

Spring 2004 Director's Report

President

Ann Visser, MJE

Initiatives underway

Time has literally flown since we met in Washington, D.C. Members of the Board have worked with Kathleen Criner and the reorganization initiative since, and we continue to explore the possibilities of what reorganization could mean. The end result will, we hope, be a better JEA for everyone.

Travels included a trip to Seattle in February to meet with the local committee for the 2005 spring convention there. They have a great start to what promises to be a fantastic convention. Members of the executive board met in Nashville in March to complete a proposed 2004-2005 budget.

Past President

H. L. Hall, MJE

Points of pride

In my role as past president, I also serve as chair of the Yearbook Adviser of the Year committee. In Washington, D.C., I met with committee members to select the 2003 Adviser of the Year. In December, Linda Puntney and I traveled to Mexico, Missouri, to name Kathy Craghead, adviser at Mexico, as the new Teacher of the Year. We presented a plaque to Kathy in a special assembly at her school. Thanks to Kathy's principal it was a special day for everyone involved.

Initiatives underway

I continue to be discouraged at the lack of progress in establishing an Advanced Placement journalism course. Last fall, Walt Jiminez, director of curriculum and assessment for the AP program, indicated that the AP Board will have to seek financing to begin any new class. I have suggested groups he might approach for such financing, and I have asked him to keep me posted as to progress, but I have not heard from him.

In March, I met with other members of the executive committee in Nashville to help develop a budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. As part of that budget, we worked on a grant proposal to the Knight Foundation and we worked on a program proposal to make a presentation at the next National Association of Secondary School Principals' convention. This latter proposal is one I'm excited about as I have long thought JEA needs to work closer with principals to help develop stronger journalism programs throughout the country.

Membership initiatives

Since I moved to Tennessee, I have worked on increasing JEA membership in the state. I'm pleased to report that membership has grown from seven to more than thirty. Last October I became the executive director of the Middle Tennessee Scholastic Press Association, and I am hopeful that in that role I can continue to promote JEA and its activities.

Linda Puntney and Susan Tantillo conducted sessions at MTSPA's spring workshop, March 9, at Vanderbilt University. Both promoted JEA in their sessions. Linda has spoken at other workshops in Tennessee to promote JEA as well. I have also promoted JEA in Tennessee by speaking at a yearbook company workshop and at a First Amendment Center workshop. In addition to the workshop for the First Amendment Center, I also taught with Linda Puntney last summer at the Advisers Institute at the First Amendment Center, and I co-taught the adviser session at Kansas State with Ann Visser. I have also promoted JEA in other states during the past year, including Colorado, Indiana, West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.

Vice President

Jack Kennedy, MJE

Initiatives underway

After some further study, I hope the Scholastic Journalism Week materials will be updated and expanded by December, 2004. We also hope to bring some added materials and opportunities to advisers and schools wanting to highlight that important week in February.

We are just beginning to see the impact of the federal No Child Left Behind legislation, and we will need to organize some sort of ad hoc taskforce to study this initiative and determine its future impact on scholastic journalism. In Colorado, for instance, journalism courses will not be recognized by our state universities as language arts credit for admission purposes. Many states and local districts report increasing pressure to restrict electives.

Membership initiatives

Part of our membership outreach is to involve more advisers in leading national convention sessions. It is extremely rare that a session proposal is turned down.

But convincing advisers to take on the challenge of teaching a session is difficult. In Colorado, we are hoping to expand our base of speakers by first inviting advisers to present during our state convention. Our hope is that many of those speakers will feel confident enough to lead a session when Denver hosts the 2007 Spring JEA/NSPA convention. Sometimes a little encouragement from someone is all it takes for an adviser to take a chance, and share her expertise.

As part of my tour of "I" states, I spoke to students and promoted JEA to advisers in Indiana and Idaho in October, 2003. As yearbook conference coordinator for the Colorado HS Press Assn., I was able to encourage our attending advisers to become part of the only national organization with the primary goal of supporting journalism instructors and advisers.

Of interest

In the absence of H.L. Hall, I was pressed into service reading the Write-Off winners in D.C. What a rush! What an honor! What a sore throat! In San Diego, it will be a pleasure to welcome H.L. back to the podium.

Secretary

Susan Hathaway Tantillo, MJE

Points of pride

In the last year, in addition to fulfilling my roles as JEA secretary and Award Committee co-chair with Ellen Kersey, I have provided educational support for existing advisers and their students and have promoted JEA membership whenever I have had a chance to do so.

Initiatives underway

Through e-mentoring, I have provided ongoing support for new and soon-to-be advisers. Through judging for a variety of regional, state and national organizations, I have provided feedback to advisers and their students about current products and programs and have offered suggestions for improvement.

Membership initiatives

Through sessions at conferences in Illinois, Wisconsin and Tennessee, I have offered support for advisers and their students while promoting membership in JEA as a must.

Region 1/Northwest

Director Steve Matson, MJE

Region preps for next spring

The Local Committee for the Seattle Convention has become busy planning for April 7-10, 2005. On Feb. 6-7 representatives from JEA and NSPA headquarters made their site visit and met with Washington advisers for our "Year-out Meeting." We've dubbed the Seattle convention "The Experience Journalism Project," playing with the name of Seattle's fabulous rock-and-roll museum, The Experience Music Project.

We are planning several joint ventures with the museum. We also intend to give the convention a multimedia flavor, drawing on the region's many resources of Internet companies, digital software manufacturers, and its strong rock music and arts scene. This, of course, is just an enhancement to the excellent sessions JEA/NSPA always offers for newspaper, yearbook, magazine, and broadcast journalism. To date, we have organized promotions for San Diego and Atlanta, brainstormed speakers and issues tracks, and delegated committee heads. "Experienced" advisers Sharyn Mehner, Vince DeMiero, and Logan Aimone round out some of the leadership team, along with a host of terrific talent among Washington advisers. Are you experienced? Get Experienced in Seattle!

Alaska State Report

Janet Morris

No report submitted

Idaho State Report

Robert S. Beck

Points of pride

Approximately 35 schools statewide participate each year in the annual IJAA Fall Conference and Write-off Competition held in Boise the last week in October.

Initiatives underway

To better serve the typical turnover in advisers, IJAA seeks to help new advisers to connect with nearby experienced mentor programs.

Membership initiatives

Since moving from Sun Valley to Boise several years ago, attendance has remained strong. More junior highs and even middle school programs are now participating, sometimes to the chagrin of high school students when they are beaten in the competitions. Educational cost cutting throughout the state continues to pose challenges for school participation and programs.

Montana State Report

Linda Ballew

Points of pride

Editor in chief of the Great Falls High School *Iniwa*, senior Chase Mohnney, has earned the honor of JEA Montana Journalist of the Year. He will receive a \$500 scholarship sponsored by Doug Carpenter, a representative from Walsworth Publishing. He will compete in the National JEA journalist of the year competition in San Diego. The Freedom Forum has recognized Mohnney as the male "Free Spirit" scholar for the state of Montana, providing him with a trip to Washington D.C. and awarding him a \$1000 scholarship to the college of his choice. Mohnney has been selected as one of four finalist to be interviewed by Al Neuharth for a \$50,000 journalism scholarship. Because of his journalistic abilities and "free spirit," he will travel to Washington D.C. on Sunday, March 21, for this interview. The announcement of the young man and woman chosen for the scholarship will be during the Freedom Forum Conference, the week of July 22-26. Each will receive \$50,000.

In April of 2003, the *Iniwa* was named by Time and Time for Kids as the Western Regional winner recognizing the staff and newspaper for excellence in publishing efforts: writing, photography and design.

Initiatives underway

The Montana Interscholastic Editorial Association, the School of Journalism at the University of Montana and the Montana Newspaper Association announced the state's annual journalism contest, which features its state Pacesetter Award along with individual awards in writing, design, website and photography. Newspaper professionals from around Montana will judge the contest entries choosing winners in 14 categories.

The University of Montana will host the Grizzly Journalism Camp June 27-30.

Membership initiatives

Montana's membership has been growing. This positive growth comes as the high turnover to younger advisers has created an interest in both membership and information about workshops and support as well as competitions locally and nationally. Most noteworthy is that two new advisers have journalism and education degrees.

Oregon State Report

Nancy Giuliani

Points of Pride

Kelly Copeland of McMinneville High School McMinneville was named Oregon High School Journalist of the Year. Miss Copeland will receive \$1,000, and receiving \$500 is Brittany Dohman-Henning of Newport High School, Newport.

Initiatives underway

Future activities for Oregon include the annual Publications Olympics (last year 42 schools participated, with 1,506 entries) and the annual summer workshops held at Oregon State University and the annual Will Power workshop for advisers at Southern Oregon State University.

Membership initiatives

More than 1,100 students and advisers from 75 Oregon High Schools attended the annual Press Day last fall. Despite the lack of funding at most schools, the difference in number of total participants was only 100 fewer than the year before. Two morning keynote sessions were held along with sessions that included such diverse topics from personal professional journalism experiences to student press rights. The latest in equipment and technology was explored. 186 students participated in Write-off contests.

Washington State Report

Sharyn Mehner, MJE

Points of pride

Financially, WJEA is extremely sound. We've been able to send members to conferences in addition to increase our offerings of scholarships for students and advisers.

Initiatives underway

We established a new outreach system which is still struggling. We're looking for ways to improve connections to regions within Washington state. Scholarships, mailings and e-mails have helped, but they have not brought our organization to an all time high in membership. We will also be considering new structures for

mailings and e-mails have helped, but they have not brought our organization to an all-time high in membership. We will also be considering new structures for our mentorship program.

Many Washington advisers are now focusing on organizing events for the spring 2005 Seattle convention.

Wyoming State Report

Mike Riley, CJE

No report submitted.

Region 2/Southwest

Director Ellen Kersey, CJE

Of interest

This is Ellen's last annual report as Southwest Regional Director. She and her husband have moved to Oregon, and at the San Diego convention there will be a "transfer of responsibility" to Mark Newton, from Grand Junction, Colo., who was appointed to serve out the remainder of Ellen's term. JEA is thankful for Ellen's many contributions, and looks forward to the talents that Mark will bring to the position.

Arizona State Report

Carmen Wendt, CJE

Points of pride

I am pleased to report that once again Arizona has an entry for the Student Journalist of the Year.

The state organization, Arizona Interscholastic Press Association, had a hands-on state convention March 19, at Pima Community College in Tucson. Students had the opportunity to try their hands at a number of different mini workshops.

The 45th annual AIPA Summer Journalism Workshop will be at Northern Arizona University, June 10-13. State advisers asked for shorter, earlier and cheaper, and they got it with a three-day workshop in June for only \$250. Sequences are planned for yearbook, newspaper, photography and broadcast students as well as classes for advisers.

One of the Valley newspapers, The Tribune, has been running a number of articles dealing with censorship issues in the Phoenix area. Daryl James, Tribune writer, has covered topics including Hazelwood, local principals and student staffs, plus comments from Mark Goodman of the Student Press Law Center. Guest writers of additional articles include Peggy Gregory, president of AIPA and adviser at Greenway High School.

Initiatives underway

During the last two years, AIPA has been putting together a resource packet for schools that are dealing with censorship issues.

Northern California State Report

Lynn McDaniel, JEANC Past President

Points of pride

JEANC Installation of New Officers: In January, Dwight Evans turned the gavel over to Cindy Hopkins, a yearbook adviser from Chico. President Elect is Don Bott, last year's Dow Jones Newspaper Adviser of the Year.

Since our last report, we have had three successful one-day journalism workshops at local college campuses. We were hosted by Shasta Junior College in the early spring of 2003. About 40 students and advisers attended, despite unusually snowy weather, which deterred several who had registered.

In the fall of 2003, we had over 300 delegates attend a workshop at CSUS. Vendors were present and mail-in competition award winners were honored at a special session just before lunch. In February of this year, an impressive number of students and advisers attended another workshop hosted by Chico State University. Our goal has been to try to involve as many of our organization's schools and staffs as possible. Thanks to CNPA (California Newspaper Publishers Association) and specifically their outreach director, Joe Wirt, we have been able to work with many staffs. CNPA has had an impressive presence at all of the workshops, providing advertising and registration assistance, speakers, and support whenever asked. Joe and his staff have handled printing costs and mailings and have provided resources whenever asked.

CNPA is working in conjunction with community colleges, universities, and high school journalism programs toward the creation of a state organization that will involve articulation between all programs. Their intent is to work toward a stronger base for the future of journalism in our state. Dwight and Cindy have each attended a meeting thus far and are encouraged at the support coming from all involved.

JEANC does still see the need for a State Convention and is planning one for this October 22-24, in Sacramento. The theme of the convention is "Exercise Your Write!" We will be working in conjunction with CNPA and Southern California JEA. We as an organization believe that we must continue to show students the importance of scholastic journalism and realize that a convention is one of the best methods. Our convention hotel is the Hyatt, and our sessions will be occurring in the Convention Center, which is within walking distance of the hotel and the Capitol. We hope to take advantage of the Capitol and plan to invite lawmakers and members of the local media to speak to our young people. We will have a full slate of activities, including keynote speaker(s), sessions, Capitol tours, and write-off competitions.

Membership initiatives

Those who attend our convention will have to become members of our organization and will be encouraged to join JEA, as well. We are planning a strand of sessions specific to advisers in an attempt to encourage new advisers and assist them in any way we can.

Southern California State Report

Mark Child

Points of pride

Area write-offs going quite well. Kimberly Harris, Orange County area president, pioneered digital yearbook and newspaper design competition. There were a few bugs, as to be expected, but in spite of the gremlins, all went well. As more area schools make the move to digital production, a need for training and seminars becomes more obvious. A two-year calendar of events will feature training opportunities in the areas of digital page design and photography for advisers and students.

Membership initiatives

A concerted effort will be made in the coming year to solicit adviser data and compile a So Cal directory. The So Cal board feels that this is of paramount importance in serving the needs of the membership better (and it just might help to increase the membership numbers). Also, the official So Cal Website is still in the gestational phases (as it has been for the past several months). A viable Website is also an area of critical concern for the So Cal area. Stay tuned. When the site is up and running, we'll let you all know.

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Colorado State Report

Mark Newton, MJE

Points of pride

Denver has been selected to host the Spring 2007 convention. And, believe it or not, we have already begun to plan for the convention and ways to increase membership.

Several Colorado JEA members presented learning sessions at the CHSPA New Advisers Workshop, CHSPA Newspaper Conference, CHSPA Yearbook Conference, and at other local, regional, and national workshops and conventions. As excellent role models, they promoted JEA, too. Additionally, several JEA members have continued to express interest in becoming more involved in national issues and programs.

JEA had a wonderful presence at Journalism Day at Colorado State University, Oct. 7, 2003. More than 1,000 students and advisers attended the Colorado High School Press Association's annual conference.

The Colorado High School Press Association successfully moved its website to <http://chspa.colostate.edu>. It includes a link to JEA.

Worked with CHSPA, as the CHSPA scholarship coordinator, to select the JEA Colorado High School Journalist of the Year. We are pleased to send an outstanding student-journalist to the national competition. Marcy Miranda (Sheila Jones, adviser) of Englewood High School is superb! Marcy, who plans to attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins, will receive \$1,000 toward her tuition costs at CSU.

Several JEA advisers and their students and programs earned local, state, regional, and national recognition and/or certification. Nikki Sameshima, a JEA member, of ThunderRidge High School was named CHSPA Adviser of the Year. Richard Hagan, principal at Montrose High School, was named Administrator of the Year. He was nominated by JEA member Kathy Gaber and her newspaper staff.

Initiatives underway

A new state director will be named soon.

Plan to initiate a review of the JOY program and its connection to CHSPA student-journalist of the year scholarship recipient.

Promoted or helped promote programs, contests, requests, national conventions and the Multicultural Commission's Outreach Program to Colorado High School Press Association (CHSPA) board of directors, at annual newspaper and yearbook conventions, and in the CHSPA newsletter. I will continue to promote JEA at several workshops in Colorado (including the CHSPA Adviser Summer Workshop) and across the U.S.

CSU and CHSPA are hosting the second Summer Advisers Workshop at CSU, July 27-30, 2004. Culminating the event will be a day-long workshop with publications design guru Tim Harrower. Go to <http://chspa.colostate.edu> for more details. JEA will have a significant presence as most of the instructors are JEA members.

Colorado JEA members will work with a Colorado principal to host a workshop at the Aug. 4-6 Colorado Association of School Executives conference in Breckenridge. The workshop is designed to impress upon principals and superintendents the importance of finding, training and retaining skilled and enthusiastic journalism teachers. Eventually, Colorado JEA hopes that the state will recognize JEA's Certified Journalism Educator and Master Journalism Educator designations.

CHSPA and JEA will help host a reception sponsored by Jostens at the August CASE conference.

JEA will be better able to reach all Colorado advisers when the CHSPA merges its two newspaper/video and yearbook conferences into one conference for all student media. As always, JEA members will have a significant presence at the event.

Membership initiatives

Continued to work with the CHSPA executive director to explore a JEA/CHSPA joint membership to increase the number of members in both organizations. CHSPA interns have created a promotional campaign to try to increase membership in both CHSPA (currently at about 150 members) and JEA (currently stable at about 40).

Continued to work with CHSPA to promote JEA membership, programs, and conventions. We are discussing offering a one-year JEA membership to all advisers who attend the CHSPA Advisers Summer Workshop. Additionally, new programs and contests designed for video journalism teachers and students are being planned, which will not only support those journalists in their work, but also will open new membership possibilities for both CHSPA and JEA.

Promoted or helped promote membership to Colorado High School Press Association (CHSPA) board of directors, at annual newspaper and yearbook conventions, and in the CHSPA newsletter. I will continue to promote JEA at several workshops in Colorado (including the CHSPA Adviser Summer Workshop) and across the U.S.

Hawaii State Report

Lorraine Gershun, CJE

No report submitted.

Nevada State Report

Susan Jean Thornton, CJE

Points of pride

State JOY: From McQueen High School, Reno, Nevada

The Scholastic Press Association of Nevada is up and running, but struggling. Continually there is a large turn over of advisors, especially yearbook advisors. The Las Vegas area has 33 high schools with two new schools opening every other year. Overall, journalism programs are not a priority within the school district.

Numerous campuses in Southern Nevada have started broadcast programs. The broadcast students have visited local stations and work with both local and national broadcasters in various capacities. Most of the programs are being seen in schools daily and are used to convey information to students as well as reports on student activities.

The Broadcast Advisers have started a local organization and have been taking students on trips to improve the programs. Approximately 100 students from Nevada will be attending the spring conference in San Diego.

There is increase request for JEA information and participation in middle schools.

Since CJE is not recognized by the state, there has been limited interest, however, there have been request for applications.

University of Las Vegas and Review Journal hold journalism day for newspaper students.

Thirteen teachers hold CJE/MJE certification in the state.

Initiatives underway

The two main goals at this time are to build and support at least one scholastic press association in the state and to inform publications advisers of the benefits of JEA membership.

Having contacted state directors and other scholastic press associations for information in setting up state organization(s), we will continue build and support a local organization.

Membership initiatives

- Continue mailing of JEA convention information to Nevada high and middle school advisers.
- Annually obtain from state department of education a list of all middle school, jr. high schools and high schools in the state.
- Annually mail JEA information and information/survey cards.
- Compile and distribute list of Southern Nevada newspaper, yearbook, and broadcast advisers. Work to create communication between newspaper and yearbook advisers to create contest and meetings supporting journalism in student publications.
- Attend national conventions.
- Continue to build (1) a statewide communication's system between communications teachers, (2) create a statewide organization (3) create a statewide contest and publications sharing project.
- Continue with mentoring programs to increase advisor retention.

Utah State Report

Chris Sloan, MJE

Points of pride

In the second year of our membership drive, Utah now has 32 JEA members. At this time last year we had six members. I'm no mathematician, but that's a significant gain any way you look at it.

Our annual fall conference went well due to a partnership with the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, the Salt Lake Tribune and the Scripps Foundation.

The Utah JEA is currently in discussion with the University of Utah about the possibility of them hosting a summer journalism workshop for advisers.

Initiatives underway

Things still to do Since the Salt Lake Tribune has shifted their emphasis to supporting our summer workshop, they are no longer sponsoring our state journalism contest. We're currently looking for a sponsor for our state contest.

Region 3/North Central

Director Bob Bair, MJE

Points of pride

1st AMENDMENT SCHOOLS. Congratulations to two Region 3 schools for being honored as First Amendment High Schools. Honored with the Let Freedom Ring Awards were Johnsbury (Ill.) High School, Park High School (Cottage Grove, Minn.), and Kirkwood (Mo.) High School. This is the third straight year Park High and Kirkwood have received the award, while Johnsbury High School has won the award all four years of its existence.

NEW STATE DIRECTOR. I want to welcome Scott Winter as the new state director for North Dakota. Scott is replacing Jennifer Montgomery who resigned from the position earlier this month. Thanks to Jennifer for her work and commitment to JEA.

JANUARY CONTACT. All Region 3 state directors were e-mailed with information and reminders. Topics of concern included membership, assistance from the Board, dealing with expenses, and regional goals. Directors were encouraged to attend all of the conferences in their state and they were urged to contact me or any Board member for assistance.

FEBRUARY CONTACT. A letter was mailed to all Region 3 state directors in February. Topics of concern includes membership goals, certification, nomination of deserving advisers for various awards, information on the Advisers Institute, submitting expense receipts, and JEA's mentoring program. Directors were encouraged to contact advisers in their state to budget for JEA membership for the next school year. Specific information provided:

MEMBERSHIPS. Please check with your state associations to see if they collected any JEA memberships. Send a check for the total amount (\$45 per membership) with the names, schools, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses to Claudia Ingwersen at JEA Headquarters. JEA will then reimburse the state association \$5 for each membership sold. Remember, the state association must have a current JEA Affiliate membership in order to collect dues.

The Board of Directors is very interested in boosting memberships in every region. JEA currently has just over 2,000 members and we hope to boost that to 3,000 by 2009. It is our goal to have JEA represented at every state journalism conference and convention. We hope that state directors will be able to attend most of these conferences in their states, but please feel free to contact me if you need an additional presence. I know my district wouldn't allow me to attend every conference or convention held by other states in my region, but they may be willing to let me attend some. If any of these are held on weekends, the chances of my being able to attend would be greater. We are in a great location, too, to find someone from the executive committee or JEA headquarters to visit these conferences. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

If you haven't already done so, please contact those members in your state whose memberships have expired. Please let me know what you find out and the status of these individuals (whether they are no longer advising, have moved to a different school, are no longer interested in the association, are deceased, etc.). We want to follow up on those who may have let their memberships expire because they don't see the benefits. Some of the other reasons are valid and there may be nothing we can do.

CERTIFICATION. Make sure your state's advisers are aware of the CJE/MJE certification program and understand the benefits of becoming a certified journalism educator. Information can be located on the website. Certification brochures are available from headquarters.

JEAWARDS. Please look for deserving individuals in your states to nominate for JEA's various awards. Deadline for the Teacher Inspiration Award is March 1. The Carl Towley Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Medal of Merit, the Administrator of the Year Award and the Media Citation Award all have

July 1 deadlines. It is recommended that state associations nominate their state's administrator of the year for JEA's administrator award.

Also, please remind your state's advisers of the upcoming Journalist of the Year competition. These portfolio packages must be sent to the state contest coordinators by Feb. 15. The state's winning entry must be mailed JEA Headquarters with a March 15 postmark deadline. The adviser of each state's nominee MUST be a JEA member by the time the portfolio is sent to JEA Headquarters. Information on all of these contests can be obtained from the JEA website (www.jea.org).

ADVISERS INSTITUTE. The Advisers Institute will be held in Nashville during the third week of June. Sequence II will be presented at Kansas State University July 18-23, A desktop workshop will follow at Kansas State on July 23-27.

EXPENSES. All state directors are reminded to turn in receipts for expenses (phone charges, postage receipts, etc.) incurred while performing assigned JEA duties. I think you can probably send them directly to vice president Jack Kennedy, but if you want to send them to me I will see that he receives them.

MENTORING PROGRAM. Finally, if you know of any new advisers in your state interested in being mentored, please contact me or Lori Oglesbee. An attempt will be made to find a mentor in the new adviser's area.

MARCH CONTACT. E-mails and reminders were sent to all Region 3 state directors urging them to submit their state reports by March 15. Those attending the San Diego convention were also invited to the Region 3 Meet, Greet, and Eat session.

Illinois State Report

Randy Swikle, CJE

Points of pride

The Illinois Journalism Education Association is engaged in several projects, including the following:

- The creation of a state-wide umbrella journalism association. Various scholastic press organizations in Illinois are currently being contacted, and a summit meeting is being planned.
- An All-State Journalism Team. Three teams — newspaper, yearbook, and other (such as broadcast) — of 10 students per team will be selected. The competition is scheduled to begin this spring, and honorees will be invited to a banquet hosted by the Illinois Press Association Foundation.
- Illinois High School Association competition. The IJEA is in the process of getting IHSA member schools to commit to participate in on-site competitions, hopefully to begin in spring 2005. Ten percent of IHSA member schools need to indicate they will participate in the competition before the IHSA will proceed.
- The 2005 JEA/NSPA Convention. The IJEA is preparing to host the 2005 fall national JEA/NSPA convention in Chicago. A local planning committee will be selected after the San Diego convention.
- Illinois Press Association Foundation support. The IPAF executive director, David Bennett, said that IPAF is committed to encouraging the professional press to have better dialogue with the student press and to take greater initiative in supporting scholastic journalism in Illinois.
- The feasibility of several other activities is being studied by IJEA, including the creation of a new Web site, helping to arrange summer internships for advisers, producing an IJEA "Best of the Scholastic Press" booklet, and an on-line newsletter.

Iowa State Report

Gary Lindsay, MJE

No report submitted.

Minnesota State Report

Laurie Hansen, CJE

Points of pride

The Minnesota High School State Journalism Convention took place on the University of Minnesota campus on Sept. 24. Several contests are announced at the state level: "Best of Show" recognizes overall excellence in publications and "Gold Medallions" honor individual excellence in 26 categories. Both these contests are sponsored by the Minnesota High School Press Association. The All-State contest is sponsored by Journalism Educators of Minnesota and honors all publications that enter with either Gold, Silver or Bronze designations.

The All-State Publications from Minnesota follow:

Magazines

All-State Bronze

CLAM, Century HS

Think, Eden Prairie HS

All-State Silver

Rebel Spirit, Champlin Park HS

All-State Gold

i-mag, Albert Lea HS

Literature and Arts, St. Paul Academy/Summit School

Stylus, Stillwater Area HS

Voices, Eastview HS

Yearbooks

All-State Bronze

Annual, Warren/Alvarado/Oslo HS

IBID, St. Paul Academy/Summit School

The Oracle, Denfeld HS

All-State Silver

Rebellion, Champlin Park HS

Tatanka, Buffalo HS

Tiger, Albert Lea HS

Wayako, Wayzata HS

Wopacan, Park HS

All-State Gold

Echowen, St. Louis Park HS

Kabekonian, Stillwater Area HS

Windigo, Edina HS

Newspapers

All-State Bronze

D-C Current, Dassel-Cokato HS

Eagle*s Cry, Eden Valley-Watkins HS

The Eyrie, Eden Prairie HS

The Forest Breeze, Forest Lake HS

MPA Voice, Mounds Park Academy

Wolfpack Press, Park HS

All-State Silver

The Advocate, Mayo HS

The Harbinger, Maple Grove HS

The Heights Herald, Columbia Heights HS

HLA Today, Hillcrest Lutheran Academy

Knight's Errant, Benilde-St. Margaret's

The Quill, Robbinsdale-Cooper HS

Rebel Times, Champlin Park HS

The Reflection, Mountain Lake Christian Academy

The Southerner, South HS

All-State Gold

Ahlahasa, Albert Lea HS

The Echo, St. Louis Park HS

The Pony Express, Stillwater Area HS

On Jan. 13, the Minnesota Wild writing, photography and broadcast competition took place at the St. Paul Xcel Energy Center. Thirty students were chosen from the 60 entries received to attend a Minnesota Wild practice and interview defenseman Brad Brown. Students also heard from various Minnesota Wild officials such as Bill Robertson, vice president of communications and broadcasting, Brian Israel, director of publications, Bruce Kluckhohn, team photographer and Brian Murphy, beat writer from the St. Paul Pioneer Press. The winning story and photos are published in a Minnesota Wild program. The broadcast team has their work featured at a game. This is the 3rd year of this program which is coordinated by Tim Dorway, JEM vice president. First place contest winners received tickets to a home game and their opportunity for their work to be published in a game program. The broadcast winners' work was featured during an in-game segment.

On Feb. 24, a program called "Day at the Capitol" made its debut. Day at the Capitol was coordinated by Ann Akers of the Minnesota High School Press Association and Lynda McDonnell of the Minnesota Media Collaborative, based out of the University of St. Thomas. Twenty students and two advisers spent the day at the Capitol in St. Paul and heard from House Speaker Steve Sviggum and Senate Majority Leader Dean Johnson as they spoke on the major issues for the upcoming legislative session. They also spoke on their personal versus working relationship and took questions from the students. Participants also heard from the Governor's communications office. They heard highlights of Gov. Pawlenty's legislative priorities and his role in the fall elections. Finally, the students heard from various local media including Pat Kessler of WCCO TV, Holly Hesler of the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Laura McCollum of Minnesota Public Radio. These speakers focused on the journalist's role in covering state government and politics. A writing contest followed this field trip as well. The students had the option to write an opinion column or an issues feature.

On March 10, 19 students and 5 advisers attended the "Day at the Guthrie." This was also a brand new program intending to reach out to student journalists more interested in covering the arts. The day comprised of students meeting with head of public relations in the morning for a brief overview. A tour of the Guthrie Theatre followed. After the tour, the public relations director spoke on his relationship with the area newspapers and theater critics. After hearing the public relations side, Claude Peck, arts editor for the Star Tribune, and Roe Preston, theater critic for the Star Tribune, spoke to the students on what it takes to be a competent reviewer. Claude gave the students tips on what he expects from his writers, and Roe gave the students advice on how to watch and review plays intelligently. After lunch, students attended the matinee of Romeo and Juliet. Student participants were given 2 days to submit a review. The winning review will be printed in the Star Tribune, and 2nd, 3rd and honorable mention will also be given out by JEM/MHSPA. As of this writing, I have not yet heard the results of that contest.

Finally, congratulations to the Minnesota winners in 2 areas. First, congratulations to Liz Keeling and her staff from Albert Lea High School for winning a Crown award for their creative arts magazine "i-mag". Second, congratulations to Judy Layzell and her staff from Edina High School for receiving a Pacemaker for their creative arts magazine "Images."

Nebraska State Report

Marsha Kalkowski, MJE

Points of pride

The annual Nebraska JEA contest had more entries than ever before and proceeds from non JEA members went to a SPLC donation. We are pretty sure this contest has helped enlist new JEA members.

We have our runner up and state journalist of the year nominated. Congratulations to Joel Gehringer of Omaha Gross and Katie Backman from Omaha Central.

Three Nebraska schools were represented in D.C. and we know of at least four going to San Diego. Yeah! We'll keep those numbers growing.

Initiatives underway

Maintaining solid relationships with NHSPA and NSAA.

Membership initiatives

We will offer JEA certification testing at our Fall Convention.

North Dakota State Report

Scott Winter

No report submitted.

South Dakota State Report

Deb Rothenberger

Points of pride

Members of the South Dakota JEA team were able to attend the National JEA Convention in San Diego, CA. The team was able to represent South Dakota and win several awards. The team was also able to win the National JEA Award for Best Student Journalist.

Most currently, the South Dakota Press Women's Association conducted its high school journalism contest. The association had about 250 entries for 12 categories. They presented 35 awards at their spring conference March 27. Dr. Mary Arnold was one of their featured speakers.

The South Dakota High School Press Association also had its spring writing contest March 1. Results will be announced in April. It will also be conducting its 2004 Summer Institute in June. The yearbook session and desktop publishing session for yearbook are June 6-10 and the newspaper session and desktop publishing session are June 13-17. The photography session is offered both weeks. Advisers may earn graduate credit. Doris Giago is the director.

Initiatives underway

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

Wisconsin State Report

Sandy Jacoby

No report submitted.

Region 4/South Central

Director Susan Roberts, MJE

Arkansas State Report

Beth Shull

Points of pride

A handful of Arkansas schools attended the fall conference in Washington DC. Several placed in among the top awards in Write-offs.

Our state department of education is requiring all electives to be approved. School districts will not offer classes that are not approved. The Arkansas Journalism Advisers Association is working to help teachers construct objectives/outcomes in appropriate format to be approved.

Membership initiatives

JEA membership holds steady. Teachers may join through ASPA by simply checking a box on that membership form. This makes it easy to join at the same time each year. JEA involvement did jump in number the first year this program started. The annual ASPA conference will include a mini-JEA bookstore with resources available to attendees.

Kansas State Report

Susan Massy, CJE

Points of pride

Student journalists in the state of Kansas just completed the regional competition in February. More than 2,200 students created over 3,400 entries and represented 141 schools at the five regional sites. The state contest will be held on May 1. More than 120 schools will be represented in that competition.

At the state contest and annual KSPA business meeting, the Jackie Engel Award Winner (the equivalent of the Kansas Journalism Teacher of the Year) and the Administrator of the Year will be announced.

Rebecca Cremer of Shawnee Mission Northwest was named the Kansas Student Journalist of the Year and will represent the state in the national competition. Becka is currently the editor-in-chief of The Lair and the copy editor for The Northwest Passage.

Dot Stegman, former adviser of both The Crusader and The Paladin at Kapaun Mount Carmel High School in Wichita, was honored at the Washington, D.C. convention with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Four yearbooks from Kansas have been designated Pacemaker Finalists: The JAG from Mill Valley H.S.; The Lair from Shawnee Mission Northwest, The Crusader from Kapaun Mount Carmel and Silvertip from Wichita Northwest. At the Washington, D.C. convention, 11 Kansas publications placed in the Best of Show competition with Crusader, the JAG and Silvertip taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the small yearbook category. Pacemakers were received by The Northwest Passage (newspaper) from Shawnee Mission Northwest and Paladin (newsmagazine) from Kapaun Mount Carmel. The Shawnee Mission West Epic was a newsmagazine Pacemaker Finalist. Five publications from Kansas also received Crown Awards and 39 Kansas students received Gold Circles from CSPA.

Initiatives underway

The biggest issue facing Kansas Scholastic Press Association members is the formation of an endowment for the organization. We have set a goal of raising \$75,000 from a three-year pledge campaign, "Invest Today in Our Tomorrow." The campaign will begin May 1.

Louisiana State Report

Dawayna Sanders

No report submitted.

Missouri State Report

Gavin Brady, CJE

Points of pride

We recently had some annual awards. Teacher of the year: Terry Durnell, Lee's Summit North High School. Student Journalist of the Year: Lauren Miller, Mexico High School. Contributing Medium Award: Chris Snider, St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

MIPA has two recent national award winners. Marc Russell, Lee's Summit High School, was named a Distinguished Adviser and Kathy Craghead, Mexico High School, was awarded National Yearbook Teacher of the Year.

Initiatives underway

The Missouri School of Journalism and the MU College of Education are awaiting final approval from The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for journalism teaching certification as well as an on-line Masters of Education/Journalism. This means teachers in Missouri and other states will be able to get their degree on-line.

Scholastic Journalism will be a part of a new Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute at the Missouri School of Journalism. A \$31 million gift will mean the

creation of a new institute by 2007.

Cooperation between MIPA and the Missouri Press Association and the Editorial Department at the Missouri School of Journalism will allow advisers to attend a retreat in September of 2004 at MU.

Scholastic Journalism Day is April 28 on the MU campus and planning by MIPA officers will make it a day filled with speakers, breakout sessions, and a write-off competition.

The St. Louis scholastic journalism teacher organization hosted its annual spring conference at Webster University March 8. This year more than 800 students from across the state converged on the University to learn from guest speakers in all aspects of journalism, as well as to participate in write-off competitions. We also finished our second year of offering overall yearbook and newspaper critiques and we will offer individual mail-in awards next year for the first time.

Summer Media Workshop at University of Missouri: We are looking forward to another great summer on MU's campus for the Summer Media Workshop. The dates for this year's camp are July 13-17. There will be some new courses offered to high school journalists this year including Digital Photography with camera equipment donated by Canon, there will be a course where students are responsible for publishing a paper with a cd/dvd rom, and there will be a session on cd and dvd rom.

Oklahoma State Report

Joe Nations

Points of pride

Jennifer Redden of Putnam City North High School was Oklahoma's submission for Journalist of the Year.

Educators from around the State met March 9 and 10 in Oklahoma City to evaluate the teacher certification test that graduates must take in order to teach in Oklahoma. Journalism was one of those areas where questions were being reevaluated. Members will meet again in October to finalize this evaluation process.

Of interest

OIPA executive director, Laura Schaub, has stepped down to take a job with Jostens publishing. Laura's leadership will be greatly missed and we wish her the very best in her new job.

Texas State Report

Neva Hand, CJE

Points of pride

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

Journalist of the Year entries were all of extremely high quality and included entries from all across Texas. Selecting one winner from so many top-notch portfolios was a most difficult task.

Initiatives underway

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

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

Of interest

TAJE is attempting to maintain a list of qualified journalism judges who are willing to judge at district level meets. Although new, it has already been instrumental in providing names of judges for contest directors who had already exhausted their own resource lists. The plan is to update the list on a yearly basis.

Region 5/Southeast

Director Brenda Gorsuch, MJE

Alabama State Report

Susan Goins Newell, MJE

Points of pride

At the ASPA fall regional workshops that travel to four locations around the state, a total of 804 students participated while 238 preregistered for the state convention, but several preregistered to make it about 250 students that actually attended the state convention at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Stan Cox received Administrator of the Year. He is principal at Opelika High School.

Cathy Bearden broadcast, literary magazine and newspaper advisor from Pelham High School won Adviser of the Year and Eric Kacker a student from Pelham High School was nominated Journalist of the Year from Alabama.

Initiatives underway

We're kind of stalled on student press rights in Alabama, but ASPA is hoping to get something started back this summer.

Membership initiatives

People who join Alabama Scholastic Press Association (ASPA) can also register for JEA memberships. The ASPA office had 13 JEA memberships that went through them for the 2003-04 school year. Alabama has 28 total JEA memberships. Two teachers from Alabama have their MJE and eight have their CJE.

Of interest

Andy Duncan, University of Alabama faculty member and adviser of publications, is director for ASPA. ASPA Adviser officers are Donna Williamson, president; Katy Burnside, vice president; Erin Coggins, secretary; Larry Haynes, immediate past president.

Fall ASPA workshops in 2004 will be Sept. 15-18. The ASPA Spring Convention will be Feb. 25 & 26. ASPA gives individual mail in awards and on-site awards at its convention. The highest rating for publications is All-Alabama. Four yearbooks, two broadcasts, three literary magazines, and seven newspapers

received an All-Alabama rating.

Florida State Report

Anne G. Whitt, MJE

Points of pride

The FSPA state convention (April 19-21) has moved from its traditional Orlando location to the Tampa Bay Area. Les Rose, from CBS's Everybody Has a Story, will teach sessions Tuesday, serve as banquet keynote speaker and present the awards for FSPA's Everybody Has a Story competition. Also, Poynter Institute's Roy Peter Clark will lead a special session for teachers on coaching young writers. Other Poynter speakers include Kelly McBride (ethics faculty), Keith Woods (reporting, writing and editing group leader) and Larry Larsen (multimedia editor and Macromedia Certified Flash Developer). Other featured presenters include News Channel 8 - WFLA are Bob Hite (anchor), Victoria Lim (investigative reporter) and Stacie Schaible (co anchor).

Linda Evanchyk's staff (Smoke Signals newspaper) from Choctawhatchee High School in Ft. Walton Beach spent more than an hour with Gov. Jeb Bush.

Students expressed concern about the legislature's decision to reduce the number of credits necessary for graduation. Their concern, shared with other Florida journalism staffs, is that many school districts will further reduce the number of electives and journalism programs will become even more rare. The Governor assured students of his support of journalism programs. Evanchyk's students also questioned Mr. Bush about his decision to intervene in the Terry Schiavo Right-to-Life case.

The Mid-Florida Chapter of SPJ in conjunction with the Hazel Bryson Fund of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay announced a \$10,000 Hazel Bryson grant for a high school or middle school program. A Hillsborough or Pinellas county school will receive \$10,000 to be used by a journalism program adviser to strengthen the journalism program.

The Sun-Sentinel, The Miami Herald, Comcast Communications and AT&T Broadband are providing scholarships to high school underclassmen to attend university summer journalism programs or to intern at The Miami Herald or The Sun-Sentinel. Students who accept these awards agree to return to their respective schools as mentors to their classmates. These are awarded by The Culpepper Journalism Foundation, established to honor Alyce Culpepper upon her retirement from Broward County Public Schools in 1997. Last summer seven students received this award.

Of interest

Summer Journalism Institute for both students and advisers will be held at University of Florida June 19-24. The \$360 workshop cost includes all instruction, housing and meals. Scholarships are available. Web site: www.jou.ufl.edu/sji

Mississippi State Report

Beth Fitts, CJE

Points of pride

The Oxford Charger newspaper won a Pacemaker award, the first high school newspaper in the state to ever win this award. Also, I received the Dow Jones National Journalism Teacher of the Year Award.

Membership initiatives

A JEA membership drive is on through the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association convention.

Of interest

A quote from Eba Hamid, Mississippi High School Journalist of the Year: "I remember when I was just starting out in journalism. I still make myself laugh. The last thing I cared about was turning things in on time. I just liked seeing my name in print, but now being able to stand in front of the staff each day and tell them how good they are or what they need to be doing is amazing. When I see the newspaper each month, it is not about seeing my name in print. It is about seeing how the work we did all month turned out. It is about being able to walk into the cafeteria to distribute papers and seeing the whole school grab for one. It is about feeling as if I made a difference and knowing that I did not just waste a whole month of my life."

North Carolina State Report

Monica Hill, CJE

Points of pride

North Carolina publications continue to earn national recognition. Two N.C. yearbooks have recently been nominated for Pacemakers and Crowns — Bear Saga at Canton Middle School and Westwind at West Henderson High. West Henderson's Wingspan newspaper has also been nominated for a Crown. That yearbook's adviser, Brenda Gorsuch, received the National Scholastic Press Association's Pioneer Award in November.

Initiatives underway

N.C. Scholastic Media Association continues to expand courses offered for secondary journalism teachers and advisers. All courses offer three hours of graduate credit.

Mass Communication Law and Ethics in the Secondary School is currently offered as a spring 2004 on-line course option for high school journalism teachers. The JOMC 103 class, based in UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, was converted last year to an on-line format sponsored by UNC's Continuing Education program. The course will be offered online each spring.

Mass Communication Writing and Editing in the Secondary School, JOMC 104, is offered online each fall.

The latest addition to the online courses is Journalism Education in the Secondary School. This JOMC 102 summer course will be offered May 11 until July 22.

UNC's Friday Center for Continuing Education (www.fridaycenter.unc.edu/cco) coordinates registration for all online courses. Fellowships covering tuition and books are awarded to the first three N.C. advisers who register for each online course.

Tuition and book fellowships are offered to the first 10 N.C. advisers who register for on-campus journalism education courses each summer. These two-week courses are based in the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Summer 2004 courses include JOMC 191, Teaching Broadcast Journalism in the Secondary School. This course will meet June 28-July 9. The second course, JOMC 105, Desktop Publishing and Design in the Secondary School, will met July 12-22. Residence hall accommodations are available for N.C. advisers.

Membership initiatives

N.C. Scholastic Media Association membership materials continue to feature the JEA affiliate information. Advisers are encouraged to join both the state and national associations. JEA materials are distributed to advisers at each NCSMA regional event and annual Institute. NCSMA adviser officers operate an onsite JEA Bookstore at the N.C. Scholastic Media Institute. The bookstore sales certainly support membership initiatives and JEA outreach efforts.

Of interest

N.C. Scholastic Media Institute will be June 14-17 in Chapel Hill. Instructors will travel from across the state and nation to offer their expertise in scholastic media. Some of the noted speakers include Mark Goodman, Bruce Watterson, Mitzi Neely, Brenda Gorsuch, Robin Sawyer, Bill Elsen, Bradley Wilson and Grady Locklear. Students and advisers may enroll in any of the following divisions: newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine, photojournalism, desktop publishing, TV news or advising student media. Students in the TV news sequence will produce a newscast. Other students may apply for staff positions on The Rush, the Institute newspaper. The School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill sponsors the Institute.

South Carolina State Report

Karen Flowers, CJE

Points of pride

Thanks to the support of the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies and the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, our state organization, the S.C. Scholastic Press Association, continues to be a vital educational, reference and support organization for our 115 plus members. The SJMC's webmaster has worked diligently with our office staff to give us a website that showcases our conferences and workshops, provides members with information about our awards and scholarships, the SCSA history and a calendar of events and deadlines, and makes easy access to our forms and newsletter as well as resources and related links. Thanks to this hard-working team, SCSA has offered online registration for our conferences since spring of 2002 and offered online membership registration for the first time last fall. SCSA and our sister organization, SIPA (Southern Interscholastic Press Association) are among the first in the nation to have online registration for conferences, conventions and membership.

SCSPA had two firsts this year. The executive board voted in June 2003 to change the constitution to accept membership from broadcast programs (previously memberships were only for newspapers, yearbooks and literary magazines) and to accept membership from homeschool groups. As far as we can tell, this homeschool newspaper staff is the first in the nation that has asked for membership in a state organization.

We are currently working to expand our broadcast opportunities not only to high schools but also to the elementary and middle schools. We have found that media specialists are the people in the elementary and middle schools who are being given the responsibility of the news programs, and they are desperate for help in the how-to's of equipment and curriculum.

We are also expanding our support to our members through the Web site, through e-mails and through blogging. As advisers lose more and more time to the responsibilities of accountability details, they seem to be more responsive to, and more needful of, this instant-access-at-my-own-time communication. Newsletters and other types of information sent via snail mail still seem necessary, but as a back up rather than for new information. Members actually have access to the newsletter as soon as it is complete because we put the newsletter online at the same time we send it to the printer. Now instead of sending any large mailing full of letters and forms, we send a postcard telling members where to find the necessary how-to information and the forms they will need online.

Our newsletter's role seems to be changing, not only because of its content but because of the cost and time of publishing it. The same staff in the scholastic journalism offices produces two publications - Perspective, the SCSA newsletter and Accents, the SIPA newsletter. Although Perspective still has informative articles in two of the four SCSA issues, the other two issues seem to be more important as a matter of historical record - a record of who has won what. We are considering cutting back on the number of issues. If we do make that cut, we will use the website and e-mail even more.

Although we have tried to go almost totally online, we learned from experience that everything cannot be left to the Internet and e-mail. We still need to send those hard copies of our newsletter because we have advisers who are not technologically savvy and really don't know how to get all the information we have put on the Web site. And though it's hard to believe, we have advisers who cannot print the newsletters, forms, etc., because they are only allotted so much ink for the year. They have to save their cartridges for the students' work and their publication production.

We have only one major mailing now. It's at the beginning of the year. It has all the membership forms for SCSA, SIPA and JEA, a sheet giving the benefits of each organization, a composite deposit form encouraging advisers to join all three organizations and material about the fall conference in September.

Our biggest concerns for South Carolina advisers and their publications are

- adviser burnout and frustration;
- prior review and prior restraint;
- loss of journalism programs because of curriculum emphasis on math and science as well as budget cuts;
- loss of publications because of budget cuts;
- loss of participation at conferences, workshops and conventions because of testing and preparation for standardized testing as well as individual district and state rules about student travel;
- loss of good advisers who are not being allowed to continue in their positions because they do not meet the legislative mandates of No Child Left Behind.

How to counter these concerns is our goal. What happens differs from school to school and we are trying to help advisers help each other combat some of these problems. For example, last year's Best in State Yearbook adviser was told he won't be able to advise next year because his degree is in science. Yet another adviser, whose degree is in business and technology, is being allowed not only to continue advising the newspaper but to take on the yearbook as well. Why? Because of a difference in the philosophy of the principals under which these two advisers work.

Much work lies ahead for the state scholastic journalism organizations, but we have seen bleak days before. We can only hope there is a new day dawning with renewed enthusiasm of new advisers who see the importance of scholastic journalism. With these advisers and their students, we can work together to begin to solve the problems of today.

Tennessee State Report

Linda Chambers

Membership initiatives

The ongoing goal of Tennessee is to increase membership. We have shown great growth during 2003-2004. H. L. Hall and I have both encouraged membership as we have met with various journalism groups and at various workshops across the state. Mr. Hall is currently working with the Tennessee Press Association through Vanderbilt University. The press association, under the guidance of Mr. Hall, is sponsoring its second annual middle Tennessee workshop for high school journalists this March. This workshop has given us another opportunity to encourage JEA membership. A strong Tennessee Press Association should help to grow our JEA membership.

As a national organization operating within Tennessee, we have not experienced the success in the area of membership growth as have other states. Also, Tennessee in meeting the challenges of No Child Left Behind, is gearing back to basic and remedial education. As a national organization we need to continue to educate the decision makers in school systems that journalism has a viable role in raising test scores.

Of interest

Lastly, we hope to continue to spread the word and grow so we have a large delegation to welcome JEA in the fall of 2006.

Georgia State Report

Sherry Taylor

Points of pride

75th Annual Convention Georgia Scholastic Press Association convened April 24 and 25, 2003, at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Georgia, in Athens. Geared toward advisers, broadcast, literary magazine, newspaper, newsmagazine, online media, and yearbook instruction, a total of 27 sessions ran Thursday evening and Friday morning. Other popular events were the Share Fair, onsite critiques of publications and photography portfolios, and behind-the-scenes tours of UGA's student broadcast studio and student-run Red and Black newspaper. Amanda Davis, of Fox5, Atlanta, delivered the keynote address. Christopher Jones, of Grady High School, was named the Georgia Champion Journalist for 2003; his portfolio represented our state in JEA's national competition.

JEA/NSPA Atlanta Convention

Plans for the upcoming JEA/NSPA convention in Atlanta began Saturday, October 18, 2003, with a meeting attended by Linda Puntney, Ann Visser, Ann Akers, Rosemary Wells (Georgia Tech yearbook adviser), and Sherry Taylor. Georgia advisers attending the Washington, DC, convention met with convention officials. Recruits for the local committee included Sherry Taylor, GA State Director; Jon Reese, Decatur H. S.; Rachel Braham, St. Pius H. S., Atlanta; Carla Klepper, Holy Innocents Episcopal School, Atlanta; Diane Shearer, Chamblee H. S.; Karen Flowers, Southern Interscholastic Press Association; Brenda Gorsuch, Southeast Regional Director, JEA; Monica Hill, North Carolina Press Association; and Linda Chambers, Tennessee State Director.

Region 6/Mid-Atlantic/Great Lakes

Director Carmen M. Mann, CJE

Membership initiatives

In an effort to attract new members, I had a booth set up at the Indiana High School Press Association's fall convention at Franklin College. I also traveled to Michigan to be the keynote speaker for a small group of advisers. I promoted JEA there as well.

Membership continues to be on the forefront of my mind, constantly trying to figure out a way to increase membership. After all, this organization is only as strong as its members.

Of interest

"Student press needs adult supervision." That's the headline I read yesterday afternoon when I pulled the mail out of my mailbox. The Clark-Pleasant (Ind.) school board adopted a policy that subjects all school-sponsored publications to administrative review. Scary. My principal placed the article in my mailbox as an FYI. I was already aware of what was going on in the neighboring school system.

Luckily, the principal who hired me in 1998 set a precedent that student publications are a forum at Franklin. Dr. Walt Vanderbush had been principal for nearly 20 years when he retired after graduation in June 2000. I have not had any "censorship" problems since Walt retired, but to protect the interest and validity of student publications, a policy is printed in the student handbook concerning the rights and practice of student journalists at Franklin Community High School. All of the judges say, "Get it in writing." I am certainly glad I did.

People are making decisions based on false or inaccurate information about the law and the First Amendment. These decisions continue to reinforce my belief in JEA and the SPLC. JEA's membership needs to continue to grow in order to insure that people begin to make better, more informed decisions.

Delaware

State Report

No report submitted. Only one JEA member in state.

Indiana State Report

Nancy Hastings, MJE

Life's been fairly quiet in Indiana this year, and that's not all bad! After facing certification issues and reorganization of the Indiana High School Press Association, getting down to "normal" business seems just fine.

Points of pride

Good news has dominated the year. After celebrating Indiana University's Jack Dvorak's Carl Towley Award in Washington, D.C. last November and Connorsville High School's Lisa Morris with the Ella Segenberger Adviser of the Year Award last fall, Indiana is happy to recognize Chelsea Schneider from Warren Central High School as its Student Journalist of the Year. As editor of The Owl newspaper, her adviser Mark Haab calls her the best editor he's had in 25 years. Ashley received a scholarship from the Indiana High School Press Association in recognition of this honor, as she plans to pursue a career in journalism.

Indiana Journalists will gather for two days of contest and classes as Indiana University hosts its Media Marathon Leadership conference and Ball State University hosts its High School J Day in April.

Kentucky State Report

Scoobie Ryan

Initiatives underway

For the first time, the University of Kentucky's School of Journalism and Telecommunications will be offering a residential summer workshop for journalism advisers and their students. A team is working now to fine-tune the schedule and recruit participants.

Because this is the first one, organizers limited initial recruiting to the state of Kentucky. Also, because JEA membership is so low in the state, organizers are hoping the workshop will convince advisers to join JEA.

The Kentucky High School Journalism Association is one of the sponsors for the UK workshop. The Blood Horse, published by the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, is another. Workshop participants will work with UK faculty and staff to produce a newspaper and a CD of materials for re-publication.

Activities will include sessions with the originator of the Maestro Concept, Buck Ryan, associate professor. During sessions, participants will determine the content of the workshop newspaper and CD materials. Then, using the School's state-of-the-art computer labs and the newsroom of the student-produced Kentucky Kernel, participants will turn their ideas into journalistic products. Faculty and staff will offer instruction in PhotoShop, QuarkXPress and InDesign.

Lexington, Ky., is the heart of the Thoroughbred industry. Workshop participants will tour world-famous horse farms, veterinary facilities and the historic Keeneland racetrack (film makers shot the Oscar-nominated Seabiscuit here). Those tours will be the basis for the Maestro pages.

The workshop is planned for June 24-30.

Membership initiatives

The KHSJA state convention is planned for April 21. At the convention, the JEA state director will continue recruiting efforts. It would be helpful if the KHSJA would agree to solicit high school advisers for JEA when it has membership drives. Attempts to convince the KHSJA administrator to do so will continue.

Maryland State Report

Holly McDermott, CJE

Points of pride

Carver Vo-Tech NEWS: The Carver Journal is now reinstated as the school paper of record. The fledging journalism class produced two editions in the first term. They met all their yearbook deadlines as well. They are hoping to go on-line this spring. Sam Burris, an up and coming young urban journalist, has applied to J Camp at GWU. The Carver Journal layout is a product of his expertise and ingenuity.

The Maryland journalism student of the year is Kayleigh Kulp of Chopticon High School in Morganza, Md., whose adviser is Christine Snyder. Kayleigh has been Editor-in Chief, Managing Editor and Intern Reporter for her school paper, The Scarlet and Black, as well as editor of the yearbook, The Chopticonian. Her goals are to major in Feature Writing/Print Journalism through the College of Mass Communications, New York University, where she will start in August 2004.

Maryland students also attended the JEA Convention in Washington, D.C. in November. Students went to classes, participated in contests, listened to keynote speakers, became delegates and/or learned about terrific college options in the field of journalism.

Of interest

Maryland is excited to be a member of the JEA. The state, educationally, has had an interesting year. The majority of Maryland students approached newspapers, yearbooks, literary magazines, broadcasts, competitions, and journalism courses with interest and zeal.

This past year, Maryland endured terror threats from yellow to orange to red, along with new and/or renewed security measures, cancelled field trips, a massive hurricane and its subsequent damage, and a February totally disrupted by more and more snow. Things were not necessarily in that sequence, but many districts were in school almost until July. Nonetheless, we persevered, and are looking forward to a terrific 2004.

Michigan State Report

Lynn Strause, MJE

Our state organization, the Michigan Scholastic Press Association, headed by Executive Director Cheryl Pell, continues to be a strong supporter of JEA. Our accomplishments and initiatives are directly linked with MIPA and its members.

Points of pride

MIPA's spring conference in April 2003 drew over 1600 high school students and advisers to Lansing for a day of awards and learning. Mark Goodman from the Student Press Law Center spoke to students in two sessions. Yearbook, newspaper and broadcast staffs received Spartan Awards, MIPAs highest honor, as well as other awards. Individual students received awards in 28 newspaper categories and, for the first year, in 25 yearbook categories. Eighteen schools entered the first year of the individual yearbook category contest. Advisers Rod Satterthwaite from Dexter and Ellie Sharrow from Flushing each received the Golden Pen Award, MIPAs Adviser of the Year honor. The John C. Field Award went to Mark Goodman and Jane Briggs Bunting, the new journalism department chair at Michigan State University. Board trustee Rod Satterthwaite introduced a mentoring program for advisers and announced 17 mentors and 10 mentees who signed up to participate.

Over the summer, MSU hosted two workshops. The advisers' workshop featured courses for college credit in yearbook and newspaper advising, design, photography and desktop publishing. The MIPA students' workshop offered classes related to yearbook, newspaper and broadcast as well as photography and desktop publishing. Over 600 students attended.

MIPAs annual fall conference, held October 9, offered a full day of sessions for students and advisers. Over 2000 students attended.

At the request of members, MIPA also introduced a junior high conference on November 4. Over 200 students and advisers attended this first-time event.

Former Utica Adviser Gloria Olman received a Lifetime Achievement Award for JEA at the JEA/NSPA Fall Convention in Washington, D.C. She retired after 30 years teaching and advising newspaper and yearbook.

Betsy Pollard Rau, newspaper adviser at H.H. Dow High School in Midland, was named a Dow Jones Distinguished Adviser and received her award in Washington, D.C.

Sandra Strall, yearbook adviser at Carlson High School in Gibraltar, was named a JEA Distinguished Adviser in the National High School Yearbook Adviser of the Year program. She will be honored at the spring convention in San Diego.

Alyssa Morley, from the H.H. Dow newspaper staff, was named Michigan's representative in the JEA National High School Journalist of the Year competition.

We just completed our competition-judging day. Each February, yearbook, newspaper and broadcast advisers, along with professionals meet on a Saturday to judge the individual competitions for the awards given at April's spring conference. The student journalists for the year are also chosen at this time. Student journalists come to Lansing the night before the conference to join MIPA board members for dinner and are then honored during the keynote sessions of the conference.

Initiatives underway

MIPA conferences, the quarterly newsletter STET and the MIPA website continue to be our primary means of communicating the message of JEA and the importance of membership.

Gloria Olman serves as legislative chair on the MIPA board. With her retirement, she plans to renew her efforts to push for legislation for First Amendment rights for students.

Ohio State Report

Georgia Dunn

Points of pride

Pete Hartley of Hartco Printing, 170 W. Pearl Street, in West Jefferson, OH (800-848-7880, www.hartcoprinting.com) is sponsoring the \$1000 scholarship award for Ohio's Journalist of the Year Jennifer Miller of Lakota West High School. Pete and his company have specialized in printing high school newspapers, newsmagazines and literary magazines for forty years. These friends of scholastic journalism have been important to the scholastic press community in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and across the U.S. We are proud to have them as sponsors of our JOY contest. In addition, the Journalism Association of Ohio Schools sponsored the second place scholarship to Courtney McGonnell of Findlay High School and the Northeast Ohio Scholastic Press Association sponsored the third place to Lisa Baldwin of Lakota East High School.

In the past year, the students at Wooster High School gained a victory in their battle with the school board over a censorship issue. Although they did not score a total victory, the students gained power since the judge declared the newspaper is a public forum. This could become a huge precedent for future such issues. Congratulations to the students for continuing their fight.

Initiatives underway

Southwest Ohio: Cincinnati Country Day School planned to hold a high school journalism conference on March 27 in the afternoon for student journalists in the Cincinnati area. They invited professional journalists from The Cincinnati Enquirer, The Cincinnati Post, CityBeat, Cincinnati Magazine, and The Community Press to speak, participate in a panel discussion, and teach workshops on specific topics such as layout, editorial ethics, and feature writing.

In suburban Mason, Ohio, the Mason Pulse-Journal invited schools in their area to write and design a page in the weekly paper. Lakota East Spark and Lakota West Voice staffers each do a page on a monthly basis.

Northeast Ohio: At least two initiatives are active in this area of the state. The Warren Tribune Chronicle offers Page One, a teen section of the newspaper.

Staff members produce a section of the newspaper every Monday. Teens from Trumbull, Mahoning, and Ashtabula counties who attend schools without newspapers or who want to reach beyond what their school papers offer are on the staff, according to Rachel Abbey, from Lakeview High School. JEA member Guy Coviello advises the group. Several of the students attended the fall convention in Washington, D.C. Glenn Luther, a Kent State University photography student and former Page One staffer, visited the group recently to tell them about his days teaching photojournalism in Afghanistan. The Page One program began Luther's career. He later interned at the Tribune Chronicle and other publications, and free-lanced.

The Akron Beacon Journal is launching a project to showcase the work of high school journalists. The Sunday edition will periodically contain a special section called "The High School Journal." Student journalists will design a full page containing their own stories, columns, and photos. Three high schools selected for the pilot project sponsored by Newspapers in Education are Archbishop Hoban, Revere and Akron Garfield.

Northwest Ohio: The Great Lakes Interscholastic Press Association received a grant from the Courier Foundation to increase school involvement with the group. The grant pays for membership, fall workshop fees, and one critique service for schools that have not previously joined GLIPA. The goal, of course, is to encourage schools and their advisers to become more active in the local press association.

Of interest

Ohio schools continue to struggle with budget problems. We are all hopeful that the rounds and rounds of budget cuts will not cut deeply into scholastic journalism, but the end to the funding problem seems quite distant.

Virginia State Report

Fran Sharer, CJE

Points of pride

The JEA/NSPA national convention in Washington, D.C. chaired by Becky Sipos and aided by numerous Virginia teachers and advisers was considered a "monumental success." Sixty-two Virginia advisers brought a total of 449 students to be a part of the 4,746 delegates from around the United States. All the hard work will pay off in the future, as Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. will receive \$1.00 for every paid delegate for use by state journalism programs.

VHSL recognized several members of VAJTA at the VHSL Fall Publications Workshop. Mary T. Strickler, Harrisonburg, Va., received the Virginia Gazette Award, recognizing her 17 years of advising yearbooks and teaching journalism. Teaching at workshops, authoring texts and articles on scholastic journalism also contributed toward the honor.

Joyce Noell received the Thomas Jefferson Award for her work with the Cave Spring yearbook (which has won nine consecutive Trophy Class awards from VHSL), and her VAJTA board and SPAC committee work with VHSL.

Bernie Leigg also received the Jefferson Award for his work as the literary magazine adviser at George Washington High School in Danville. He is in the unique position of having his own booster club that supports his award-winning program and students.

James Madison University professor and supporter of scholastic journalism, Albert "Flip" DeLuca. Earned the VAJTA Award for his work with VAJTA and national scholastic press associations.

JEA recognized several Virginians and organizations to Virginia at the JEA/NSPA National High School Journalism Convention in Washington on November 29. Those recognized included: Judy Hines, the Newseum's founding education director, Rosiland Stark of the Radio and Television News Directors Foundation, Dorothy Gilliam and the Washington Post Young Journalist Project and the American Society of Newspaper Editors High School Journalism Project. Further, the Media Citation was awarded to the Virginia High School League-Virginia Commonwealth University Journalism Partnership.

Paul Gleason, Annandale High School, won first place in the Virginia Journalist of the Year Award, and his portfolio has been forwarded for national competition. His sponsor is Alan Weintraut; the newspaper is The Ablast.

Kate Heuback, Harrisonburg, took second place. Her sponsor is Valerie Penton, and the newspaper is the Newstreak.

Third place went to Jon Atwood of McLean High School. Becky Sipos is the sponsor of the McLean Highlander.

The first place winner received a \$500 savings bond; second place receives a \$300 bond, and third place receives \$150.

Side Note: Last year's VJOY was also a student from The Ablast. Further, Alan Weintraut was one of the five finalists for Teacher of the Year honors in Fairfax.

VAJTA members elected officers at the October annual meeting. They are Valerie Penton, director; Dan Weintraub, associate director; Linder Mercer, secretary; and Fran Sharer remained treasurer and JEA state director.

Two Intensive Journalistic Writing Institutes are planned for the summer at San Francisco State University and Virginia Commonwealth University. Directed by Carol Lange, teachers are prepared to incorporate journalistic writing modes and models into their English classes. Carol can be contacted at LangeJour@aol.com.

It has been a challenging year, but we feel extremely proud of our accomplishments and of our membership that continues to grow.

Of interest

Catastrophe struck in the form of Hurricane Isabel this year causing the cancellation of our fall conference for journalism teachers and advisers at the Scripps Howard School of Journalism at Hampton University in Hampton, Va. Isabel devastated the area doing over 1.2 billion dollars in damage to Virginia alone. Last

year the snipers in the northern and central part of the state caused the cancellation of the Virginia High School League Conference in October. There is no question that when an event is cancelled, there are long-range effects. The attendance at this year's Virginia High School League Conference was down somewhat, and VAJTA's state write-off was cancelled. We will work diligently to bring our programs back to normal.

Washington, D.C. Report

Reginald Ragland

No report submitted.

West Virginia State Report

Ruby Dyer

Points of pride

It was my pleasure to welcome my long-time friend H.L. Hall to the Mountain State where he was keynote speaker and workshop teacher at the annual United High School Media convention at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. on Feb. 21. That same enthusiasm, friendliness and knowledge that I remembered from our days during summer workshops at Ball State were still evident.

The UHSM convention, which first began in 1927, attracted 125 journalists from Ohio and West Virginia. Kyle Dyer was named Most Promising Student Journalist and received a \$500 scholarship to study journalism at Marshall University. Awards in yearbook, newspaper and broadcasting were announced at the awards banquet. Among the top schools receiving awards were Wayne High School, Shady Spring High School, Braxton County High School and Parkersburg High School. Hall served as judge of yearbooks, and the editors and reporters at the *Citizen-Times* in Asheville, N.C. judged newspaper entries.

Top journalists in the state will compete at West Virginia University on March 25 and will learn the results of their efforts the following day at a special ceremony in Morgantown. Students send in samples of their work in newswriting, feature writing, sports writing, critical review, photography and yearbook design to qualify as finalists. Then they compete on-the-spot in those categories on the WVU campus.

It's been a busy year for Vaughn Rhudy, newspaper and yearbook adviser at Shady Spring. In the fall, he received \$25,000 as a Miliken National Educator Award winner. He will defend his dissertation for his doctorate degree soon and has had the Tiger Times newspaper named as a CSPA Scholastic Crown finalist.

Quill and Scroll announced that five West Virginia students are winners in the 2003 yearbook competition. They are Whitney Jarrell, Cabell Midland High School, advertising; and Wayne High School students Alex Smith, academics; Paige Chapman, sports; Kyle Dyer, graphics; and Rosa Adkins, theme development.

Kyle Dyer of Wayne High School and Jennifer Huff of Huntington High School will represent West Virginia as the Al Neuharth Free Spirit \$1,000 scholarship winners. They will be in Washington, D.C. from March 22-25 participating in various seminars, touring media sites, meeting top journalists and attending a special dinner at the Washington Press Club.

Kyle Dyer is also the West Virginia JEA High School Journalist of the Year.

Of interest

Two Marshall University journalism professors who have been long-time supporters of scholastic journalism have or will soon retire. They are Dr. Ralph Turner, who retired at the end of the last school year, and Dr. George Arnold, who will retire this May. Also, Rebecca Steorts, newspaper adviser at Bluefield High School announced she will retire at the end of the school year.

Harold "Hal" Shaver, dean of the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism since 1990, died suddenly March 2. He was 65. Dr. Shaver was active in promoting scholastic journalism in the Tri-State area and will be missed.

Region 7/Northeast

Director Jane Blystone, MJE

It has been a hectic year, but we have accomplished several things related to journalism.

I presented at two week-long yearbook workshops during the summer months in PA and TN where I gave out as much JEA material as I could carry in a suitcase or JEA could ship to the site.

Last April, I had the great joy of working in Portland, OR with 12 of America's great journalism teachers to select the SJOY for 2003. We are currently preparing to do the same in San Diego. During the year, I have been sending scholarship requests to JEA for release to universities of winners. I have also fielded a host of e-mails and phone calls from state directors, parents and advisers about the program. Thanks to the fact that my old e-mail is posted on the JEA website, those calls were less than normal. However, some of my JEA friends have forwarded some that were sent their way.

I also presented at CSPA in March and passed out JEA materials there.

Our region is without a state director in Rhode Island and our New Hampshire state director Michèle Hansen will retire from teaching and the state director position on June 30, 2004.

Connecticut State Report

Mary Ellen Minichiello

Points of pride

Eight new members of Quill and Scroll

Initiatives underway

Looking into using newer version of Adobe for desk top printing (instead of PageMaker)

Considering magtab form instead of tabloid

Presenting with students at Boston University's New England Scholastic Press Conference in April

Attending the Scholastic Press Forum conference in March at American International College in Springfield, Ma.

Holding a mock election next year at school

Designing a creative writing magazine for the school community

Considering putting out a web paper

Membership initiatives

I will be bringing with me info to Springfield and Boston about JEA.

Maine State Report

Jennifer Lacher, CJE

Points of pride

I met with a group of advisers and professionals early this fall, and we decided to approach journalism conferences on a regional level. To my knowledge, of the 7 or 8 regions we created, only one region has done anything. I tried to get this group to consider including yearbook journalism as part of their efforts. I am presenting at our state conference in May and at the NESPA conference in late April in Boston. I also plan to be a presenter at a summer yearbook workshop here in New England.

New Hampshire State Report

Michèle Hansen

Points of pride

State wide program to recognize young journalists, the James D. Ewing High School Writing and Reporting Conference and Contest was held in November by the New Hampshire Press Association. Several high school journalists were awarded certificates for excellence in journalism.

The other state-wide contest, sponsored by The Union Leader in Manchester, will take place in May. Winners are awarded certificates and leather portfolios.

Membership initiatives

New advisers and students were given information about JEA at the November conference.

New Jersey State Report

Susan V. Everett, MJE

Points of pride

Once again the NJ JOY has been chosen in conjunction with the Garden State SPA and the NJ Press Ass'n. The winner will receive the \$5000.00 Bernard Kilgore scholarship provided by the Kilgore family and administered through the NJPA. This year there were 23 entries for the JOY competition)and another 9 for the GSSPA Bob Stevens scholarship, which recognizes contributions from students who may not necessarily be planning to major in journalism.)

Membership initiatives

JEA membership materials and bookstore catalogs were given to all advisers attending the state convention in Oct. and will be distributed at the adviser's workshop on May 10.

New York State Report

Sherri Taylor

Points of pride

Programs in New York are doing well. We had 14 newspapers recognized as Gold winners (top award) in our fall conference competition; 8 literary magazines and 5 yearbooks. We had good attendance at our summer workshop. At CSPA's recent convention three literary magazines from NY won Gold Crowns and three won Silver Crowns.

Membership initiatives

Continue to offer JEA information through spring state mailing and at conferences.

Pennsylvania State Report

Ali Bowers

Points of pride

Four high school seniors have been selected as Pa. Student Journalist of the Year scholarship recipients.

Samantha Davis, managing editor of the Hi-Lite at Manheim Township HS, is this year's Newspaper Student Journalist of the Year.

Michael Rajchel, executive editor of the Hi-S-Potts yearbook at Pottsville Area HS, has been named the Yearbook Student Journalist of the year.

Newspaper SJOY runners up included Monica McAteer of Hatboro-Horsham HS, and Jenna Spinella of Pottsville Area HS.

All four will be honored at the Pennsylvania Society of Newspaper Editors Keystone Awards luncheon on March 23 at the Hershey Convention Center.

In addition to plaques, Davis and Rajchel will each receive checks for \$1,000. The runners up will receive certificates and checks for \$500.

To be considered for SJOY honors, students were asked to submit formal portfolios that included letters of recommendation, a personal essay and samples of their work.

Lillian Swanson, the Montgomery County editor of The Philadelphia Inquirer, and Tanya Barrientos, features columnist and writer for The Philadelphia Inquirer, served as judges for this year's newspaper entries.

Initiatives underway

The state organization (PSPA) is encouraging schools to join state and national journalism organizations by partnering with colleges and universities to offer local "regional" workshops. Instead of members traveling to one fall convention, we are offering regional conventions in the fall and spring at locations all over the state. Wilkes Barre, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Elizabethtown have been locations for such workshops. Co-sponsored by universities of higher education and PSPA, the workshops increase the awareness of good journalistic practices and help educate advisers to the fact that organizations for student press do exist.

Rhode Island State Report

No report submitted.. Only one JEA member.

Vermont State Report

Nancy A. Olson, CJE

Points of pride

For the first time since I've been state director, which is seven years, Vermont has a student competing for High School Journalist of the Year.

Initiatives underway

The New England Newspaper Association sponsored an all-day workshop on May 3, 2003, in Killington, Vermont, for Vermont journalism teachers.

Membership initiatives

I always bring JEA materials to the annual meeting of the Vermont state association.

Publications Committee

Editor Bradley Wilson

C:JET

We've done a good job of keeping printing costs down by moving the printing to Jostens this year.

Based on figures I've received from national headquarters as of mid-March, we've spent \$7,503 on printing for three issues, or an average of \$2,501 per issue. Last year, we spent \$36,619 for printing of six issues. (The bills for the previous year, I guess, were late. The year prior to that shows only enough printing for two issues, so I'm assuming the other two were carried over into the 2003 year.) That's about \$6,103/issue. We budgeted for *C:JET* to cost \$8,851/issue including all costs. In short, we've cut out printing budget by one-third.

At the same time, we've increased advertising revenues. This year, we raised an average of \$2,983/issue in advertising. So, we've still got a long way to go for *C:JET* to be self-supporting.

Fiscal year	Budgeted income	Actual income
2000	0	\$6,221
2001	\$7,500	\$7,731
2002	\$11,000	\$3,700
2003	\$11,000	\$7,220
2004	\$9,000	\$11,932

I'd rather have some regular contributors who would serve as contributing editors to help create packages of material on a given topic by recruiting other authors. But I also need people who contribute hands-on stuff, even if it's only enough material for a spread.

Topics covered

Fall 2003: Covering crime, scholastic coverage of the war in Iraq, interviewing skills, using children's books in the journalism classroom, making a pint-sized photo book, top reasons to use InDesign, and diversity within JEA

Winter 2003: Headline writing, satire, humor, clichés, photographing basketball, Website design, making stories have significance

Spring 2004: Attending a national convention, scholastic coverage of the California wildfires, topical coverage in the yearbook, electronic communication in scholastic press associations, type tricks in Photoshop, online etiquette

Summer 2004: Journalists and disabilities, getting design ideas from professional magazines, underutilized functions in InDesign, having compassion

Major contributors

Steve Dearing, Amarillo Globe-News

Beth Dickey, University of South Carolina Sue Farlow, Asheboro HS (N.C.) Susan Fergusson, Mount Si HS (Snoqualmie, Wash.) Karen Flowers, University of South Carolina Pat Gathright, MacArthur HS (San Antonio) Ted Gest, University of Pennsylvania Pat Graff, Cueva HS (Albuquerque) Karl Graubaugh, Oak Ridge HS (El Dorado Hills, Calif.) Neva Hand, Henderson HS (Texas) Dale Harrison, Auburn University Bobby Hawthorne, University of Texas David Knight, Lancaster County Schools (S.C.) Susan Massy, Shawnee Mission Northwest HS (Kan.) Laura Negri, Alief Kerr HS (Houston, Texas) Bill Neville, Georgia Southern University Casey Nichols, Rocklin HS (Calif.) Lori Oglesbee, McKinney HS (Texas) Gloria Olman, retired (Mich.) Jake Palenske, Ncompass Media (Dallas) Cheryl Pell, Michigan State University Candace Perkins-Bowen, Kent State University Joel Pisetznier, The Star-Ledger (Newark, N.J.) Mark Sneed, McClymonds HS (Oakland, Calif.) Trudy Suggs, free-lance writer (Mich.) Randy Swikle, retired (Ill.) Ann Visser, Pella Community HS (Iowa)

Other contributors

Adam Kazmierski, Amanda Johnson, Amelia Veneziano, Anna Henkel, Becky Kirk, Bryan Hibbard, Chad Pilster, Chris Bedrosian, Christian Keese, Christopher Johnson, Clif Palmberg, Craig McCoy, David Eulitt, Douglas Baynton, Erin Strong, Gena Layman, Griff Singer, Hudson Boyer, James Eberlein, Jane Blystone, Janice Dean, Jason DeLeon, Jason Kindig, Jeanel Drake, Joel Wren, Kathy Craghead, Kelly Glasscock, Kelsey Vetter, Kevin Moore, Matt Slocum, Matt Stamey, Maxine Springer, Mike Byrd, Mike Shepherd, Nathaniel LaRue, Paul Kelly, Rachel Perryman, Roger Clarkson, Roy Mata, Shaun Patrick, Shelby Bone, Stan Godwin, Stephanie Martinell, Susan Roberts, Tom Clanin, Travis Lenkner, Whitney Snyder

MEMBER NEWS ON THE WEB

We're still developing better ways to keep members informed of JEA activities. Some of the criticisms of JEA that came out of the board discussions were items like, "board members do value discussion and exchange of views, but..." and "board membership is 'graying' and too many folks have been on it for a long time," and "decision-making takes too long, communications/time between meetings is not efficient." We should make more of an effort to keep members informed with new information at least twice a month regarding what JEA board members, officer and other leaders are up to.

We should have agendas, minutes and the like up on the Web long before the convention so people who are interested in various issues can contact their board members.

JEA Bookstore

Connie Fulkerson, Manager

Points of pride

We pride ourselves on fast service and a helpful, friendly staff, as well as a fine selection of books that journalism teachers/advisers find helpful. The 2004 catalog, which was mailed in March, now includes ISBNs and publisher names. This will help schools that need this information for their purchase orders or to get examination copies. Nearly 50 new books were added in a variety of categories, and new editions of about 20 books are included as well. The catalog also is being updated on the JEA Web site

updated on the JEA Web site.

The bookstore sales from July 2003 through February 2004 totaled \$246,613, so I feel confident we'll surpass our budgeted goal of \$300,000 by the end of June. The Washington, D.C., convention bookstore brought in record sales of \$26,885, thanks in part to a number of Meet the Author book signings. We will have a book signing after the Thursday keynote in San Diego.

Membership initiatives

The bookstore catalog was mailed to about 2,300 JEA members and more than 30,000 public, private and parochial high schools and college departments of journalism.

JEA always prints extra catalogs so they can be sent to summer workshops and conferences. We appreciate the state directors and scholastic press association directors for offering the catalog at these events. The membership form is in each catalog, with a list of what JEA offers its members. Many people add or renew a membership when they place an order so they can receive the discount.

Initiatives underway

The JEA Bookstore has received assistance from several of the JEA commissions and committees this year. The Development/Curriculum and Certification commissions have helped by funneling their finished projects to the bookstore. Two additions to the bookstore, JEA Photojournalism Curriculum and Advanced Broadcast Class Handbook, were direct results of those commissions. They will be available at the San Diego convention. More curriculum guides will be added upon completion. The Student Press Rights Commission also sent new material for an updated Press Law Pack.

One project the Technology Committee will help with is developing the online ordering process. As it stands, someone placing an order must print out and fax the form to us, instead of sending it via e-mail. Until the site is secure, this is the way it must be done.

The Publications Committee, headed by Bob Bair, is always on the lookout for new books and items that could benefit teachers/advisers. Committee members also lead a session at the convention, "Selecting Classroom Materials," that gives new advisers an idea of what books and other materials (many from the JEA Bookstore) would be helpful in their journalism classrooms. Those who have attended the session have remarked how beneficial it has been.

Certification Commission

Chair Carla Harris, MJE

How states define a "fully qualified" journalism teacher, in terms of the No Child Left Behind legislation, was discussed at the fall board meeting in Washington DC. I offered to contact states to seek an answer.

I e-mailed every state's Department of Education, if an e-mail address was included on the federal website www.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/index/html. I requested either the state's description of a fully qualified secondary journalism teacher or a recommendation of another state resource person who could provide the answer. Seventeen states responded: Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont and West Virginia. Of the 17, 13 offered a "fully qualified" definition.

None of these states has a description of a fully qualified journalism teacher. In most instances, the state requires certification in English, sometimes only if a journalism course is offered for English credit. Only in Florida, Kansas and Missouri is journalism certification required.

Journalism usually is not designated as a core subject, therefore not needing a highly qualified description.

While I found this information disappointing, I do have positive news to report. At the San Diego convention 27 advisers will be recognized as new CJE's, and another 17 will receive their CJE renewals. Five advisers have earned Master Journalism Educator status and two MJE's will receive renewals.

Fifteen advisers have applied to take the CJE exam this spring and three have qualified to take the MJE test.

Development/Curriculum Commission

Chair Lori Oglesbee, CJE

Points of pride

The recently published JEA Bookstore Catalogue has the new photojournalism curriculum guide available for purchase. The 77-page document is more complete than any previous curriculum guide. In addition, I have responded with lesson plans and other items to inquiries on the Listserv about curriculum.

Jack Kennedy has been adding newspaper hints to the Listserv. The style quiz of the week has faltered through final yearbook deadline preparation but is due to be back on track after the convention.

Ongoing initiatives

The yearbook, newspaper and broadcasting curriculum guides are still not ready. My contacts have fallen through. Any ideas? I plan on doing the yearbook.

Membership initiatives

I have continued to be in contact with yearbook companies to consider providing a first-year adviser a membership with JEA. No further progress has been made. I have a meeting with one company during the convention.

Of interest

Districts are dropping block scheduling because of budget concerns. That means students may take fewer electives during the course of their high school careers. What does that mean for us? What are successful programs doing to combat this potential loss? How have programs recruited when the number of periods a student takes is limited? This could be a timely article for CJET.

Multicultural Commission

Chair Norma Sumarnap Kneese, MJE

Points of pride

At the Portland Convention Spring 2003, there were two Outreach participants: Luane Higuchi of Waianae Intermediate School in Waianae, Hawaii and Jennifer Chavez-Miller of Jemez Valley High of Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico.

During the summer of 2003, three Outreach participants attended the Advisers Institute at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

Cristina Casero of Belen Jesuit Preparatory of Miami, Florida attended the Washington, D.C. Convention Fall 2003. Yolanda Barker of Centennial High School of Frisco, Texas and Kelly Brown of East High School in Denver, Colorado will be attending the San Diego Convention Spring 2004.

Initiatives underway

Unity 2004 will take place in Washington, D.C. on August 4-8. Norma Kneese, Joe Nations, Teddi Johnson, and Bob Bair anticipate attending this convention that occurs only once every five years. A proposal was passed by the board to fund their attendance and participation.

Contact with the four journalism minority organizations will be made so JEA's Multicultural Commission can work with them to better communication and establish relationships with these professional groups. In so doing, we anticipate the professional minority organizations to be more involved with JEA's advisers and students of color.

The Multicultural Commission will be sharing a booth with ASNE at the San Diego Convention. The purpose is to have MC members available for questions and comments from minority advisers and students at the convention. We also intend to have a raffle and prizes to encourage minority members to fill in a survey that will be distributed. This survey was also distributed at the Washington, D.C. convention. The response was moderate, yet helpful.

The Commission also plans to contact yearbook publishers and work with them to identify minority yearbook advisers. Because many of these yearbook representatives are in the schools, their assistance in locating minority advisers is invaluable.

Minority advisers of ASNE's 2003 Summer workshops will be contacted to submit applications as Outreach participants for the 2004-2005 JEA conventions and Advisers Institute.

Of interest

Outreach participant Cristina Casero of Miami Beach said of her Washington, D.C. Convention experience: "As a first-timer at JEA/NSPA, I was taken aback by the depth, breadth and scope of the topics covered and the level of expertise of guest speakers. As a veteran of other scholastic journalism conventions, comparatively JEA rises to the top. The seriousness of purpose, the highly organized structure, and excellent facilities contribute to a positive learning environment."

NCTE Liaison Report

Chair Diane Honda, MJE

JEA sponsored sessions at the NCTE conference, "Partners in Learning". I would like to make note that in the graphic that was on the front cover—that the word journalism was part of the montage. We sponsored a concurrent session that featured Mark Arax, LA Times columnist, who wrote, *The King of California*, an investigative report on JG Boswell, the cotton king and how he influenced the state of California. During his session he talked extensively how he interviewed and gathered information and then to how he wrote the story. Mark read excerpts from his book. Mark's workshop was not only well-attended, about 200 in attendance, but was also well-received. Mark signed books after the session in the exhibit area. At the opening of this session I passed out bookstore catalogs and JEA brochures.

JEA sponsored an Intensive Journalism workshop—which concentrated on alternatives to curriculum for AP Lang and Comp. This was also well-attended with over 30 enrollees. The participants in this workshop paid an additional fee to the convention registration. Carol Lange, Fran Sherer, and Ron Bennett. JEA literature was distributed at this session as well.

Proposals have been submitted and approved for NCTE, 2004 in Indianapolis. The deadlines for submission was in early January. For JEA's concurrent session, I proposed a session by Herb Stuever. He is a reporter for the Washington Post and has just completed a book of his columns. He will also be the secondary section welcome speaker, which means that he will generate general interest in attending his session. I predict that he will be very well received.

The workshop proposal is for Pat Graff, members of the Southern Press Law Center's Teaching Tolerance and Logan Aimone to present a workshop on opinion writing using the Teaching Tolerance curriculum.

I believe that both of these sessions will be well attended and that NCTE members are well aware of JEA's presence. I think that this activity is well-worth the money spent by JEA in that it promotes scholastic journalism in the regular English classroom as well as promote the link between the journalism and English teachers.

I have more than enjoyed my tenure on the board as NCTE Liaison but regretfully the NCTE convention conflicts directly with my daughter's activities in her high school marching band. Although my commitment to the promotion of JEA activities at NCTE is strong, I must defer to my family at this point. There is an economic reason as well, as the California budget crunch in education has affected the availability of sub days for teachers attending conferences. This year for NCTE and JEA Spring convention, I had to take 6 sick days to cover my time out. If these conferences were not on the West Coast, it would have been 8 days. I only get 10 sick days per school year and to take that many days for conference, I believe is just too many. It is with this in mind that I regretfully submit my resignation from this appointed position. Thank you very much for the opportunities that JEA has afforded me over the last two years.

Scholastic Press Association Directors Liaison

Chair Julie E. Dodd, MJE

SPA directors met for a 2-hour roundtable at each of the national conventions. In Washington, representatives from 24 state/regional/national organizations attended. A session is scheduled for the San Diego convention.

Survey of SPA directors

Karen Flowers and Beth Dickey conducted an e-mail survey of scholastic press association directors, with 25 directors responding. The results are being published in several scholastic journalism publications.

Compared to a survey of SPA directors in 1989:

- SPA director is a college faculty member – 46% (1989), 33% (2003)
- SPA director is in a tenure-track position – 7 (1989), 1 (2003)
- Non-college sponsors for associations – 7% (1989), 48% (2003)

These trends indicate a drop in college sponsorship for scholastic press organizations and a decrease in the number of directors at colleges who are in tenure-track positions.

Challenges to scholastic press associations

The theme of the SPA roundtable at the Atlanta convention will be challenges to scholastic press associations. Dodd will conduct an e-mail survey of SPA directors prior to the convention to determine what the status is in each state regarding:

- State standardized testing
- No Child Left Behind
- Certification/licensing – being "highly qualified"
- Field trips – cost and security
- Journalism's place in college-bound curriculum

SPA electronic newsletters

Electronic SPA newsletters are e-mailed to directors to announce information about JEA conventions, solicit input on roundtable topics and to obtain information about SPA organizations and activities.

AEJMC's Scholastic Journalism Division support

CARE packages

As a service project from the Scholastic Journalism Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Cheryl Pell continues to provide CARE notebooks for directors. Each notebook is a collection of materials provided by other scholastic press association directors – newsletters, judging guidelines for publication review, programs for conventions and summer workshops. The cost of a notebook is \$35, which includes the notebook and shipping.

Innovative Outreach to Scholastic Journalism

The division offers a program to recognize higher education innovative initiatives to help high school, middle school or elementary journalism students and teachers. The directors of the top programs make presentations at the annual AEJMC convention. This summer's convention is in Toronto. The deadline for entry is April 1. The top three programs from last year are posted on the division's website – <http://grove.ufl.edu/~sjdaejmc>

Teach-In

The AEJMC Scholastic Journalism Division will hold a one-day Teach-In as a pre-convention workshop at the Toronto convention this summer. Advisers from the Toronto area will be invited to attend. Monica Hill, division vice head, is coordinating the workshop.

Recognition of outstanding efforts to promote diversity in scholastic journalism Each year, the division awards the Robert P. Knight Multicultural Recruitment Award, recognizing and individual or a media organization that has made significant contributions to promoting diversity in high school or middle school media programs. The award is presented at the AEJMC convention at a luncheon co-sponsored by the Scholastic Journalism Division and the Minorities and Communication Division. Last year's recipient was Vanessa Shelton.

Scholastic Press Rights Commission

Chair John Bowen, MJE

Initiatives underway

To maintain active and effective support for student media advisers and teachers in their continuing effort to empower freedom for student expression

- Through redesign and update of the Commission Web site
 - Through an effective national presence on the JEA listserv
 - Through revision and update of the JEA Press Rights Packet
 - Through contact with the Student Press Law Center and its outreach programs, as well as through other national scholastic journalism organizations
 - Through a visible presence at national, regional and state conferences/conventions during the year and throughout the summer
 - Through education programs available to ASNE summer workshop participants
 - Through publications and materials available to students, teachers, advisers, administrators and the general public about freedom for student media
- Some commission members, in addition to the above areas, completed numerous personal contacts, program development and professional activities designed to help advisers and their media throughout the nation.

Reports from commission members

Ruth Bartz, CJE

The biggest threats I see right now to journalism are the stresses of meeting test scores and parents' goals to join every AP class on the planet.

At Oxnard (CA) High School, the class has been eliminated and the newspaper is now after school. At Camarillo High School, the young teacher who took over for Ellen Kersey has stopped advising and another new adviser is there. With such a changeover of advisers, it becomes more common for questionable material to slip in.

Parents are becoming more activist (if that is possible). We have an advertising year contract with a local gay/lesbian resource center - very tasteful ad... sure enough the first issue sparked parent calls to principal (we have a new principal) who has supported press rights. I did give her a number of handouts (legal rulings, Ed code print out, ...) and also have had a series of chats about the newspaper.

One thing I did which I suggest to all advisers with new administration - be preemptive - I set a formal meeting in August to discuss our newspaper, how we publish, editors, finances... even though we had previously met before she became principal...

One rampant ethics issue I have encountered is the "if you need quotes, make them up..." and tried to show why that is not a good idea.

Candace Perkins Bowen, CJE/MJE

The listserv is my most direct impact on JEA members with legal questions and problems. Although others often respond, too, I try to send suggestions, information and contacts to each person who needs support.

I co-write the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund's Adviser Update law column and attempt to focus on the most current issues advisers face — such as copyright infringement and the potential of the Wooster court decision and the open forum. I participated on the Student Press Law Center board as Outreach and Programming committee chair, promoting a Girl Scout badge related to student free expression and expanding the SPLC's links on a variety of press-related Web sites.

I also offered input at the SPLC Advisory Council meetings in Washington, D.C. at the JEA/NSPA convention in November 2003 and in New York City at the CMA/CSPA conventions in March 2004.

John Bowen, CJE/MJE

I try to maintain a visible presence on the JEA listserv by responding either personally or to the group to as many legal and ethical questions as I can. In all cases, I urge those with questions to contact the SPLC for direct legal advice. I also try to ask as many questions as possible to better understand the situation and help as I can. If desired, or needed, I offer to provide links or information that offer specific assistance. Candace and I prepare legal and ethical materials for groups of prospective advisers and journalism teachers at various sites in Ohio and around the country and through ASNE workshops. In particular, we stressed the importance of advisers and teachers understanding FERPA and copyright.

I have also been gathering materials, with the assistance of others on the commission, that directly addresses administration concerns about free expression rights for student media and why administrators should ensure such freedom.

Tim Dorway

I continue to present sessions on the importance of honoring in practice the First Amendment in schools. These sessions are a part of the School Law course in the administrative licensure program at one of the more popular principal training programs in Minnesota, and they generally run two to three hours in length.

During that time I touch on several topics, including the language of the First Amendment, case law as it pertains to student First Amendment rights, publication and student speech policies in schools and references available for administrators to learn more. Specifically, I spend a lot of time speaking of the Principal's Guide to Scholastic Journalism and I intend to spend some time on the new The First Amendment in Schools text.

Other than the above, I have not been contacted by administration or advisers about censorship or First Amendment issues.

Tom Eveslage

We continue to have censorship skirmishes in Pennsylvania, not unlike those sprinkled across the country, I'm sure.

I continue to write the Legal Pad column for PSPA every other

month, trying to hit themes close to the press rights concerns of Pennsylvania advisers. Two topics that I've written about recently may resonate with advisers faced with censorship threats elsewhere. (The columns are available at the PSPA link of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association site.)

My most recent column concerned the Ohio case that I'm sure you and JEA already have addressed. I'm a bit late to arrive at the Draudt case, perhaps, but reading it I was struck by the fact that as much as we've talked to advisers about making their publications a "public forum," we haven't often given them specific reasons, detailed guidance for creating a public-forum newspaper, and examples of publications that have clearly (and successfully) become forums.

There may be a publication or online resource that addresses this, but if not, this may be a useful tool.

An earlier column this year focused on ways that students have successfully championed free-press campaigns against censorship efforts. I cited a few examples from Pennsylvania and elsewhere, but again, specific guidance and examples could help censorship-struck schools fight back—often in the arena of public opinion without putting the adviser in the middle of the fray.

H.L. Hall, MJE

Our keynote speaker at MTSPA March 9, 2004 was Frank Sutherland, editor of The Tennessean. He did a super job talking about ethics and decency. Our two speakers from the First Amendment Center who spoke about student rights had standing room only in both their sessions. Obviously, freedom of expression is an important topic in Tennessee.

I will give a session on press rights at the Northern Illinois Scholastic Press Association's workshop in April, and this summer I will teach a Press Law class for advisers at Ball State University.

I have also written dozens (or at least it seems like that many) of e-mails to advisers who are having First Amendment issues at their schools.

Randy Swikle, MJE

The Illinois Press Association Foundation is taking initiative in

supporting First Amendment projects. Its Copley First Amendment Center received a new \$50,000 grant from the Tribune McCormick Foundation. The Center will re-issue its series of four First Amendment posters and its secondary education curriculum on the First Amendment.

The Center is also discussing proposals for using the grant money to promote the First Amendment in schools and in the media. The Copley Center has a great Web site: <http://www.illinoisfirstamendmentcenter.com>.

The Illinois Journalism Education Association is promoting a hotline to help monitor censorship cases and to serve as a resource for advisers needing help with First Amendment questions and issues.

David Bennett, executive director of the IPAF, said he is working on plans to energize the professional press to take an enthusiastic approach in supporting scholastic journalism. He said his association will make a contribution to the Student Press Law Center, and he will encourage his counterparts in the other 49 states to do likewise.

I am putting together a plan to have the IPAF host a First Amendment workshop for schools in Springfield next fall.

I have been busy with many of my usual obligations as a commission member, and as a past president of the Garden State Scholastic Press Association and recording secretary of the Columbia Scholastic Press Assn.

John Tagliareni

I plan to work again with Assemblyman Impreveduto, now one of the senior legislators in the assembly, to make another attempt at anti-Hazelwood legislation. I am a close personal friend of the assemblyman, so I am hopeful. On the surface it appears Governor McGreevy and Assemblyman Impreveduto, both democrats, could make this work. Unfortunately, the assemblyman supported the leading candidate in the democratic primary, who opposed McGreevy, and assemblyman Impreveduto was not selected to be the speaker of the assembly as a result. That would have made our bill a success. Fortunately, they seem to have worked out their differences, and it may get off the ground again.

I spoke at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association fall and spring conferences, and have been a speaker at the Garden State Scholastic Press Association Conference in the fall at Rutgers University. I also focused on New Jersey's strong constitution, which protects student journalists. I will speak at the GSSPA spring conference at Rutgers University, in May.

I have answered many questions from various students and advisers at conferences where I made presentations on student press rights, censorship issues, and controversial and sensitive issues. I also have received many phone calls and E-mails from students because I encouraged them to contact me after I spoke at those conferences. There have been numerous times when advisers also have called me in school or at home to ask for advice related to censorship issues. I have helped them as much as possible, and I have referred the advisers and students to the Student Press Law Center for further assistance.

I have again presented our concerns to NJ -ACLU and worked with Deborah Jacob, the director. We have made the organization very aware of the need for their support. The ACLU-NJ is again sponsoring a contest and giving awards to promote student rights throughout high schools in the state. The contest accepts submissions of articles, editorials, cartoons and special selections. In fact, one of my students won an award last year about book banning.

Listserv Liaison

Candace Perkins Bowen, MJE

Points of pride

The Journalism Education Association e-mail distribution list — JEAHELP — is alive and well with 634 members as of mid-March. From the tough topics like prior review, crashing servers and block scheduling to uses for old waxers and Krispy Kremes (yes, they are still a topic), the JEAHELP list was busy offering members a chance to ask for advice or simply to vent. In the third week of January, for instance, JEAHELP had 72 topics from approximately 125 different members.

Nominations Committee

Chair Julie E. Dodd, MJE

The Nominations Committee is beginning the process of recruiting candidates for the 2005 elections. A slate of candidates will be presented at the business meeting at the Atlanta convention next fall.

Meeting with individuals interested in information about running for office

Members of the Nominations Committee will hold a session at the San Diego convention to talk with individuals who want to talk about running for office – for the upcoming election or for the future.

Recruiting potential candidates

Carla Harris has provided a list of individuals who have qualified for CJE or MJE certification and indicated on their applications that they were interested in leadership opportunities in JEA. The committee will contact them individually to meet with us in San Diego or talk with us.

The committee is asking Norma Kneese and the Multicultural Commission to make recommendations of potential candidates.

Dodd will talk with scholastic press association directors to make recommendations concerning potential advisers from their organizations.

Using the JEA website for recruitment

The Nominations Committee is listed on the JEA website with information for contacting Dodd. Additional information will be posted about the election process, the positions for election, and members of the Nominations Committee.

Determining the slate of candidates

According to JEA policies, elected officers are responsible for contacting the Nominations Committee by the beginning of October to indicate interest in seeking re-election. The Nominations Committee also will try to contact each current elected member to confirm the individual's re-election plans.

Candidate information

Each candidate is responsible for providing the Nominations Committee with a statement of goals, a bio and a photo. The Committee will submit the materials to JEA Headquarters and to Bradley Wilson for posting on the JEA website and for distribution to the membership.

Issues for consideration by the board

1. Will the board continue the policy that the election process should be handled through JEA outlets and that candidates should not send their own promotional mailings?
2. How will the membership obtain information about the candidates? In previous elections, information about the candidates is included in NewsWire and then included in the election packets sent to members. As NewsWire no longer is published, will a separate mailing be sent to the membership?
3. Some individuals may not seek office because their school districts will not fund substitute teachers. Will JEA provide any financial support for substitute teachers?

Junior High/Middle School Commission

Chair Mary Patrick, CJE

The JEA Junior High/Middle School Commission has increased its convention presence by adding or enhancing the following programs. At each convention we hold a kick-off session known as Middle Madness, provide a strand of programs appropriate to middle-level journalists, moderate and judge the middle-level write-offs, and chair the Middle Level Swap Session for students and advisers. The Middle Madness session has had an average attendance of eighty for the past three conventions. Write-offs have also had a steady enrollment of between 10-14. The Swap Session attendance has increased the past three conventions, with 52 attending the session in Washington.

Between conventions, the commission works to contact prospective and veteran middle-level JEA members by sending mailings about our contests and current activities. Approximately, 600 advisers receive mail or e-mail each year, and the commission is always looking for more middle-level advisers interested in becoming involved with JEA.

New programs for the commission include the Mail-In contest and a newspaper exchange. At the Washington convention, thirty-three mail-in entries were judged. Fort-three have been received thus far for the spring contest to be judged in San Diego. The fledgling newspaper swap list currently includes nine schools with the hope more interest will be generated in San Diego.

Goals of the commission include continuing all the programs listed above plus adding a possible yearbook exchange and updating the middle-level curriculum guide currently being offered for sale by JEA. In addition to Mary Patrick, the commission includes faithful members who attend every convention and provide middle-level programs as well as assist with the contests. The chair would especially like to recognize and thank Wendi Solinger, Margie Watters, and Anita Wertz for their continued assistance in providing these programs and contests.

Awards Committee

Co-Chairs Ellen Kersey, CJE & Susan Hathaway Tantillo, MJE

Initiatives underway

The Awards Committee membership expanded in 2003 to include at least one member from each of JEA's seven geographic regions. While award nominations are always welcome from any JEA member at any time, committee members especially encourage JEA members in their own regions to nominate candidates for appropriate awards. Members include Logan Aimone, CJE, Region 1; Carmen Wendt, CJE, Region 2; Bob Bair, MJE, Region 3; Beth Shull, Region 4; Monica Hill, CJE, Region 5; Martha Akers, Region 6; Jane Blystone, MJE, Region 7; Kathy Craghead, MJE, past chair.

Subcommittee chairs with responsibility for carrying out specific award recognition programs include H.L. Hall, MJE, National Yearbook Adviser of the Year; Candace Perkins Bowen, MJE, Future Teacher Scholarship; Jane Blystone, MJE, National High School Journalist of the Year; Carol Lange, CJE, Ryan White Award;