selection of the winner a more objective process. Entries are sent out of state to be judged so there are no complaints about favoritism. During the past two years, Iowa and Minnesota exchanged entries. This year Robert Hendricks from North Dakota will be the judge for the entries. The winner receives \$300 and has his/her portfolio entered in JEA's Journalist of the Year competition. Minnesota has had an entry in the national contest for the past nine years.

Promoting state/national workshops and conventions — JEM will organize a charter bus to go to Chicago for the national convention in November. More

information will be disseminated to schools and advisers about summer workshops as well.

Publicizing JEM's calendar — September, MHSPA convention; October, convention follow-up by sending out certificates and writing press releases; November, NSPA/JEA national convention; December, submit newsletter articles about the convention and upcoming contests; January, coordinate Journalist of the Year contest; February, judge Journalist of the Year entries, submit state directors report; March JOY follow-up, submit newsletter articles about All-State contest; April, NSPA/JEA convention; May, distribute information about all-state contest and summer workshops; June and July, judge all-state entries; August, prepare all items for state convention.

North Dakota — State Director R.D. Hendricks

■ October was a major step forward for journalism education in North Dakota when the Northern Interscholastic Press Association offered a two-day advisers' workshop during the NDEA's fall conference. The one credit workshop, recognized by the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University, had 27 advisers participating. Plans are to continue the workshop at the 1996 NDEA fall conference.

■ Advisers and NIPA staff members held two student workshops last fall and the NIPA spring convention will be April 21-22 where the NIPA Journalist of the Year, Adviser of the Year and Administrator of the Year will be announced. The top publications and the writing contest winners will be honored. The Journalists-In-Action (in-house competition) will take place April 21.

■ Twenty-five student journalists from Fargo South High, along with their adviser, attended the JEA Fall Convention in Kansas City and the school will send a large delegation to Chicago in November.

South Dakota — State Director Deb Merxbauer

■ Last year we added a spring workshop on the opposite side of the state as the fall convention. It was a success, so we are continuing with another spring convention this year.

■ Last summer we restructured our week-long summer newspaper, year-book, photograph and desktop publishing workshops to meet the changing needs of students and advisers. It was a great success. We used the WED (writing, editing, design) concept for the first time in our workshops. The writers and editors from the editorial segment of the workshops, the designers from the desktop publishing segment, and the photographers from the photography segment came together to communicate by forming groups and working together to produce publications which were planned and produced during the week and distributed at the noon banquet on the last day of the five-day workshop. We felt it was a great benefit to the students, who were encouraged to return to their school publications staffs and implement the WED concept. We felt it gave students a realistic understanding of the integrated process of

producing a publication as well as a realistic view of the communication necessary among the three areas of the profession.

■ I began recruiting and encouraging advisers at the fall convention to submit applicants for the Journalist of the Year. A team of professional judges from one of the state's largest newspapers will judge the contest. The judges will follow a scoring sheet based on the JEA criteria. The two or three individual judges score the applicants and then come together to compare the results and use an "editor's session" to agree upon a winner. They then write a justification (and critique) of their first-place choice and critique letters to the others. The winner receives a certificate and we honor them in a publication from the high school press association.



**■ Northeast
Region Report,
Betty Morton (CJE),
director**

■ The Northeast Region continues to be active, involved, and dedicated to the goal of getting all 18 states in the region active in all aspects of scholastic journalism. From the well-established states who have been involved for many years to the newest members who are trying to get established, the region has shown a great interest in its growth and education about the programs provided by JEA. I could not have a more dedicated group of state directors, and the work they are doing is phenomenal. Each of them has worked on increasing membership. There are more entries for the Journalist of the Year this year, and several have expressed interest in applying for the CJE and MJE. Many of the state directors said their memberships have definitely increased since they have requested JEA materials to give out at the state conventions. One of the major goals for the NE region's state directors is to contact previous members who have not renewed their memberships and urging them to return by letting them know of the advances JEA has made in the past year. One drawing point is the increase in the award presented to the journalists of the year, and another is the possibility of mini-regional conventions such as the one in Boston which had an impact on the northeastern participants.

■ Several of the state directors responded to a newsletter to the region requesting each state director to obtain extra-pay-for-extra-duty schedules for schools in their state. Directors were also asked to compile information about NCAA's stand that journalism will not be accepted as part of the core curriculum for admitting athletes to colleges and universities. These reports have been forwarded to H.L. Hall to compile for a report at the San Francisco convention.

■ A first-time-ever regional event was sponsored by JEA/NSPA, along with the Yankee Press Education Network (Yankee PEN) who invited teachers and students to attend an East Coast high school journalism convention in historic Boston, Dec. 7-10, 1995. Instructional sessions covered newspaper, yearbook, broadcast, literary magazine, advertising, computers and advising student publications. Along with write-off competitions, on-site publications critiques, "Break with a Pro", "Best of Show" competition, publication swap shops, awards assembly, exhibits, media and local tours, JEA Bookstore and more, participants also enjoyed sight-seeing and shopping. With approximately 700 in attendance, the following northeast state directors attended the Boston convention: Mary Ellen Minichiello, Connecticut; Barbara Flanagan, Massachusetts; Sarah Ortman, CJE, Ohio; Marilyn McElroy, CJE,

Michigan; Susan Everett, New Jersey; Phil Buley, Vermont; Don Provenchur, New Hampshire; Sherri Taylor, New York; Bob Atwood, Maryland; and Alan Weintraut, Virginia. Special thanks to Barbara and Don who served on the local committee, and to Marilyn and Sarah whose states were not included in the coastal area, but attended anyway to give their support to the region. Also thanks to one of our JEA members, Sharon Deibel of Maryland, who chaired the Write-off Contest at the convention. Thanks go also to our hosts, local chair Michael Vieira from Yankee Pen, its members, and the officers of JEA and NSPA who made great contributions to the success of this first regional convention.

■ This event attracted much attention, and attendance was good. A meeting with directors in the 13-state East Coast area took place Friday morning, and other state directors in the Northeast Region also attended. Hopefully the participation in JEA activities will be increased due to the efforts of these directors and the advisers in their states.

Connecticut — State Director Mary Ellen Minichiello

■ The December conference in Boston was a success for my 22 students who attended. I have been in touch with Barbara Flanagan since then, and will try to attend Yankee PEN meetings with her in the future.

■ Although I sent out over 30 mailings to advisers in Connecticut with information on the December conference as well as on the specific requests form, I did not receive any responses. Also the conference where I usually see other Connecticut advisers was canceled because of snow this year. So, I don't have much to report concerning networking in Connecticut.

■ I hope to work more closely with Massachusetts JEA over the next year so that we can plan a combined Journalism Week in 1997.

Delaware — State Director Betsy Diemer

■ Being the newest state director, there has been little time to do much more than get acquainted with materials in the director's kit. As the only JEA member in the state, I have accepted the challenge of connecting with fellow journalism teachers and advisers. Increased membership is a goal. I would also like to exchange ideas with other advisers who have made their programs successful. Plans include seeing that JEA materials are exhibited at any state scholastic journalism workshops, conventions, or meetings. Anyone who is willing to contribute to this task of letting journalism teachers and/or publications advisers in Delaware become aware of JEA's many areas of interest, please contact me at Salesianum School, 1801 North Broom St., Wilmington, DE 19802. She may also be reached at 302-654-2495 where she is librarian and newspaper adviser.

Indiana — State Director Nancy Hastings, MJE

■ Servicing the needs of Indiana advisers and student journalists continues to direct the state's journalism activities.

- Record attendance packed the Indiana High School Press Association two-day Fall Convention Oct. 12-13. Over 650 traveled to Franklin College to listen to keynote speaker Linda Puntney and attend workshops and presentations on Friday, while over 300 students and advisers attended hands-on instruction and write-off type contests Thursday evening.
- More than 40 advisers and spouses traveled to Indianapolis for an Adviser's Weekend getaway in September to share friendships and gain insights from workshop leader H.L. Hall.
- One-day workshops and contests throughout the year helped keep Indiana journalists enthused and learning the latest technology and trends. From Ball State University's J Day and one-day intensive workshops, to Indiana University's Media Marathon and the Hoosier Press Club's News Day, students and advisers found something to serve their needs every season.
- A major area of increasing summer success focused on the further development of the IHSPA summer internship advisers program. More newspapers have signed up to become involved in the program, offering opportunities in all parts of the state. Through this program, advisers moved beyond the classroom to work as writers, copy editors, photographers and designers at Indiana newspapers. Besides enhancing professional skills, the interns also became rejuvenated to eagerly return to their classrooms in the fall.
- Summer workshops also served the needs of students and advisers at Ball State University, Indiana University and Franklin College.

Kentucky — State Director Harold L. Willoughby

- What is the state of journalism in Kentucky? On the outside, I would have to say pretty dismal. However, there is still a strong sense of desire for change. There is no driving force in Kentucky to challenge young journalists. There really is no true press association any more. One would have to go as far as Western Kentucky University to find an annual journalism workshop and press day.
- Western usually has a fall press day and its week-long workshop is the second week in June. The University of Kentucky has a press day which is sporadic at best, and Eastern Kentucky University has a press day in the fall.
- I feel that JEA needs to rebuild what was once a very strong and active press association. I have been working on creating a committee of journalism professionals to help us with our situation. I have found several committed volunteers who are willing to help me with a major membership drive in April, and we have plans to do a JEA workshop this summer in Louisville. The students are hungry for help. We just have to give it to them. The committee looks forward to the opportunity of inviting the regional director to the summer workshop when we get up and running.

Maine — State Director Clyde Clark

- Budgetary constraints have made it next to impossible for some of the schools

that are aware of JEA to commit to attending conventions as well as entering publications for critiques. It is hoped that in the next year, more contact will take place with other schools in the state and any state conventions and workshops will have JEA materials available so participants can be made aware of the benefits of membership in the organization.

■ Other plans are to try to find a person from this state who will have the time to contact schools and make grassroots connections. If anyone knows a JEA member in Maine who would be willing to serve as state director, please contact Betty Morton at 423-968-1405 or Clyde Clark at his school phone 207-743-8914. Until the time at which a replacement can be found, Clark will continue to serve with limited time available to carry out the duties of state director.

Maryland — State Director Robert Atwood

■ Summer workshops and a fall statewide convention highlighted the activities of the Maryland Scholastic Press Association during the past year. Well over a hundred students and teachers from all over the metropolitan DC and Baltimore areas attended a variety of writing, broadcast and design courses on the campus of the University of Maryland for a week last June.

■ Nan Robertson, Pulitzer prize-winning reporter for the *New York Times* for more than three decades, was the keynote speaker at the MSPA fall state convention in November. Over three hundred students and their advisers attended 45 diverse workshops with topics ranging from general publishing to those specific to newspaper, literary magazine and newspaper production. The Maryland awards, naming the best publications in the state were announced during an awards ceremony at the end of the day. Schools and advisers who were winners are large school newspaper, Thomas S. Wootton High, Rockville, Leah Jaffee; medium sized school newspaper, Rockville High, Rockville, Kevin Keegan; small school newspaper, Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, Rockville; best magazine, Paint Branch High School, Burtonsville, Nancy Peckerar; best yearbook, Winston Churchill High School, Potomac, Sharon Deibel.

■ Also during this past year, several students and advisers from around the state were guests of the Maryland Press Women's Association at an awards luncheon honoring student work in Baltimore. Several Maryland publications advisers were also present at the first regional JEA/NSPA convention in Boston in December.

■ The MSPA board will meet soon to plan this year's summer workshops and will convene again in the late spring to prepare for this fall's statewide convention.

Massachusetts — State Director Barbara G. Flanagan

■ I was a member of the local committee for the Northeast Regional convention in Boston in December 1995. I think we all agreed that the convention was a success in terms of attendance (nearly 700) as well as enthusiasm. The convention gave us New Englanders a good taste of what a JEA/NSPA convention is all about.

■ Since September I have been editing the quarterly newsletter for the New

England JEA affiliate, Yankee PEN. At the state directors' meeting at the convention, I suggested we all put one another on our mailing lists for local newsletters and other communications that might be of interest. JEA membership in Massachusetts is very small, so in January I sent a mailing to the 400 high schools in the state announcing the Journalist of the Year contest and encouraging membership in both JEA and Yankee PEN. So far response to both the contest and membership has been very minor. However, there has been a slight increase in membership, but I do not have an accurate count as to the membership in the state.

Michigan — State Director Marilyn McElroy, CJE

■ 1996 is an important year for the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association. It is the 75th anniversary year for the organization. The 75th anniversary logo was created by Kay Goodall. Last February about 20 advisers braved the cold of a Michigan winter to meet in Lansing for our retreat at the Clubhouse Inn. The featured speaker was Lori Reuther who got participants involved in trying to better manage their time and reduce their stress levels.

■ In March, journalists gathered again at Michigan State University for the annual newspaper and literary magazine judging day. There were 2,063 entries which was up 163 from 1994. April brought the national convention in San Diego where it was learned that Michigan's entry in the Student Journalist Scholarship competition, Shannon Shelton of Detroit Renaissance High School, was one of the national winners. Congratulations to Shannon and her adviser Gail Jones. Shannon is now a student at Michigan State University.

■ Approximately 400 students attended the MIPA summer workshop in August on the campus of Michigan State University. The 1996 student workshop will be held August 4-8 and the cost will be about \$240. The advisers' workshop will be July 28-August 2. For further information, contact MIPA director Cheryl Pell. Attendance was up at the fall conference in October and membership in MIPA is at the highest level it has been in several years. There are 203 schools and 263 advisers that are now members.

■ The 1995 advisers' retreat was held in the Communication Arts Building at Michigan State University. Again approximately 20 advisers attended the workshop held in the computer labs and learned about PageMaker, Internet, Freehand and Photoshop.

■ Detroit Finney High School adviser Willie Wooten was elected to head JEA's Multicultural Commission. He has set increasing membership of minority advisers as one of his goals.

■ McElroy continues in her campaign to let every high school adviser in the state know that JEA exists. She has contacted about 300 of the more than 700 high schools in the state. This has resulted in interest in the student journalist scholarship, JEA membership and the certification program.

■ In October McElroy was elected to the board of the Great Lakes Interscholastic Press Association along with fellow Michiganders Lew Horn, Linda O'Dell and

Roger Tillman. She is still wondering how she managed to convince those Buck-eyes in Ohio to vote for her, but she thanks them. McElroy will also be assuming the position as chair of the JEA Awards Committee.

New Hampshire — State Director Don Provenchur

■ Because of the combined efforts of JEA/NSPA and Yankee Press Education Network (Yankee PEN) in sponsoring the East Coast high school journalism convention in Boston in December of 1995, the membership for the state of New Hampshire now stands at seven teachers/advisers.

■ These new members to JEA attended the conference and are from all areas of the state. They traveled to Boston from North Conway in the White Mountains, Portsmouth on the seacoast, Peterborough in the west and my school district, which is in the southern section of the state. Both myself and two other new members to JEA were on the local committee for planning the convention. It was certainly a learning experience for each one of us.

■ New Hampshire garnered several awards at the Sunday morning presentations. Nashua, No. Coney and Bristol were just three of the schools receiving recognition.

■ I am looking forward to boosting membership in JEA next year. Perhaps we will double our membership. In the spring, I intend to send out a survey/information sheet to all journalism advisers in the state so that I will be able to invite them to join JEA next fall.

New Jersey — State Director Susan Everett, CJE

■ The Garden State Scholastic Press Association held its annual Fall Press Day, Oct. 30, 1995, at which I distributed JEA membership and certification materials. Nine schools in New Jersey were represented at the regional convention in Boston, Dec. 7-10.

■ The student journalist of the year is again being run in conjunction with the GSSPA Bob Stevens Memorial Scholarship. Each year GSSPA presents a \$500 scholarship in memory of a deceased founding member. The winner is then entered as New Jersey High School Journalist of the year in the JEA national competition.

■ I will be distributing JEA literature at the GSSPA spring adviser workshop May 8, 1996 where I am currently serving as president of that organization. Although I do not have a current figure, I believe that the number of CJE's in the state has increased again.

New York — State Director Sherri Taylor

■ Syracuse University's School Press Institute hosted 50 students from across the state for a week-long residential workshop in newspaper, yearbook, photography and desktop publishing. Students worked in teams to produce and lay out stories.

Other summer workshops were held by publishing companies and educational institutions throughout the state.

■ In October, Syracuse University hosted the annual Empire State School Press Association fall conference at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. More than 300 students from across the state, as far away as Long Island, attended the day-long events which included on-site writing, photography and yearbook design contests. The most popular on-site contest was the photography contest in which almost 60 students competed.

■ Following the on-site contests, students attended hour-long instructional sessions taught by advisers and special speakers Linda Kennedy of Hinsdale Ill.; Gary Lundgren of Fayetteville, Ark.; and Mike McLean of Dallas, Texas. Several professors in the Newhouse School, as well as local journalists also presented sessions. One popular session was presented by Marie Welych, editor of HJ, the teen section of the Syracuse Newspapers, distributed free throughout the city.

■ At the conclusion of the day, students received plaques and certificates in more than 50 categories of competition for work entered from their 1994-95 publications. In response to adviser requests, the competitions moved away from first, second and third place single winners to a gold, silver, bronze rating system weighted by total number of entries received. More students received recognition than ever before in the competition because of the new system. It was used for individual, as well as for overall publication awards. Advisers recommended the system during a spring meeting at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association conference in New York.

■ Many New York schools attended the fall Columbia Scholastic Press Association conference, and almost 50 students from New York schools attended the JEA/NSPA Regional Fall Conference in Boston in December.

■ Plans for regional ESSPA one-day workshops in either the fall or spring continue to be explored. ESSPA will continue to study the prospect of full written critiques for publications entered in the annual competitions. Plans for an adviser officer group to help ESSPA plan for future needs will be in place by fall.

Ohio — State Director Sarah L. Ortman, CJE

■ The Ohio JEA High School Journalist of the Year competition awards have been dramatically increased this year. The first place state winner will now receive a total of \$1,500 in cash and scholarship money, while the second and third place winners will receive a total of \$1,000 each.

■ The Ohio High School Journalist of the Year awards have traditionally been funded by the three Ohio scholastic journalism organizations—GLIPA (Great Lakes Interscholastic Press Association, JAOS (Journalism Association of Ohio Schools) and NOSPA (Northeastern Ohio Scholastic Press Association). This year the Columbus Chapter of Women in Communications has agreed to give scholarships to the top three winners in our state competition, in addition to the cash amounts of \$350 for first place and \$75 for second and third place given by the

state scholastic journalism organizations. I am truly excited about these new scholarships and hope they will encourage many more students to enter their portfolios in the Ohio competition this year.

■ Each of Ohio's scholastic press associations has or will sponsor high school journalism workshops during this school year. GLIPA sponsored its annual press day Wednesday, Sept. 27 at Bowling Green State University under the direction of coordinator Linda Glomski; new JAOS director Alan Bates sponsored the JAOS annual fall workshop Saturday, Oct. 14 at Ohio State University; and NOSPA director Candace Perkins Bowen has set March 20 for the annual NOSPA student press day at Kent State University this spring. Many Ohio advisers attended the fall JEA convention in Kansas City in November, and Candace Perkins Bowen, John Bowen and state JEA director Sarah Ortman also attended the east coast regional convention in Boston in December. In addition, the Bowens, former state JEA director Dave Weisenberger and Ortman will team-teach a three-day high school journalism workshop to be held in June at Ohio University in Athens.

■ In order to get Ohio JEA member responses to concerns about extra-duty pay scales and the new NCAA ruling about journalism being accepted as part of a school's core curriculum, Ohio advisers were sent surveys in January along with information about the Ohio High School Journalist of the Year Award, the 1996 Student Impact Award, the spring JEA/NSPA convention, and JEA Teacher Certification.

■ Of the 20 teachers who returned the survey, only six said they were aware of the new NCAA ruling, and three of those six said they heard about it at the fall JEA convention in Kansas City. Of the advisers who responded, four said their school's athletic director was aware of the ruling. One adviser said her athletic director had not heard of the ruling, but told her journalism courses "are" accepted. Of the 16 advisers who said journalism was offered at their school, 10 said their athletic director did not know about the ruling, and six said they did not know whether their athletic director knew about the NCAA ruling.

■ Of those who responded to the survey, 16 said they received additional salary for their work as a media adviser. Of the four who did not, two were not currently advising, one said she advised the literary magazine on a volunteer basis, and another said her program was considered a "vocational program" and she was "full time, plus two non-voc courses." The extra duty salaries ranged from a low of \$300 for one newspaper adviser to a high of \$3,000, for four advisers—one for broadcast and three for newspaper.

■ The salaries reported, from lowest to highest were (NP stands for newspaper or newsmagazine adviser, YB for yearbook, LM for literary magazine and BC for broadcast): \$300-NP; \$800-NP; \$835-LM; \$1,000-NP; \$1,300 (one each NP, LM, YB); \$1,344 NP; \$1,400-NP; \$1,797-NP; \$2,000-NP; \$2,040 \$2,200-NP; \$3,000 (one BC and three NP). One other adviser reported her salary as four percent of the base, but did not indicate the actual amount. Several advisers said they advised more than one type of media, and several pointed out that their yearly salaries varied, based on the amount of advising experience and the teacher base each year.

■ In addition to extra pay, time during the day was an important factor to some advisers. Eleven advisers said they did not receive additional free periods to work on the media they advise, five said they receive one extra period and one said he received two extra periods per day.

■ On the survey, Ohio advisers were asked to indicate other concerns they would like to see JEA address in the future. Five advisers responded with written concerns. They were: 1) Getting new teachers interested in teaching journalism—the adviser said he does not see young teachers willing to commit the time required. 2) How to break through the “good old boy-girl” network in judging contests. 3) The need for an increase in curricular journalism courses. 4) Give local control of conventions back to states. 5) Having journalism accepted as a visual art for curriculum requirements.

Pennsylvania — State Director George Taylor

■ The Pennsylvania School Press Association held its 64th annual convention in Pittsburgh with 500 students and advisers (which is down from the 1,000 we usually attract in Harrisburg. Richard Lederer was our keynote speaker (and bookseller). He seems to be everywhere these days. Next year's convention returns to Harrisburg, Nov. 21 and 22.

■ I mailed out the 1995-96 PSPA directory in early January. We have about 150 members. That's down over 100 members from last year. We are currently waging a “we want you back” campaign. We are writing all advisers who dropped from PSPA over the last three years urging them to return and explaining the benefits of belonging to a state organization. When I was PSPA president, I had hoped to reach the 300-membership level. We got to about 265. Turnover is a major problem. New advisers do not know about JEA or PSPA. We feel much of mail is misdirected and never gets into the proper hands.

■ PSPA is again sponsoring a student journalist of the year state contest with the winner being sent along to the JEA national contest. If future contests are limited to only JEA membership staffs, PSPA will have to reconsider its non-affiliation status with JEA.

■ As editor of the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund's *Adviser Update*, I contact state and national scholastic press association representatives four times a year seeking items for our national and state round-up pages. I am also always looking for subjects for our Scholastic Profile feature. That involves asking someone now in the professional media to write about the influence his/her scholastic journalism experience has had on his/her current career. I am also seeking feedback on what we can and should be doing on the pages of *Adviser Update*.

■ PSPA's spring membership drive and contest announcements will go out much earlier this year (April instead of May). Kathy Zwiebel and I have been approached by Penn State School of Communication faculty about the feasibility of re-starting the summer journalism program at PSU. I have applied for a teaching job at the Hazleton Campus of PSU with a note saying it would be much easier to run a workshop as a staff member than as an outsider.

■ In addition to PSPA, numerous smaller scholastic organizations function in Pennsylvania. Temple University operates a city organization in Philadelphia and Point Park College in Pittsburgh runs workshops for area students and advisers. Adams County has a school press organization and the schools surrounding Philadelphia have an informal organization. PSPA has needs to discover and work with all these organizations.

Rhode Island — State Director Richard T. Martin

■ Although I have struggled to get my plan underway to establish a network and more interest in JEA, I haven't gotten very far for a number of reasons. However, hope is on the horizon! One of my students proposed putting Burrilville High School on the Internet with our own web page. As of the middle of February, that has become a reality. There are approximately seven or eight other high schools in the state who are also on the Internet, so the first thing we are going to do now is ask those schools to join JEA and possibly establish a JEA network. Additionally, several of my advanced students have volunteered to help contact other schools across the state by mail to get this project off the ground.

■ It would be very helpful if we could find out what other schools are on the internet and obtain their numbers so we could contact them as well. The number here for e-mail is ae00r2osfn.rhilinet.gov. The web page is <http://ids.net/^jgreenough/home.htm>.

■ In regards to our other accomplishments at Burrilville, we recently added color to the front page of our monthly newspaper. Living in a small rural town, we don't have access to the number of businesses that some city papers have from which they can draw ad revenues. But we do the best we can under the circumstances.

■ Plans are also underway to send JEA materials to other schools, beginning with those closest to our region, in an effort to get them to come on board. Most recently, one other school, Mount St. Charles expressed an interest in joining, and, as far as I know, did join. If we can establish a small island of schools and start working on some mutually beneficial workshops, I think the potential is there for more growth.

Vermont — State Director Philip Buley

■ One of the major activities of this year was the St. Michael's College Journalism Conference which was very successful. For the first time the conference was held on a school day, and the attendance has vastly increased. Many schools participated, and the arrangements by St. Michael's Journalism department were first rate.

■ We also had a limited, but spirited group of schools participating in the Boston JEA/NSPA conventions in December. We are anticipating a repeat performance soon. We have had a 100% increase in membership! We are now two in JEA membership instead of one. After the Boston convention, I feel we will continue to grow. My major goal for next year is to hold a High School Journalist of the Year competition.

■ In answer to the pay ranges for journalism teachers in Vermont, they varied from \$500 to \$2,500 per year and no released periods were reported. There is no knowledge of journalism credits not being accepted. No one here was even aware of the problem.

Virginia — State Director Alan Weintraut, CJE

■ Among the many journalism activities, the state affiliate of JEA, the Virginia Association for Journalism Teachers and Advisers (VAJTA), completed a 40-page Resource Guide for Members in Virginia.

■ The handbook contains two sections, one describing JEA programs, names of members and the various awards available. The other is devoted to VAJTA and the programs it offers. In eight sections, the VAJTA portion chronicles state teacher and student award winners, the history of the organization and a list of current members.

■ The VAJTA resource guide is a membership benefit for Virginia teachers and advisers who join both JEA and VAJTA. In a three-ring binder, the guide is updated annually, and inserts are sent as the information changes. The guide was completed in October 1995, and it culminated two years of work by the VAJTA Board of Directors. Other JEA state directors are welcomed to request a loan copy to study and adapt to their states' individual needs.

■ In May Hudlah (Hud) Clark of Virginia Beach was named to the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Hall of Fame. Historically an honor given to great athletes and coaches, she became only the third person from the field of journalism to receive this prestigious, statewide award. Clark was a longtime adviser at Langley High School and received the JEA Lifetime Achievement Award (1990).

■ JEA and VAJTA also awarded three High School Journalist of the Year Awards to aspiring students entering the field of communications. First place went to Tarah Grant of James Madison High School in Vienna. She was advised by Jeanne Webb. Second place was awarded to Brad Jenkins of Chantilly High School in Chantilly. He was advised by Naomi Dixon. Third place was given to Erena LeTourneau of Gar-Field High School in Woodbridge. She was advised by Martha Clark Beall.

■ Bob Button, a trend-setting adviser of 32 years, was named VHSL Assistant Director and relocated to work in Virginia. As liaison between VHSL and VAJTA, Button directs the VHSL Fall Publications Workshop and supports the journalistic efforts of JEA and VAJTA.

■ In June, Alan Weintraut of Annandale, Va., became the new state director after Carol Lange was elected secretary to the JEA National Board of Directors. He has worked with the board to complete the JEA/VJTA Resource Guide.

■ During October 28-29, VHSL held its annual Fall Publications Workshop in Richmond in which 956 students from around the state attended more than 50 sessions. Taught by distinguished advisers and professionals from the field, the sessions enhanced student and adviser skills in all facets of publication.

■ VAJTA recognized several advisers with awards at the workshop. The Thomas Jefferson Award, which recognizes lifetime achievement in journalism education, was presented to Anne Webster, Woodbridge Sr. High School; Sue Kulesher, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (retired); Martha Akers, Loudoun Valley High School and Michael J. Hoover, George Mason High School.

■ The *Virginia Gazette* award, which recognizes individuals who have given ten or more years to publications, was given to Mark and Dot VanDervort of Poquoson High School.

■ From Dec. 7-10, many Virginia schools participated in JEA's first Northeast Regional Conference in Boston. Sponsored also by Yankee PEN and NSPA, over 700 students participated in a "northern exposure" of journalistic workshops, write-offs and breakfast meetings with professionals from *The Boston Globe* and other area publications.

West Virginia — State Director Ruby Dyer

■ Marshall University in Huntington, W.V., hosted its annual journalism convention March 29-30. The official name of the convention has been changed from United High School Press to United High School Media. The two-day event featured critiques of newspapers, yearbooks and broadcast programs, tour of local TV and radio stations and the Huntington Publishing Co., workshop sessions and an awards banquet. This workshop attracted students from West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio. The W. Page Pitt School of Journalism at MU also sponsored a one-day hands-on workshop in September.

■ The annual SCORES Academic Festival at Marshall University will also attract a number of journalists who will compete in photo contests, layout and design and newswriting. For the first time the contests (more than 100 in all) will be available to students throughout the country via the WorldWide Web.

■ The annual West Virginia University Journalism Competition is slated for April 18 and 19. Journalists submit stories, photos, and layouts to be judged. Finalists in each category are invited to compete in Morgantown. First through third place winners are announced at a special banquet. The competition has plans to award the first \$2,500 Paul A. Atkins Scholarship in the spring of 1997.

■ Fourteen journalists have spent three-day sessions at Marshall University as part of their Scholastic Journalism Program. They attended college classes and worked for the college newspaper or broadcast programs while they were there. Those chosen were from Wayne, Shady Springs, Elkins, Hamlin, Huntington, Lewis County, Logan, Pikeview and Braxton County high schools.

■ **Southeast
Region Report,
Rik McNeill,
director**

Florida — State Director Alyce Culpepper, CJE

■ More than 3,100 students attended district workshops in late September and early October with the Florida Scholastic Press Association. Schools needed to attend a district workshop in order to participate in the upcoming state convention May 9-11 at the Orlando Hyatt Hotel. If there is sufficient interest by advisers, we hope to have the JEA Certification Test administered at the state convention.

■ At the spring convention, in addition to numerous seminars, on-the-spot contests are held in the areas of broadcast, yearbook, newspaper, news magazine, and literary magazine. The winners of prejudged contests in each of the above categories are announced at the Friday night banquet while the on-the-spot winners are announced at the closing ceremony, Saturday morning.

■ The Florida Scholastic Press Association will celebrate its 50th Anniversary at the state convention. A book highlighting the 50 years of the organization is being printed by the *Tampa Tribune* and can be purchased at the convention or from the FSPA office in Gainesville.

■ For the fifth year, FSPA joined with the Journalism Education Association to honor Florida's Outstanding High School Journalists. William Ellis Henderson from Citrus High School in Lecanto, Florida was Florida's Outstanding High School Journalist. Other finalists were Joe Chabus (Stoneman Douglas high) for Broadcast, and Michael Matthews (Jefferson High) for literary magazine, and Joanna Cheng (Spanish River High) for yearbook. To have a winner, each category needed at least three applicants, and each winner received \$100.

■ Several Florida advisers who are JEA members have been recognized for their accomplishments. Alyce Culpepper, the Student Productions Teacher from the Instructional Television Center in Fort Lauderdale received the first Professional Impact Award. Her work is available in print and videotape from the JEA bookstore. Linda Evanchyk was named a Special Recognition Adviser by the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund. She was the 1995 FSPA Journalism Adviser of the Year.

■ Once again the University of Florida will host the Summer Journalism Institute in Gainesville. At the June 22-27, 1996 program, sessions will be held for Newspaper Editors, Newspaper Staff, Photographers, Yearbook Editors and Broadcasters. Several graduate level courses will be available for advisers.

Georgia — State Director Sylvia Daughtry

■ This year is an exciting time to be the Georgia State Director for JEA. Everyone knows the Olympics begin in Atlanta on July 19. Greg Spoon, newspaper adviser at Rome High School, has his Take a Stand group participating in the opening ceremonies. They were in a group of 1,500, but now they are in a group of 500. Congratulations to Greg and his group.

■ For the first time in its history, the Paralympics will take place in the same city

as the Olympics. About 3,500 elite athletes from more than 120 countries will participate in the world's second largest sporting event in 1996. Many people do not realize the Paralympic Games are larger than the Winter Olympics.

■ Student journalists will have an opportunity to work in the media pool for the Paralympics. Students from Rome High School and Tucker High have already been selected to work with the Paralympics.

■ As JEA state director, I promoted JEA membership at the Georgia Journalism Academy in Athens in June, at the fall GSPA Workshop in Rome, Oct. 7, and at the Southern Interscholastic Press Association convention in Columbia, South Carolina, March 1-3. I also encouraged teachers to apply for CJE and MJE certification.

■ For the second time in two years, Georgia will have students as well as advisers attending the JEA spring convention. Three students from Tucker High accompanied Sylvia Daughtry to the Portland, Oregon convention in 1994. Greg Spoon will have 14 adults and students attending the San Francisco convention in April.

■ Once again Georgia participated in the High School Journalist of the Year by submitting the name of the Georgia High School Journalist of the year. Deb Henricks is the new GSPA coordinator at the University of Georgia. She replaced Margaret Johnston who retired at the end of the fall quarter.

■ Lifetime JEA member Margaret Johnston will be honored by the Georgia Association of Journalism Directors, an organization she founded, at its meeting on May 3. GSPA will also honor her then.

■ Fifteen Georgians joined JEA through GAJD this year. The total membership for Georgia was 51 including two lifetime members. Georgia currently has 5 CJE's.

Mississippi — State Director Beth Fitts, CJE

■ At the fall JEA convention in Kansas City, 10 students attended from Mississippi and four received excellent ratings in write-offs.

■ During the year, I wrote, designed, and mailed a newsletter to all the journalism teachers in the state. In it, I listed the names of the members. We have increased our membership over 200 percent. We went from four to 13 and still going. Also, I have helped with judging and presented sessions at JEA and the Southern Interscholastic Press Association conventions.

■ In the spring I will publish another newsletter to members. At the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association meeting March 25, I will present sessions and provide information about JEA to all the potential members in the state.

South Carolina — State Director Karen Flowers

■ Publication advisers in South Carolina (and the Southeast) are fortunate to have a College of Journalism and Mass Communication that is so supportive of scholas-

tic journalism. Because of the University of South Carolina's J-school in Columbia, there are four opportunities each year for advisers and students to come together. They gather knowledge in a wide variety of workshop and convention classes, bond with each other during social activities and receive individual and staff awards through conventions and critiquing services.

■ For many advisers and their staffs the year really begins in June during the Carolina Journalism Institute, an intensive summer workshop sponsored by the Southern Interscholastic Press Association. CJI has classes for students in newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine, photojournalism, broadcasting and desktop publishing, as well as classes for newspaper and yearbook advisers. Advisers can register to receive 3 hours of graduate credit from USC or register to attend the advisers' class for no credit. This year's Institute will be June 16-22.

■ In September the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association sponsors a fall J-day. For yearbook and literary magazine staffs, this is an awards convention for the publications their schools produced last year. Staffs attending are also motivated for the year's work ahead. Newspaper staffs are motivated for the year's work through classes on writing, design, photography, interviewing, advertising and computers. Almost 1,200 students just from South Carolina attended the J-Day in September, 1995.

■ One of the advantages for newspapers of joining SCSPA, in addition to the conventions, is the annual ESNA contests - Excellence in Scholastic Newspaper Awards. ESNA rewards individual staff members for their work in 11 different categories: news, sports, editorial, feature and column writing, design, centerspread, advertising, art, and photography.

■ Another unique feature of SCSPA's services, in addition to the usual critique services for newspaper, yearbook and literary magazine, is a public relations critique. This is the only critique of its kind offered by a state scholastic press association.

■ In the spring SIPA sponsors its annual convention. The first weekend in March student journalists and their advisers gathered in Columbia to attend classes, meet with professionals and receive scholarships, fellowships and other types of awards. At this year's convention, the following awards were given to South Carolinians: Freedom of the Press award: *The Blue Print*, Dreher High School, Columbia; Best-in-State newspaper: *The Renaissance*, Dutch Fork HS, Columbia; Principal of the Year: Phyllis Pendarvis, Irmo Middle School Campus R, Columbia.

■ Spring brings another SCSPA J-day. The following people received awards during the 1995 convention: Journalist of the Year: Cece vonKolnitz, Irmo High School, Columbia; SCSPA scholarship co-winners: Andrea Painter, Spartanburg HS and Jessica Barfield, Lancaster HS; the Scroggins Award for Outstanding Contribution to High School Journalism: Dr. Anna T. Hicks, principal Irmo High School in Columbia; Reid Montgomery Adviser of the Year: Lisa Ashton, Spartanburg HS and Best Newspaper in the State: the Stinger, Irmo HS and the Renaissance, Dutch Fork HS.

■ A first this year for South Carolina and Georgia was a new award for high school journalists. Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC presented the first Kiker Award to Erin McClam, editor-in-chief of the *Stinger*, Irmo HS. McClam received \$1,000 savings bond and his school received \$500 in his honor.

■ As with other schools nationwide, SC journalism teachers continue to struggle with new schedules and more demands on our time. But the “journalistic climate” seems to be better than ever in South Carolina. Students can now get two years of journalism for high school credit by requesting special permission from the state department. Many schools have found ways to offer an additional two years.

■ More students than ever are going in to the field of journalism or related fields. We continue to work to educate our school, district and state administrators about the importance of journalism in the middle and high school curriculum.

Alabama — State Director Diane Weber, CJE

■ The Alabama Scholastic Press Association held its annual convention at the University of Alabama, March 4-5. The following publications received All-Alabama awards: **Yearbook**— *Iliad*, Saint James High School; *Coffee Pot*, Coffee High School; *Oracle*, Sidney Lanier High School; and **Newspaper**— *The Cavalier*, John Carroll High School; *Eastwood Journal*, Eastwood Middle School; and **Literary magazine**— *Counterpane*, Resource Learning Center; *Oculus*, Alabama School of Mathematics & Science.

■ Brooke Watts, Pelham High School, was named Alabama’s Journalist of the year, and Susie DeMent and Larry Haynes, Montevallo High School, were named Co-Advisers of the year.

■ Last summer’s Long Weekend Workshop was successful with 90 students attending sessions in yearbook, newspaper, magazine, and broadcast. This summer the JEA Regional Director will lead the newspaper division.

■ Last fall, the University of Alabama pooled faculty members and expert high school advisers to ride the circuit throughout the state, teaching six fall regional workshops. In these workshops, over 850 students and advisers were taught excellence in yearbook, magazine, newspaper, and broadcast journalism.

■ Because of state director Diane Weber’s commitment at the NCTE convention in November, Resource Learning Center’s journalism classes joined their northeastern friends at the regional JEA/NSPA convention in Boston in December. After sessions, playing in the snow was a treat for these southern students and advisers, as was the touring of college campuses, working in a soup kitchen, and making friendships with journalists from other states. One student brought home a superior award in editorial cartooning.

■ John Garrett, president of ASPA, represented the association at the JEA/NSPA convention in Kansas City.

■ **Southwest
Region Report,
Tony Gomez
(MJE), director**

Hawaii — State Director Patti Sullivan

■ As Hawaii's new state director my goal is to increase JEA membership and attendance at JEA/NSPA conventions. So far, so good. Our membership has nearly doubled, and we will have at least six advisers and students attend the San Francisco convention — record numbers! I have stressed the value and importance of being active in JEA events to stay informed, abreast, and motivated in student journalism. Our geographic location makes it too easy to isolate oneself from opportunity and information.

■ There has been discussion about affiliating the local publication association, Hawaii Schools Publication Association, with JEA. The partnership would help strengthen membership in both organizations. This will be discussed further at the spring HSPA meeting.

■ Progress has been slow, but the state \$20 yearbook price ceiling has finally been increased to \$40. Continual efforts are being made to lift the ceiling completely.

■ The University of Hawaii Journalism Department once again sponsored its annual J-Day for local high schools on February 24. Besides newswriting instruction and competition there were also speakers from the newspaper, police department, and college coaching staff. Miss Hawaii World addressed the topic of famous people and their fans — the role model relationship.

■ Yearbook activities included the annual HSPA spring banquet and a three-day summer workshop. The banquet was attended by more than 400 students and advisers and held at the University of Hawaii. The agenda included recognition of the "Most Valuable Staff Members," a slide show of highlights from yearbooks statewide, exchange of books and ideas, and the editor of a local magazine gave a talk about the importance and value of journalism in today's world. Kathy Daly and Paul Ender were the instructors at the summer workshop held at Hawaii Pacific University.

New Mexico — State Director Sharon Gentry

■ New Mexico held its spring conference and contest March 23. At that time, mail-in contest awards, Journalist of the Year, Hall of Famers, and On-the-Spot contest winners were all named. Several of our members are also busy planning their trip to San Francisco this spring.

■ The executive committee of our state organization has been working on grant proposals for two projects. One would fund regional workshops in outlying areas of our state, and the other would fund helping teachers get on-line to share political ideas. Our president-elect, Connie Blue from Del Norte High School in Albuquerque, has been a leader in working on these grants.

■ Our state president, Pat Graff, was selected this fall by Dow Jones as the Journalism Teacher of the Year. Pat teaches journalism and advises the award-winning

newspaper *The Edition*, as well as the newsmagazine and literary magazine at La Cueva High School in Albuquerque. She also serves our state as the president of Albuquerque Press Women.

■ We are also excited that our JEA membership is growing. We now have 33 members state-wide. That is a large increase from the five members we had 10 years ago. We are also looking at the possibility of hosting the NSPA/JEA convention in Albuquerque in the spring of 1999.

Arizona — State Director Carmen Wendt, CJE

■ The state spring convention will be April 19 at the University of Arizona. It will be a combined effort of AIPA and the U of A's Journalism Department. A hands-on approach will be the format.

■ The state organization, Arizona Interscholastic Press Association, will be coordinating the April '97 JEA/NSPA national convention. The Steering Committee is formed and plans are being made. Members of the committee are looking forward to the San Francisco convention to learn "how it's done."



■ Northwest Region Report, Rob Melton (MJE), director

■ It is an exciting time to be involved in Northwest journalism. Alaska has just formed its own state journalism teacher association, Oregon journalism teachers have founded a mentoring program for new advisers to begin next year, and Washington journalism teachers attended a rest-and-review retreat to set program goals for WJEA for the next year.

■ One of the most dramatic ways journalism teachers have come together has been to help a journalism colleague at Vernonia High School who lost all his books, journalism reference materials and personal files in the recent Portland flooding. In addition to asking selected newspaper advisers to share their best lesson plan with Ward Nelson, the newspaper adviser, I asked headquarters if it could help, and it responded with a selection of materials from JEA.

■ At the regional level, the state directors and I have been working on a membership recruiting pilot project. We have identified people who did not renew their JEA memberships and followed up with a phone call to ask why they did not renew and what we could be doing better for them.

Alaska — State Director Gretchen Wehmhoff, CJE

■ Thanks to generous help from the University of Alaska Anchorage Department of Journalism and Public Communication, Alaska held its first junior and senior high school journalism conference at the UAA Campus in January 1996. Although small compared to the national conference, the two-day event was attended by 148 students and 11 advisers from eight secondary schools in South Central Alaska. Topics included basic journalism skills, photography, legal issues, moral issues, editorial

comment, diversity, cartooning, advising and staff management, layout and design, computer skills and broadcast journalism. We also had a mini "Write-Off" competition. The local and national offices of Jostens hosted Friday's meals, and Purnell Photography, a local studio representing Delmar Publishing, sponsored Saturday's lunch. Both businesses plan to sponsor next year's conference. Journalism professionals from UAA and the community were more than willing to share their skills and plans are underway to expand the conference to promote a fully statewide event next year. This will be challenging for a state dependent primarily on costly air travel.

■ A bonus result was the formation of a state association and the addition of several new JEA members. The first official meeting of the Alaska Journalism Education Association will be held in Anchorage after the San Francisco conference. The Anchorage School District, pleased with the conference, is providing release time for journalism advisers to attend the meeting in order to plan the next statewide event.

■ The 1996 Arctic Winter Games were held in Chugiak-Eagle River in February. The AWG Host Society generously included junior and senior high school journalists in their press pass distribution. It was a great opportunity for student journalists to cover the 19 sports and cultural galas representing athletes, coaches and performers from Russia, Greenland, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Northern Alberta and Alaska.

Idaho — State Director Robert Stephen Beck

■ Current state board of directors of the Idaho Journalism Adviser's Association are Jeff Oliver, Bonneville High School, president; Vicki Francis, Capital High School, president-elect and contest chair; Audrey Bean, Shelley High School, secretary; Barbara Crowshaw, Pocatello High School, treasurer; and Marian Adams, Lewiston High School, immediate past president. Robert Stephen Beck is the new JEA state director. He has served in various positions in the state organization and is past Idaho journalism teacher of the year.

■ In the state write-off competitions held as part of the fall conference, four top students were awarded \$100 best of show scholarships to help them attend JEA/NSPA spring nationals. These awards were sponsored by The Ricks College Scroll for graphics, the Post Register for writing, Albertson's Inc. for photography and Walsworth Publishing for best yearbook work.

■ Julie Lewis of North Fremont High School is the 1995-96 Idaho Journalism Teacher of the Year.

■ The annual IJAA fall conference is planned for the last week of October in Sun Valley.

Oregon, Nancy Giuliani

(information in this report was compiled by Rob Melton)

■ Oregon Journalism Education Association and Northwest Scholastic Press

recently put out a call for help for Ward Nelson, journalism adviser at Vernonia High School near Portland. His school was severely damaged in the recent flooding. His classroom was inundated with five feet of water, as was much of his school. Journalism teachers throughout Oregon were asked to respond quickly to help and support him in a time of need. He lost all his books, journalism reference materials, personal files and even his hard drive to flood waters. He was able to reclaim his English files. He said books formerly two inches thick became five inches wide because they were soaked by rain and sewer water. His books and computer will eventually be replaced. Classes at Vernonia High School were suspended for about two weeks after the flood. Students from a number of high schools came to help clean. Ward said he was particularly pleased with students and teachers from Gaston High School who came the first day volunteers could enter the building. They rescued all the desks, which had been under water, cleaned them and sanitized them with bleach. He also mentioned students from Hillsboro High School, Westview High School, Wilson High School, and others. His district obtained two modules, each including six classrooms just recently. Classes were meeting in the school gym which was without heat for the week teachers were there trying to reclaim what they could from the flood.

■ Carla Harris, executive director of Northwest Scholastic Press, asked how teachers could help. Ward said what he needed the most were teaching materials, the kind that each teacher develops during the course of a teaching career. He still has his materials for English classes, but none are left for journalism. The contents of his filing cabinets had to be dumped because they were totally soaked. Teachers from across Oregon responded to the call.

■ The OJEA board of directors is developing two new programs for next year. The first is a new evaluation program for newspapers and yearbooks. The critique criteria was adopted at its last board meeting in March. Publications will be evaluated against a standard of excellence for their rating. The evaluation will cost \$50.

■ Because the new evaluation program is meant to help prepare advisers for state ratings and for ratings from national scholastic press associations, the board has also established a mentor program. Publications enrolled in the mentor program will have a successful publications adviser to coach them throughout the year. Guidelines about the responsibilities of the mentor and the adviser have been developed. The mentor will coach toward the standards in the evaluation booklet. The mentor program will cost \$50. The mentor program and the evaluation together will cost \$90. The board is putting together the final elements in place for inauguration this fall.

■ OJEA and the University of Oregon School of Journalism have reached agreement on sponsoring a new Journalism Teacher of the Year program for Oregon. The journalism school will advertise and judge the entries and make an award presentation at the board of directors meeting of the teacher's school district. OJEA president Jack Groves is credited with getting this program off the ground.

Washington — State Director Toni Pursley, MJE

■ Education reform continues to be at the forefront of the news in Washington,

and WJEA plays an active role to assure that responsible expression rights are included in the Essential Academic Learning Requirements being rewritten across the curriculum. We have hassled with the exact wording of those rights, however, for over two years. Fern Valentine, a WJEA board member, retired teacher and JEA Press Rights Commission member, is on the writing curriculum advisory committee. Finally, the advent of Internet seems to have awakened folks to the need for solid advice on publication rights.

■ Three WJEA member's papers and at least one other school newspaper are on-line. Surf under Washington state school newspapers or Yahoo newspaper K-12 to find them. Look for *The Viking Vanguard*, Puyallup High School, adviser Toni Pursley; *The Garfield Messenger*, Garfield High School, adviser David Ehrich; *The Royal Herald*, Kent-Meridian High School, adviser Sharyn Mehner; and *Totem Talk*, Sammamish High School.

■ Membership in the state organization peaked last year at 185 members. In the 1995-96 year there are 166 members. We continue to encourage members to participate in the JEA certification program. Eight members have CJE certification and two have MJE certification.

■ WJEA membership benefits include a mentorship program; a newsletter five times yearly; reduced fees for WJEA-sponsored events; a state directory of members and professionals who are willing to provide judging and critiquing services and advice on all aspects of scholastic journalism, including legal advice; adviser and student scholarships for journalism studies; study grants for students grades 9 to 11; and 50 free plaques for presentation to outstanding journalists at year-end and other services.

■ Kathleen Daly, nationally recognized yearbook adviser from Overland High School in Colorado, was yearbook keynote at the Sept. 21 WJEA Yearbook Day convocation at the University of Washington. Approximately 439 students and 26 advisers from 32 schools participated. The same day WJEA and the *Seattle Times* co-sponsored Newspaper Day on campus. Approximately 700 students and 45 advisers from 49 schools from the west side of the state participated.

■ One week later, WJEA and *The Spokesman-Review* co-sponsored an eastside Newspaper and Yearbook Day hosted by Fr. Tom Miller, journalism adviser, and Gonzaga University in Spokane. Editorial cartoonist Milt Prigee was a hit keynoter. This program is just three years old and growing. Its purpose is to connect ourselves across the mountains in the state and to draw upon the strengths of our colleagues there as well as supply WJEA support. Approximately 230 students, 19 advisers and 16 schools participated.

■ Last year's WJEA State Conference and Write-Off competition was held at Garfield High School in Seattle and attended by over 300 students and 31 advisers from around the state. Winning awards other than the write-off competitions were: Adviser of the Year — Vince DeMiero, Mountlake Terrace High School; Distinguished Advisers — Nancy Rudy, Tyee High School, and Mary Kay Wilson, Sequoia Junior High School; Dorothy McPhillips Award for exemplary service to WJEA — Barbara Nilson, retired teacher, current WJEA board member, and WPA

■ **Scholastic
Press Rights
Commission
Report, John
Bowen (MJE),
chair**

leader. Stacey Burns, currently a Washington State University student, was also honored for her press rights stand in not turning over scholastic press photographs to law enforcement officials and was awarded a \$500 summer scholarship to the National Journalism Scholars Academy in Hightstown, New Jersey.

■ WJEA's Summer Workshop in August 1995 on the Central Washington University campus witnessed a drop in enrollment — 198 students rather than 289 and 48 rather than 53 advisers participated. Officers learned, however, that all other summer camps also took a similar hit last year. Emphasis of the camp was on writing, and Bobby Hawthorne, featured lecturer, left an indelible impression on campers with his Midwestern drawl, sense of humor and vibrant writing suggestions based on his new book *The Radical Write*. The Sunday-to-Sunday workshop split between advisers and students emphasized writing overall but still allowed tracks in beginning and advanced writing, photography, computer production, leadership and yearbook.

■ The June 1995 board retreat at a religious facility overlooking Puget Sound allowed the 13 members attending to Rest and Review. Besides updating the duties of officers and standing committee chairpersons, the board set program goals for the next year.



■ The Scholastic Press Rights Commission has been working on a major project over the last year in compiling and creating materials to meet the following six goals:

- Make available curriculum for teaching professional standards of law and ethics in all areas of scholastic journalism;
- Prepare a style guide for publications to use when referring to people of color;
- Develop a code of ethics for journalism teachers and publications advisers;
- Make available examples of good editorial policies for newspapers, news-magazines, yearbooks, radio and television broadcasters and literary magazines;
- Present examples of students who have successfully fought censorship so others may learn from their examples, and
- Continue to assist those needing advice in law and ethics and helping those who fight censorship in its various forms, including overly broad restrictions in journalistic use of the World Wide Web.

■ We had hoped to find funding to have a week-long workshop this summer to prepare these materials for fall availability. We have been unable to secure such funding, so I will be asking the JEA Board for an amount to allow us to complete our preparations for publication onto the World Wide Web on the JEA Scholastic Press Rights home page. We hope that advisers and students across the country will pick up our materials for use, starting this fall. JEA's home page will allow advisers, students and web-surfers access to information about JEA and scholastic press rights, as well as connections to having information answered by commission members and the SPLC. The site also allows connections to prior review policies, sample editorial policies and exercises based on Law of the Student Press. The page is still in construction and will be expanding in the near future. The URL for the home page is <http://laika.ed.csuohio.edu/students/bowen/JEA.html>.

■ The Commission continues to monitor censorship issues across the country and to

assist those who request assistance.

■ Commission member Fern Valentine has been active in Washington state assisting a journalism instructor who is facing removal of her teaching certificate because of charges from her superintendent that she is “professionally unfit or immoral” because she allowed her students to write an article concerning bestiality. Valentine said the incident is taking place in a small town in Washington strongly controlled by the Christian Right. School district authorities now have also begun harassing the teacher by leaving documents lying around and law books with the disciplinary pages clipped open. The ironic part of all this is the system adopted the Student Press Law Center Model Guidelines and is now trying to modify them to fit their argument. Under the guidelines, the article in question came nowhere near fitting the definition of obscenity the system had already agreed to. Fern and I will have more materials on this in San Francisco. The SPLC is also involved.

■ Commission members will also be publishing the winter issue of *C:JET*, based on our work over the past year. We will also be looking to expand the commission by several members during the coming year. Those interested should contact any commission member.

**■ Certification
Commission
Report, Susan
Hathaway Tantillo
(MJE), chair**

■ As of the close of the Kansas City Convention last fall, we had recognized a total of 370 CJE's and 58 MJE's from 39 states, the District of Columbia, and two other nations—Germany and Bangladesh.

■ In San Francisco, we will continue to honor new CJE's and MJE's at Saturday's luncheon along with CJE renewals and the first MJE renewals from among the charter MJE's who qualified in 1991. Both CJE and MJE tests will be given as usual from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on Friday at this convention. In addition, the Commission sponsors two sessions at this convention: An informational session about Certification which has been popular at recent conventions, scheduled for noon Friday in Pacific H, and its usual Commission meeting on Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. in Boardroom A. In addition, Commission members and Regional Directors will promote Certification at Regional, State Director, and Business meetings.

■ A new Certification Directory is in the works as this report is being typed. Headquarters has created a new look for the directory which is wonderful and includes quotes from the most recent survey of certified members.

■ The Commission hopes its budget request for a January 1997 meeting in conjunction with AEJMC will be approved by the JEA Board. Commission members need an extended time to meet together to re-evaluate and rewrite test questions, as this has not been done in more than four years. Convention meeting time just does not allow the in-depth time the Commission needs to keep the testing and evaluation program as current as it needs to be.

■ The Summer 1997 issue of *C:JET*, coordinated by the Certification chair, will be devoted to Certification and will include sample projects.

■ Current members of the Certification Commission, all of whom are MJE's as required when the Commission was formed, include Julie Dodd, Florida; Jack

■ **Publications
Committee
Report, Connie
Fulkerson, chair**

Dvorak, Indiana; Pat Graff, New Mexico; H.L. Hall, Missouri; Carla Harris, Oregon; Gloria Olman, Michigan; Kay Phillips, North Carolina; Fern Valentine, Washington. They can be called upon to administer Certification tests at times other than national conventions. For more information, contact JEA Headquarters or the Commission chair.



■ Since the last report, the JEA Bookstore has been at two conventions — the national in Kansas City and the regional in Boston. Total receipts were \$14,185 in Kansas City and \$3,677 in Boston.

■ Income from the bookstore has continued to increase. I attribute this to interest at national conventions, offering customers the option of using credit cards, and state and regional organizations distributing the catalog during their workshops and conferences. As of Feb. 29, 1996, total income was at \$151,086, an increase of \$30,409 over February 1995.

■ Since November, more than 500 bookstore catalogs and other JEA materials were sent around the country to workshops and conferences. Catalogs and other JEA information were sent with Candace Perkins Bowen, John Bowen and Carol Lange, who went to Germany in March. Perkins Bowen also plans to distribute catalogs, *C:JET* and *Newswire* to the Council of Presidents in April.



■ **Journalist of
the Year
Committee
Report, Diane
Honda, (CJE) chair**

■ For the 1995 contest, there were 37 entrants. Winners were: 1st place — Michelle Wendt, Idaho Falls, Idaho; 2nd place — Jill Jarsulic, Shawnee, Kan.; 3rd place — Shannon Shelton, Detroit, Mich. They were awarded \$1,000, \$500 and \$300 respectively. Sister Rita Jeanne has awarded all scholarships for the 1995 year.

■ Judges for the contest were Julie Dodd, Rudy Gomez, Carla Harris, Willie Wooten and Diane Honda. Judging took place on Thursday and Friday nights in the multicultural suite during the San Diego convention. JEA provided dinner for the judges at a local restaurant.



■ **Headquarters
Report, Linda
Puntney (MJE),
executive director**

■ Membership in the organization has increased 110 percent over this same time last year. Total membership stands at 1,725 with 1,530 voting members. Thirty states show an increase in membership. Massachusetts has increased its members from 7 to 17 since last spring. Only Maine has no JEA members. Membership extends to five foreign countries. (Please see the chart and map at the end of this report.)

■ The membership directory was redesigned to make the publication more user friendly and more modern. Designed by K-State junior Scott Ladd, the directory was cut by 16 pages but still contains all the important reference material as earlier directories. The Annual Report was cut from the directory and will be published separately.

■ The JEA contract with Kansas State University is up for renewal in April of 1997. The executive director has worked with the School of Journalism, College of Arts

and Sciences, University Administration and the University attorneys to prepare and have approved a new contract proposal for the organization. The contract proposal as approved by the University calls for JEA to provide an additional \$2,500 for a student intern to assist the executive director.

■ In addition to the normal two-conventions-a-year responsibilities, Headquarters also helped with the planning of the convention, coordinated the program, handled write-off billing and speaker/hotel contacts for the East Coast Regional Journalism Convention in Boston, Dec. 7-10. Registration at the convention was 622. Although the event was not a money maker for the organization it was a significant outreach program and helped increase our membership from 156 to 184 in the 13 New England states.

■ The Headquarters staff has had the pleasure of working with Alyce McNerney and the local San Francisco committee for the past year. The committee has done an outstanding job of adding special touches to the San Francisco program. The addition of the convention newspaper led to the development of the web master pre-convention seminar which helps put this convention on the cutting edge. Coordination of this program has been time consuming and could not have happened without the help of Paul Kandell, Lowell High School; Dave Massy, Walsworth Publishing Co.; and Kelly Campbell, Kansas State University

■ Jim Shuman created the materials for Scholastic Journalism Week and Headquarters prepared and mailed them to the membership. Response, as always, has been positive to that project.

■ In addition to the production of *C:JET* and *Newswire*, Headquarters has revised the Professional Impact Award brochure, Advisers Institute brochure, created the San Francisco program and Update, kept in close contact with the executive board, made housing arrangements for the board and outreach participants for San Francisco convention, prepared materials, certificates and plaques for the Student Impact Award and the Journalist of the Year Award.

■ The executive director has traveled and worked with Ken Siver, JEA past president, Tom Rolnicki, NSPA executive director and Tom Keekley, to work with the local committee in San Francisco, Phoenix and Chicago. They also traveled to Albuquerque to conduct site visits for a possible 1999 convention there.

She also represented the organization, distributed JEA material and spoke at the CSPA convention in New York, the New Mexico State High School Press Association convention in Albuquerque, Southern Interscholastic Press Association convention in Columbia, S.C., Scholastic Journalism Division of AEJMC in Charlotte, N.C., and judged Day in the Life competition for Taylor Publishing Co. in Dallas.