REGULAR FEATURES

President	
On The Move	9
Obituaries	10
Scrapbook	12
NIE Report	16
MPA Moments	17
Jean Maneke	18

Access to public records is ongoing issue

Missouri Sunshine Coalition, MPA fight for transparency in government

ne of my favorite newspaperrelated organizations is the Missouri Sunshine Coalition, which has been educating and advocating for government transparency at all levels since late 2008. It's a lonely job.

A conundrum of the digital age is paperless storage means less access to records. Because computer programs are often not uniform across the departments of government and in some cases even within a particular department, a simple records search is not that simple. Records custodians often need to involve programmers to extract data and construct documents.

Then the documents are usually reviewed for information that can be withheld from disclosure. Sometimes those reviewers are highlypaid lawyers.

The Missouri Open Meetings and Records statutes say governments have the right to recover their costs of producing the records. Many bodies have also asserted the right to recover the costs of review, though that's a gray area that cries out for clarification by the legislature.

It all conspires to thwart transparency for Missouri residents who want to keep tabs on what their governments are up to.

oug Crews spends a lot of time and energy in the Capitol from early January through mid-May, as do MPA consultants Harry Gallagher and Heath Clarkston. MPA legal counsel Jean Maneke also plays a key role.

They are mostly forced to play



defense against efforts to remove information from public access. Issues such as protecting the public notice requirements require a great deal of energy and political currency every year.

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to go on the offensive? In Georgia, Hollie Manheimer of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation, found an ally in the newly elected state attorney general.

he reports in the fall issue of ■ IRE Journal that the foundation became deeply involved in researching and writing sunshine language that accomplished many of the things we've been working toward in Missouri: lower costs and fees, enhanced penalties for violations, and increased time to review meeting agendas. After years of playing defense, the GFAF found a changing climate for open government and was able to exploit it.

I hope, over time, the MPA and the Missouri Sunshine Coalition will work hand-in-hand to achieve a similar breakthrough. Association members can help. Support the Missouri Sunshine Coalition (www. missourisunshine.org), and when you're reminding state legislators from your area about the importance of easy access to public records, mention the ambiguities and hurdles to access that persist in the

The attorney general's office will be up for grabs in 2016, and we should remind the candidates that they can have a large impact on transparency and that we expect them to take an active interest in resolving sunshine questions.

n access issue that is likely to come up during the current legislative session involves video footage from law enforcement body cameras. My own opinion, which is not necessarily the official MPA opinion, is such footage should

be treated in the same way as dashboard video from law enforcement vehicles: It's an open record, subject to some restrictions, that must be retained by the governmental body. Watch for legislative updates about these issues and others the MPA is watching on your behalf.

conundrum of the digital age is paperless storage means less access to records"

We'll have an important opportunity to present a united front Feb. 12 at Day at the Capitol.

I hope to see you there.



PRESIDENT: Jim Robertson,

Columbia Daily Tribune

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Dennis Warden, Owensville, Gasconade County Republican

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Miller, Jr.,

Washington Missourian

SECRETARY: Jacob Brower,

Monett Times/Cassville Democrat

TREASURER: Paul Berry, Springfield News-Leader

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Doug Crews

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Mark Nienhueser

EDITOR: Bryan E. Jones

DIRECTORS:

Richard Gard, Missouri Lawyers Media, St. Louis

Dennis Ellsworth, St. Joseph News-Press

Donna Bischoff, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Jack Miles, The Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg

Joe Spaar, The Odessan

Trevor Vernon, Eldon Advertiser

Jeff Schrag, Springfield Daily Events

Carol Stark, The Joplin Globe

James White, Benton County Enterprise, Warsaw

NNA REPRESENTATIVE: Tianna Brooks,

Mountain View Standard News

MISSOURI PRESS NEWS (ISSN 00266671) is published every month for \$15 per year by the Missouri Press Association, Inc., 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201-4888; phone (573) 449-4167; fax (573) 874-5894; e-mail dcrews@socket.net; website www.mopress.com. Periodicals postage paid at Columbia, MO 65201-4888. (USPS No. 355620). POSTMASTER: Please send changes of address to Missouri Press Association, 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201-4888.

25th annual Day at the Capitol is Feb. 11-12

The 25th annual Missouri Press Association and Associated Press Day at the Capitol is scheduled Thursday. Feb. 12, in Jefferson City.

Beginning in 1991, MPA has hosted a day each February at the state capitol for press members to interact with their state legislators and state officials.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Wednesday morning and afternoon, Feb. 11, the boards of the Missouri Press Foundation. Missouri Press Association and Missouri Press Service will have meetings at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jefferson City. No reception for legislators is planned Wednesday evening.

Thursday, Feb. 12

 8 to 9:30 a.m. -- A breakfast (pastries and coffee) for MPA members and legislators, will be in House Hearing Room 1, in the state capitol base-

The Day at the Capitol program is scheduled 10 to 11:45 a.m. in the Senate Lounge, third floor, in the capitol building. The morning program features two leading GOP candidates who have expressed interest in campaigning for governor in 2016 and a panel discussion about legislation responding to the events in Ferguson, Mo.

 10 a.m. -- State Auditor Tom Schweich, Republican, a possible candidate for Missouri Governor in 2016.

- 10:30 a.m. -- The Senate Panel on proposed legislation relating to Ferguson will convene. Panelists include Sen. Maria Chappelle-Nadal (D-St. Louis), Sen. Jamilah Nasheed (D-St. Louis), and Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Glendale).
- 11:15 a.m. -- Former Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, Catherine Hanaway, a Republican candidate for Missouri Governor in 2016, will speak.

Lunch with Gov. Nixon

11:45 a.m. -- Attendees will leave the capitol at 11:45 a.m. for the brief walk to the Governor's Mansion for lunch with Gov. Jay Nixon. After lunch, Gov. Nixon will offer

remarks and take questions from the

The program ends by 1:30 p.m.

Registration information

People must be registered with Missouri Press Association to attend the luncheon in the Governor's Mansion. Missouri Press Association pays for breakfast and luncheon costs. There is no charge to MPA members. However. last-minute cancellations will reliams, kwilliams@socket.net or send the form on the back cover of this magazine. You also can register online by going to: https://mopress.wufoo.com/forms/2015-mpaap-day-atthe-capitol/

Lodging

MPA is holding a block of sleeping rooms for Wednesday, Feb. 11, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jefferson City. Call 573-636-5101 and ask for Missouri Press Association's \$109 room rate. The DoubleTree's address is: 422 Monroe Street in Jefferson City.



Enter your potentially award-worthy advertising creations in the Missouri Advertising Managers' Association (MAMA) Best Ad Contest now!

There are three new categories to enter this year: Best Idea to Grow Revenue, Best Digital Initiative and Best Print Initiative.

See all categories, rules, details on the next two pages.

The final deadline for entries is Feb.

To get started, upload entries on-

line at BetterBNC. Use the temporary code: BNC.

MAMA Meeting March 12-13

The MAMA meeting is scheduled March 12-13, 2015 at Camden on the Lake Resort in Lake Ozark. Full meeting details and registration will be available soon!

Special MAMA hotel rates

You may make your hotel room reservation now! Call 1.888.365.5620 and ask for the Missouri Advertis-Managers' Association of \$109.00, the group code is: **MOAD0315**

CONTEST RULES

The contest is open to all staff members of publications holding ACTIVE or ACTIVE ONLINE membership in the Missouri Press Association.

that clearly defines the ad(s) being submitted for judging. You may also circle or include other graphic markings to indicate which ad(s) is/are to be judged. All entries must be submitted as FULL-PAGE electronic tearsheet files. Please name the file(s) in a way

All entries must have been conceived, written, designed and sold by full or part-time employees of the

Entries must have been published between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

A fee of \$7 per entry in each be mailed at time of entry. (NOTE: when more than one page or pages constitute an entry, the fee is \$7 for the combined single entry.)

Please mail check to: MAMA Contest, 802 Locust Street, Columbia, MO 65201 or call credit card payment into the MPA office: 573-449-4167.

Entries submitted that do not conform to the above rules will not be accepted, and entry fees will not be refunded. If you have any questions, call 573-449-4167 or email mopressads@socket.net.

DEE HAMILTON SALES PRO AWARD

- Served as Ad Director or in Ad Sales for 10 years or more
- Excellent management/sales skills
- Past or present member of MAMA
- Nominee must be employed with a member newspaper at time of presentation
- Nomination form must be submitted, along with supporting documentation why this person is deserving of the award

ENTRY DEADLINE IS Friday, February 13, 2015.

Camden on the Lake Resort in Lake Ozark, March 12 & 13, 2015 Awards will be presented during the MAMA conference at

MISSOURI ADVERTISING MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION

2015 BEST AD CONTEST



Your readers have been responding to your ads all year. Now it's time to let the contest judges have their turn. Enter TODAY and be RECOGNIZED by your peers. Make your plans now to enter the 2015 MAMA Best Ad Contest.

Contest rules begin on page 2 and entries are to be submitted to betterbnc.com

by February 13, 2015.

The 2015 contest will be judged by Georgia Press Association

CONTEST CATEGORIES

11 Best Full Page Ad

creativity. NO HOUSE ADS. DAILIES - (2 circulation classes will be used in this category). WEEKLIES (3 circulation classes will be used in this category) Judging based on originality, layout, copy and

02. Best Ad Smaller Than A Full Page, No Smaller Than 1/4 Page

creativity. NO HOUSE ADS. DAILIES - (2 circulation Judging based on originality, layout, copy and (3 circulation classes will be used in this category) classes will be used in this category). WEEKLIES

Best Ad Series

advertiser. Judges will consider the basic idea, three ads with a continuing theme for a single (3 or more ads) - Each entry will consist of at least layout, copy, typography and originality. Two classes. DAILY and WEEKLY.

04. Best Single House Ad

creativity. DAILIES - (2 circulation classes will be used in this category). WEEKLIES - (3 circulation Judging based on originality, layout, copy and classes will be used in this category).

Best Ad Smaller than 1/4 Page

Judging based on originality, layout, copy and creativity. Two Classes. DAILY and WEEKLY.

06. Most Creative Use Of Full Color In An Ad

classes. DAILY and WEEKLY Non-paid section covers do not qualify. Two

07. **Best Regularly Scheduled Section**

layout, copy and creativity. Two classes. DAILY (or more frequently). Judging based on originality, Regular Section in newspaper published monthly

08. **Best One Time Special Section**

creativity. DAILIES - (2 circulation classes will be used in this category). WEEKLIES - (3 circulation Judging based on originality, layout, copy and classes will be used in this category).

09. **Best Single Classified Display Ad**

creativity. Two Classes DAILY and WEEKLY. Judging based on originality, layout, copy and

10. **Best Single Classified Line Ad**

creativity. Two Classes DAILY and WEEKLY. Judging based on originality, layout, copy and

11. **Best Classified Section**

of pages, headings, etc. Two classes DAILY and will consider organization and attractiveness from either July 2014 OR December 2014. Judges classified sections from three consecutive issues Each entry will consist of tearsheets from three (3)

12. **Best Newspaper Promotion**

entries per newspaper, either single idea or series promoting your newspaper. Limited to three newspaper promotion idea. To be judged on Awarded in recognition of the best ORIGINAL Two classes DAILY and WEEKLY reader appeal, originality and creativeness in

13. Best Shared/Signature Page

used in this category). WEEKLIES - (3 circulation creativity. DAILIES - (2 circulation classes will be classes will be used in this category). Judging based on originality, layout, copy and

by the sales staff to aid its selling activities. Two following: research studies, promotion calendars, classes DAILY & WEEKLY. fliers, newsletters, rate cards, etc. - anything used

15.

Submit portfolio of 3-5 examples by the same designer. Entry can include examples of paid may enter this category. Two classes DAILY and ads and/or house ads. Any number of designers

16 Best Online Ad Designer

18. Best Advertising Idea or Promotion

campaign, special page or issue or any other idea. Entry may be a single advertisement, series idea or promotion; selling power of copy; makeup; These entries will be judged based on originality of

19.

14. Best Advertising Sales Tool

Sales tools may include, but are not limited to the

Best Ad Designer

enter this category. Two classes DAILY and WEEKLY Submit hard copies of 1-3 examples by the same and/or house ads. Any number of designers may designer. Entry can include examples of paid ads

BestAd Content Entire Publication

month of August 2014 and one issue of your shall be from month of May 2014, one issue from Submit 3 issues of ENTIRE publication. One copy choice. 2 classes DAILY and WEEKLY.

ayout and design; use of art and photos.

Best Idea to Grow Revenue

and links as needed. Two classes DAILY and WEEKLY. advertising buys across both platforms. Submit samples such as display advertising or classifieds, OR integrated websites, mobile, social networks AND/OR in print period. Advertising can be in digital media such as used to grow advertising revenue during the contest Submit explanation of marketing strategies and activities

Best Digital Initiative

DAILY and WEEKLY. assets. Use samples and links as needed. Two classes or the marketing of features related to these digital apps, text alert service, video, rich media, social network, period of the newspaper's website, mobile site, tablets, Submit description of digital initiative during the contest

Best Print Initiative

as needed. Two classes DAILY and WEEKLY. period of the newspaper along with samples and links Submit description of print initiative during the contest

Best Newspaper Produced Insert

for large files. Two classes DAILY and WEEKLY. Newspaper Contest Site to create a remote digital file Note: you may use RealView directly from the Better Judging based on originality, layout, copy and creativity

DETAILS

Winners will be recognized and awards given on Thursday, March 12th, 2015 during the annual Make plans now to attend. meeting at Camden on the Lake, Lake Ozark Missouri Advertising Managers' Association

EVENTS. February 1, 2015 at www.mopress.com under Event Registration form can be viewed after

uploading to the online contest platform. See MAMA entry instructions for

Contest Deadline is Friday, February 13th, 2015 **ENTER TODAY!**





Photojournalism Hall of Fame has temporary home, limited display

The Missouri Press Foundation, working with the University of Missouri School of Journalism, has found a temporary home for the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame until a more permanent location can be secured.

A limited display, featuring selected works is now on exhibit in the hallway leading to the journalism library in the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute on the campus of the University of Missouri. The display was designed and installed by Shelby Feistner, MPA;

David Rees, chair, MU photojournalism faculty; and Hany Hawasly, recent Master's graduate in photojournalism.

Missouri Press Foundation is still working to find a permanent location for the Photojournalism Hall of Fame. A fund of \$40,000 has been established with the Foundation, but more fundraising will be necessary before a permanent space becomes reality. To help, contact Melody Bezenek, Missouri Press Foundation director, mbezenek@socket.net.

The October 2015 induction ceremony location will be the Angus and Betty McDougall Center on the MU School of Journalism campus in Columbia.

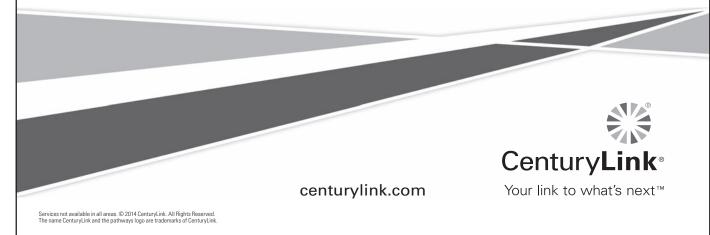
The 2015 inductee plaques, a sample of inductees' work and a collection of Hall of Fame photographs will be displayed in the center during the induction ceremony and for a few weeks afterward.

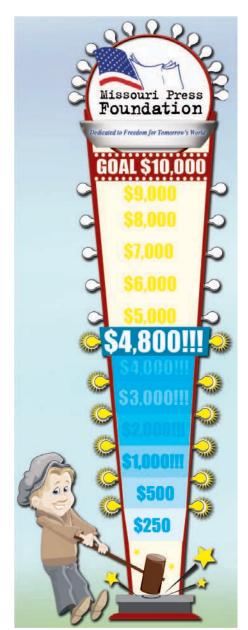
The Missouri Photojouralism Hall of Fame was founded 10 years ago by William L. "Bill" Miller, Sr.

Broadband • Entertainment • Voice • Cloud • Managed Services

For CenturyLink information, contact:

Gregory Baker CenturyLink North Missouri 573.886.3600 gregory.a.baker@CenturyLink.com Pamela Anderson CenturyLink South Missouri 417.334.9253 pamela.anderson@CenturyLink.com





Help MPF reach its \$10,000 goal for student interns

Each summer, the Missouri Press Foundation supports as many as 10 journalism students as they work at Missouri newspapers. Student interns work as reporters, editors, photographers, designers, advertising representatives, and more, during a four-, six-, or eight-week internship. MPF offers each newspaper as much as \$1,000 to pay their summer interns.

Please help MPF reach its \$10,000 goal to fund 10 students in 2015.

Contact Melody Bezenek, mbezenek@socket.net or 573-449-4167.

Missouri Press offers new Online Ad Network

Missouri Press Service is very excited to offer a new Online Ad Network, the first of its type in the nation offered by a press association.



The benefits to participating newspapers include:

- 1. Additional revenue streams
- 2. Create additional credibility for the newspaper website
- 3. Fill an online need
- 4. Save time and money
- 5. Offset decline in classifieds

The first piece of this service will be a rectangle box, standard size on most websites. The initial program will be a statewide network buy. The participating papers will be included in the bonus pool, just like the other statewide networks, and paid out every six months. Missouri Press also will be offering individual newspaper online buys, based on the advertiser choosing the papers in which they would like to advertise.

Now for the best part! Once an advertising code is placed on the newspaper website, MPS can do all the work for the newspaper. MPS creates and formats the ad size, places the ad on the website, and takes the ad down when needed.

Missouri Press Service is getting requests from industries such as hospitals, gaming, trucking, employment, and many more. We would appreciate your support in our NEW Online AD Network.

The statewide Online AD Network works like this: The advertiser will choose one week, two weeks or four weeks. Missouri Press will sell this space and then take this ad down when the time has expired. The newspaper will be allowed to sell this statewide online network, and make money as well.

Missouri Press also will be offering individual newspaper online buys, based on the advertiser choosing the papers in which they would like to advertise. The individual newspaper buy will be at the newspaper rate and MPS will hold back 30 percent and pay the papers directly, similar to ROP print advertising.

Shelby, Missouri Press Digital Communications Specialist, or a staff member from Missouri Press Service will be in touch soon. If you have any questions or want to sign up, do not hesitate to call MPS at 573.449.4167.



Supreme court stays execution for man convicted of fatally stabbing former *Post-Dispatch* reporter

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch) -- The Missouri Supreme Court issued a stay of execution Jan. 22 for Marcellus Williams, who had been scheduled to die Wednesday, Jan. 21 for the fatal stabbing of former Post-Dispatch reporter Lisha Gayle at her home in University City in 1998.

Williams had argued that he was entitled to additional DNA testing. Although the state's high court did not say why the execution was delayed, it could provide more time for courts to consider his claim.

Williams was convicted of killing Gayle, 42, at her home in the gated Ames Place neighborhood Aug. 11, 1998.

The prosecution said Williams was burglarizing the home when Gayle, who had been taking a shower, surprised him. She fought for her life as she was stabbed repeatedly.

A jury convicted Williams at a trial in 2001. He was sentenced to death

by St. Louis County Circuit Judge Emmett M. O'Brien.

The judge also ordered Williams to serve consecutive terms of life in prison for robbery, 30 years for burglary and 30 years each for two weapons violations.

Gayle was a *Post-Dispatch* reporter from 1981 to 1992. She left the paper to do volunteer social work with children and the poor.

Williams' attorneys have claimed that the case against him was built solely on contradictory testimony from two "snitches" — his former girlfriend, Laura Asaro, and a former cellmate, Henry Cole — who were out for a \$10,000 reward.

No forensic evidence pointed to Williams, said Kent Gipson, one of the attorneys. Gipson said he hoped that DNA testing, and comparison of any resulting DNA against federal and state databases and a similar, unsolved murder in Pagedale, could



Lisha Gayle

reveal evidence that would prove Williams innocent. That argument failed to sway a federal judge earlier last month.

But in a petition to the state Supreme Court, his lawyers argued that "most fair minded individuals would agree that Mr. Williams should be given this opportunity."

LEAD THE WAY

for Local Advertisers & Consumers

Put your publication at the forefront of today's dynamic media landscape with creative ad development solutions from Metro. From sales planning tools that help you identify and capitalize on valuable promotional opportunities to coordinated print, online and mobile offerings that equip you to expand sales, Metro's innovative suite of services gives you the resources you need to meet the evolving demands of today's readers and advertisers, taking ad sales to the next level.





Test-drive the new MiAD Mobile® App and sign up for TWO FREE MONTHS of Metro with MiAD®!

See how Metro's latest offerings can help you lead your local market.





Metro Creative Graphics, Inc. www.metrocreativeconnection.com

www.metrocreativeconnection.com • 800.223.1600 • service@metro-email.com

ON THE MOVE

- Hannibal Mary Lou Montgomery retired as editor of the Hannibal Courier-Post at the end of 2014. She had been at the newspaper for 39 years. She plans to spend time with family "researching and writing about people and personalities of the past."
- **Kearney** Dave Hon has left his position as editor after one year at the *Kearney Courier* to take a position at the *St. Joseph News-Press*.
- Hannibal Mike Murphy was recently named publisher of the Han-

nibal Courier-Post. He has 33 years of experience in the newspaper business, most recently as publisher for 11 years of the Searcy Daily Citizen, near Little Rock, Ark. He is a native of Michi-



gan and spent most of his career there as an editor, sales and marketing director, publisher and owner. Murphy will serve as Senior Group Publisher for the Gatehouse Media company, which owns the *Courier-Post*. He will be based in Hannibal and also oversee operations at Gatehouse properties in Mexico, Moberly, Boonville, Brookfield, Kirksville and Chillicothe. In Hannibal, Jessica Spurgeon will remain general manager of the newspaper and report to Murphy.

• Slater — Cindy Johnson has joined the staff of the Slater Main Street

News as an advertising representative. She lives in rural Slater and will assist advertising manager James Stanfield. Johnson graduated from Slater High School and has worked



with accounts and finance in several positions in health care and retail. She also has worked in the classified

department at the Fulton Sun.

• Washington — Don Kruse, who had been editor of the *Hermann Ad-*

vertiser-Courier for the last 23 years, has joined the staff of the Washington Missourian. He will cover the New Haven area, following the New Haven Leader's closure after 115 years. Kruse



previously worked for the *Waterloo* (lowa) *Courier* and started his journalism career with the *Jefferson City News Tribune* during his senior year at Lincoln University in Jefferson City. He also spent three years at the *Columbia Daily Tribune*.

- Perryville Beth Chism, publisher of the *Republic Monitor*, has named senior staff writer Amanda Layton as editor, effective Feb. 11. Layton is a 1993 graduate of Perryville High School and holds a degree from Mineral Area College in Park Hills. She has been a journalist with the *Republic Monitor* since 2007.
- **Independence** Julie Moreno is the new publisher of the *Indepen-*
- dence Examiner.
 She has worked in the community newspaper business for 26 years.
 She has a journalism degree from the University of Missouri. Moreno comes to the Ex-



aminer from Tallahassee, Fla. She was the publisher of the *Tallahassee Democrat* and has worked with newspapers in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and North Carolina.

• **Mexico** — Lyndell Ferrah, a pressman and production manager at the *Mexico Ledger*, has retired after 57 years. He began working as a carrier

on his 13th birthday, Oct. 3, 1957. After serving in the Navy from 1962 to 1966, he remained at the newspaper until his retirement. In retirement, he plans to work with his wife, Sheila, at their business, Chigger Hill Printing & Graphics.

- Lexington Dylan Neville has joined the staff of the Lexington News as an advertising sales representative. He is a 2006 graduate of Lexington High School and attended Metropolitan Community College and Blue River Community College.
- Slater Suzette Large is now working as a receptionist for the

Slater Main Street News. She also will be handling news items and taking some photographs. The previous receptionist, Tarryn Gooden, left the newspaper to attend nursing school.



- Springfield Dean Curtis, a pho-
- tojournalist with the Springfield News-Leader, has left the newspaper after 22 years. His work appeared in the newspaper under "Ozarks Exposure."



- Portageville Sheila Rouse has been named publisher of five southeast Missouri newspapers, part of Rust Communications. She will head the Portageville Missourian-News, the Daily Dunklin Democrat in Kennett, the Dexter Daily Statesman, the Delta News-Citizen in Malden and the North Stoddard Countian in Advance-Bloomfield.
- Van Buren Steve Turley, longtime employee and news editor of The Current Local, has retired from the newspaper after more than 30 years. His parents, Alan and Marjorie Turley, owned the newspaper until its sale Nov. 1, 2014.

OBITUARIES



Warrensburg

Terrance A. Arnold

Terrence A. Arnold, 45, of War-

rensburg, died Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015 in Kansas City. He served as a reporter at the Daily Star-Journal, Higginsville Advance and Sac-Osage Newspaper Publishing. He earned a Bachelor



of Science degree in journalism from Central Missouri State University in 1996 and a Master of Arts degree in education from the University of Central Missouri in 2010. He is survived by his mother and her husband and one brother.

Lenexa, Kan.

Betty Baker

Betty Thomas Baker, 93, formerly

of Lenexa, Kan., died in Boise, Idaho, Dec. 19, 2014. She was the widow of William W. Baker, former editor and president of *The Kansas City Star.* He died in 2010. She is survived by a son, a



daughter, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Rock Port

Bill Farmer

William W. (Bill) Farmer, 72, died

Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015, at Community Hospital in Fairfax. He was a longtime community newspaper publisher in west-central and northwest Missouri. He began working at the local paper shop during



his high school years. He earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from SMS in Springfield. In 1978, Bill and his wife Marilyn purchased the *St. Clair County Courier* and the Appleton City Journal. Due to a brief illness, he sold these two papers. Then, in 1984, the couple purchased the Atchison County Mail and it is still run by the family today. Marilyn died in 2001. He married Sue Ellen Badberg in 2003. He was a member of the Northwest Missouri Press Association and the Missouri Press Association. He is survived by his wife, two sons, stepchildren, several grandchildren and other relatives.

Mexico

Janeen Sims

Janeen Sims, 61, of Mexico, Mo. died Jan. 2, 2015 at her home after

at her home after a lengthy illness. She was the long-time editor of the *Mexico Ledger*. She married Steve Sims Nov. 11, 1972 in Paris, Mo. After their marriage, she ioined her husband



in Germany, where he was stationed in the United States Army. After returning to Paris, she began working for the *Monroe County Appeal*. In 1987, she joined the staff at the *Mexico Ledger*, and at the time of her illness she was the editor of the newspaper. She is survived by her husband, mother, two daughters, two brothers, and two grandchildren.

West Plains

Lee Keck

Lee Eugene Keck, 90, of West

Plains, formerly of Palmyra, Mo., died Jan. 6, 2015, in West Plains. He was an editor and publisher for many years. He earned a journalism degree from Kansas State University. He published newspapers



in Nebraska and Oklahoma before purchasing the *Palmyra Spectator* and *Century Press* in Palmyra, April 1, 1967, from the Sosey family who had founded the paper and commercial printing business in 1839. It

is the oldest weekly newspaper west of the Mississippi River. In 1982, he purchased the Ralls County newspapers, combined the two small papers into a county publication, and sold that enterprise in 1992. Two years later he sold the *Palmyra Spectator* and continued operating the *Century Press* commercial printing business until retiring several years later. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a sister, three daughters, and eight great grandchildren.

Lee's Summit

James Payne

James Leroy Payne, 78, of Lee's Summit, died

Dec. 20. 2014. worked He for The Kansas City Star. beginning in 1963, as assistant controller, processing data manager, controller and, finally, vice president-finance.



He retired from *The Star* in 1995. He was a graduate of the University of Missouri, a captain in the Army Reserves, and a Certified Public Accountant. He is survived by his wife Virginia, one son, one daughter and five grandchildren.

Brooklyn, NY

Stuart Loory

Stuart Loory, 82, died Jan. 16, 2015, at his home in Brooklyn, NY

as a result of lung cancer. He was a prominent journalist, educator at the University of Missouri and author. During his career, he worked in newspapers for 28 years and was the Moscow bureau chief



for the New York Herald Tribune, White House correspondent for the Los Angeles Times and managing editor of the Chicago Sun-Times. He spent another 17 years working with CNN in various positions. In the mid-1990s, he became a journalism professor at the Missouri School of Journalism. As the first Lee Hills Chair in Free-Press Studies at the school, he was an advocate for press freedom. He served as the first editor of the

(continued on next page)

(Obituaries continued)

Global Journalist, a magazine about the international news business, and moderated a weekly radio show with the same name. He is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter, a stepson, a brother, and eight grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

Lee's Summit

Bonnie Lee

Bonnie Jean (Herron) Lee, 93,

formerly of Savannah, Mo., died Dec. 14, 2014 after a brief illness. She assisted in advertising sales, proofreading and page layout at the Savannah Reporter. She received her bachelor's degree



in dietetics at the University of Missouri and married S.E. "Ed" Lee Jr. in 1942. The couple moved to Savannah and lived for awhile on the second floor of the former *Savannah Reporter* building. She is survived by two sons, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Sedalia/Columbia

Rose Nolen

Rose Mary Nolen, 79, died Thurs-

day, Jan. 1, 2015 in Sedalia. She was a columnist for 17 years for the Columbia Missourian. Before that, she wrote columns for the Columbia Daily Tribune and the Sedalia Democrat. In 1989, she



was named the state's best columnist by the Missouri Press Association for her work at the Tribune. She also worked in real estate, for a phone company, and the treasurer for Sedalia. In Sedalia, Nolen has a library dedicated in her name called the Rose M. Nolen Black History Library. She is the author of the book "Hoecakes, Hambone, and all That Jazz," a story of the customs and traditions of African Americans in Mid-Missouri. She also published the "Mid-Missouri Black Watch," a quarterly newsletter. In 2003, Nolen received the Governor's Humanities Award for excellence in community heritage.

Get your Missouri Blue Book!

For more than 100 years, the State of Missouri published the Official Manual as a hardback book, then discontinued publication after the 2009-2010 edition.

In 2014, the Missouri Press Foundation stepped in and brought the Blue Book back as a hard-cover, inkand-paper publication. With every purchase, you are helping to keep the Blue Book IN PRINT!

The 1,536-page, hardback book contains detailed information about local, state and federal government, as well as stories, essays and photographs that help preserve the state's heritage, including 25 pages of text

and photos about President Harry S. Truman.

The Blue Book represents a historic reference book about Missouri government. Library patrons, public officials, civic-minded citizens, researchers, journalists, students, history buffs and more will refer to this book for generations to come.

Copies are NOW AVAILABLE! An order form for the Blue Book is available at www.mopress.com. Cost is \$24.99 per book (does not include shipping).

Questions may be directed to the Missouri Press Foundation at 573-449-4167.

Download Blue Book form online here:

http://www.mopress.com/_lib/files/Missouri_Official_Manual_MPF_Order_11_4.pdf



SCRAPBOOK

11:55

- Raymore -- The staff of the Raymore Journal recently spoke to a fourth-grade class at Creekmore Elementary School. The class was learning about writing a story from an interview. Editor Jennifer Reed led an interactive lesson about writing and working at a newspaper.
- Richmond -- The Richmond News recently celebrated 100 years as the "Voice of Ray County." The first edition was printed Sept. 3, 1914. The newspaper is currently owned by the Fackelman Group. The publisher is JoEllen Black.
- Eldon -- Vernon Publishing, Inc. has incorporated a new link on their websites that provides information about the activities of state legislators, including reports of bills sponsored, votes on key issues, Missouri Digital News lawmaker profiles, links to the lawmakers' websites, overview of bills sponsored and lawmakers' voting records for each year.
- Elsberry -- The Elsberry Democrat kicked off its 115 year of publication with the Dec. 31 issue. The first

- newspaper was established in 1880. The newspaper is currently owned by Lakeway Publishing. The general manager is Michael Short.
- **Windsor** -- Marilyn Smith, a columnist for the *Buffalo Reflex* for 27 years, has recently published a book titled "A History of Highway 65." The focus of Smith's book is the segment of Highway 65 through Missouri.
- Washington -- The Washington Missourian recently recognized several employees who have been with the newspaper for 25 years. Recognized were Mike Phinney, Patty Brinker, Harold Hill, Jeanne Wood and Susan Warden.
- **Portageville** -- The *Portageville Missourian-News* is no longer charging for wedding and engagement announcements. "We are wanting to do a better job of being the public servant that we claim to be," said general manager Scott Seal.
- Washington -- Fifth-grade students at Clark-Vitt Elementary School recently formed a school newspaper,

- the Clark-Vitte Chronicle. The students cultivate ideas by reading the Washington Missourian through the newspaper's Newspapers In Education program (NIE).
- Joplin -- The winners of the 2014 Southern Media Showcase were recently announced. The annual awards recognize outstanding work in publication and video projects by area high-school students. More than 300 students attended the event at Missouri Southern State University. The Joplin Globe and the Missouri Press Association are among the sponsors of the event.
- Columbia -- MU graduated 134 from the School of Journalism in December. John Haskins, a 1985 MU School of Journalism graduate and managing editor for *The New York Times*, was the commencement speaker.
- **Lebanon** -- Julie Turner-Crawford, editor at the *Lebanon Daily Record*, announced a new effort for 2015 to publish a month-long series of weekly special sections that will highlight the stories of local people. The newspaper took nominations of people for the feature stories from community members.

MPA seeking new executive director

Missouri Press Association is seeking a new executive director to succeed Doug Crews upon his retirement in February 2016.

To provide several months of overlap between executives, the MPA's goal is to be able to announce the next executive director at the September 2015 annual convention.

A search committee has been formed of the following people: Richard Gard, Dave Berry, Bill Miller Jr., Jim Robertson, Vicki Russell, Jim Sterling, Dane Vernon and Dennis Warden.

Nominations for candidates should be sent to MPA President Jim Robertson, jerobertson@columbiatribune. com, P.O. Box 789, Columbia, MO 65205.

The following employment information has been published by MPA on several platforms.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Missouri Press Association, one of the most active and storied newspaper associations in the country (its Hall of Fame includes Twain and the Pulitzers), seeks an executive director to lead the organization and further the cause of an independent and thriving press.

The duties include member relations and development; government relations and lobbying; sales, marketing and fundraising; community and industry relations; public speaking; programs and event planning; and staff, P&L, and administrative management.

Meaningful experience in each of these areas is a job requirement, as are strong communications skills, superior organizational ability, and professional polish.

Preference will be shown to candi-

dates with a background in journalism and media issues, association management, and government relations.

The executive director manages an eight-member team and reports to the MPA board of directors.

MPA offer competitive pay, excellent benefits, and the opportunity to work in a dynamic university community -- Columbia, MO, home to the nation's first journalism school, which MPA helped found, and the future-oriented Reynolds Journalism Institute.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Please send resume, a cover letter that addresses how the candidate plans to fulfill each of the above criteria, and any other supporting materials to jerobertson@columbiatribune.com.

No phone calls please.

Sources and Resources for Missouri Newspapers









Helen Sosniecki helen@ilsw.com 888-473-3103













MPA CALENDAR

2015 February

6 — Sunshine Coalition meeting, MPA office, Columbia

11-12 — MPA/AP Day at the Capitol, Jefferson City

March

12-13 — Missouri Advertising Managers' Association Meeting, Camden on the Lake, Lake Ozark

18-20 — NNA Leadership Summit, Arlington, Va.

June

11 — Porter Fisher Golf Tournament, Lake Valley Golf Course near Camdenton

12 — MPA/MPS/MPF Board meetings (morning); Show-Me Press meeting (afternoon), Old Kinderhook

24-28 — ISWNE Conference, Columbia

July

17 — Ozark Press Association meeting, Springfield

September

10-12 — 149th Annual MPA Convention, Columbia

October

1-3 — 129th NNA Convention, St. Charles, Mo.,



Albany Ledger Benton County Enterprise (Warsaw) Bethany Republican-Clipper Bolivar Herald-Free Press Columbia Daily Tribune Cuba Free Press Eldon Advertiser Focus on Oak Grove Gasconade County Republican (Owensville) Houston Herald Lebanon Daily Record Pleasant Hill Times Saint James Press St. Louis American St. Louis Post-Dispatch Steelville Star-Crawford Mirror The Daily Events (Springfield) The Joplin Globe The Kansas City Star. The Mountain Echo (Ironton) The Odessan Republican-Times (Trenton) Versailles Leader-Statesman

Washington Missourian



Missouri Press Foundation

These individuals and/or organizations made recent contributions to Missouri Press Foundation. To make a donation with a credit card, call (573) 449-4167, or send checks to Missouri Press Foundation. 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201.

In Memoriam

A gift from Katherine Snyder, San Marcos, Texas in memory of Bonnie Lee

Internship Program

Patricia Atwater, Towson, Md.
Ray Farris, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis
State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia
NGP Newspapers, St. Joseph
Brent and Sue Gierke, Bentonville, Ark.
Friends of Arrow Rock, Arrow Rock
Leader Publications, Festus
Esther Thorson, Columbia

Society of 1867

Richard Gard, Missouri Lawyers Media, St. Louis
Thomas Miller, Washington
Wendell Lenhart, Trenton Republican-Times, Trenton
Rogers and Geraldean Hewitt, Shelbyville
Doug and Tricia Crews, Columbia

Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame

William L. Miller, Sr., Washington William Hankins, Windhover Photojournalism, Platte City

Newspapers In Education Grant Program

Peter Wagner, Iowa Information Publishers and Printer, Sheldon, Iowa

Missouri Press Association / Missouri Press Service

802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201-4888 (573) 449-4167 / Fax: (573) 874-5894 / www.mopress.com

STAFF

Doug Crews: Executive Director, dcrews@socket.net
Mark Nienhueser, Advertising Director, mdnienhueser@socket.net
Bryan E. Jones: Editor, bejones@socket.net
Jennifer Plourde: Advertising Sales & Placement, jplourde@socket.net
Karen Philp: Receptionist, Bookkeeping, kphilp@socket.net
Kristie Williams: Member Services, Meeting Planning, kwilliams@socket.net
Jeremy Patton: Graphic design, jpatton@socket.net
Brittney Wakeland: Marketing, Advertising Sales, bwakeland@socket.net
Melody Bezenek: Missouri Press Foundation Director, mbezenek@socket.net
Shelby Feistner: Digital Footprint, Social Media, mpaoffice@socket.net
Connie Whitney: Advertising Placement Consultant, cwhitney@socket.net
Jean Maneke: Legal Hotline Counselor, jmaneke@manekelaw.com
Dawn Kitchell: NIE & Education Director, dawn.kitchell@gmail.com

Ethics on paper much easier than in real life

by Tom Warhover, Columbia Missourian

Certain words don't usually go together. A slow cheetah. A dry glass of water. A liberal Republican.

How about an ethics game? Sounds about as fun as when your mother tried to get you eat Brussels sprouts by flying a fork through the air to your mouth. Nice idea, but still awful.

So I entered the website "Decisions on Deadline" with a fair amount of skepticism. The site is an ethics game that lets you pretend to be a reporter chasing a hot story. My review: It's pretty cool, even if it won't replace Monopoly or Galaga in my all-time favorites list.

Why would you be interested? It does a good job of showing the sometimes conflicting priorities that journalists face every day.

This year is the 100th anniversary of one of the core documents in journalism ethics: "The Journalist's Creed," written by Walter Williams, the founding dean of the Missouri School of Journalism.

Those of you who read the print edition of the *Columbia Missourian* see part of that creed on every Opinion Page:

"I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of their responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of a lesser service than the public service is betrayal of this trust. I believe that clear thinking and clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamentals to good journalism."

Pretty awesome statement. You can find the whole creed online. Or you could stroll by the Missouri Press Association at Eighth and Locust streets, where the words have been inscribed on the building.

"Dean Walter Williams was a visionary in the field of journalism," association executive director Doug Crews told Missourian reporter Grace Pinegar. "The creed he wrote has been compared to the sacred Hippocratic Oath recited by physicians. In so many ways, his creed has been the backbone of the Missouri School of Journalism and its methods and teachings for more than a century."

Like most great credos, though, it's tougher in practice than theory to follow through on those beliefs. Play a bit of "Decisions on Deadline" and you'll get a taste as to why.

The task is simple: Get a story but get it right, get it first and get it ethically.

"Players work against the clock and under a strict budget," the opening page explains, "to report on the daily dramas of this community, and figure out the Who, What, When, Where and Why for each edgy and entertaining story. All this while navigating a string of ethical dilemmas similar to the ones faced by all journalists working in the digital age."

Here's the first scenario: The newspaper's science editor assigns a cub reporter to go to a school science fair. Why? The editor's son is presenting at the fair, and the editor has a conflict of interest.

"Go check it out," I'm told. From there, I'm given options as the science fair produces news in the form of a spectacular student, her rotten parents and a near riot.

In the end, a story is produced, and I'm graded on accuracy, ethics and whether I published it first.

There are lots of scenarios as I work my way up from cub to beat reporter and eventually to international cor-

respondent. There is a trash strike, sports team doping scandal and even a finger found inside a birthday cake.

Questions await along the way. Do you publish the name of a minor involved in a controversy? Do you reveal a family member's ties in your story? Do you sacrifice time to get an extra quote or check another fact? Do you accept one person's account over another? Do you pay a source for information?

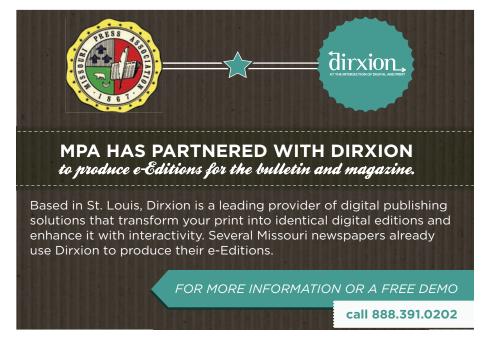
In other words, decisions faced every day by journalists and those who commit acts of journalism.

Curiously, "Decisions on Deadline" is billed as a companion project to a documentary on one of the worst serial plagiarists in generations. "A Fragile Trust" attempts to understand why former *New York Times* reporter Jayson Blair cheated and how he could have gotten away with it for so long.

Blair, who worked at the *Times* from 1999 until his resignation in 2003, was found to have plagiarized from other newspapers and fabricated quotes and sources.

I suppose the creators see an ethics game as a potential antidote to would-be Blairs of the future.

Don't worry if you struggle as you play the ethics game. I didn't get everything right. Following in Williams' path is never easy.



Newspapers In Education Report

Civics Education: Another Multiple-Choice Test?

civics education initiative is sweeping the nation.

On Jan. 16, Arizona was the first state to pass a law requiring high school students to pass the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization civics test as a condition of graduation. Recently, Missouri lawmakers introduced similar bills: SB 271 and House Bill 584

The goal, according to The Civics Education Initiative, is to mandate testing in all 50 states by Sept. 17, 2017, the 230th anniversary of the U.S. Constitu-

According to its website, "The Civics Education Initiative is a first step to ensure all students are taught basic civics about how our government works, and who we are as a nation ... things every student must learn to be ready for active, engaged citizenship."

(See website: civicseducationinitiative.com) It's easy to get on the bandwagon of civics education. I've been using this column as a bullhorn for the cause for 13 years. Our training promotes the importance of civic education and the vital role of newspapers. We've produced hundreds of educational features about civics, history and geography.

However, I challenge Missouri's newspaper editors to ask this question before endorsing the legislation:

Is ANOTHER multiple-choice test for Missouri high school students the answer? Does Missouri already have adequate civic education measures in place to promote an understanding of civics and government that go beyond the U.S. citizenship test?

lere is information about the current status of civic education in Missouri:

- Missouri is one of only eight states requiring a test about American government that goes beyond rote memorization and promotes an understanding of the philosophical and historical foundations of our country. (Source: Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement, CIRCLE)
- Student competency on the end-ofcourse American Government test is taken seriously by Missouri educators and currently is an essential component of the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP).

MSIP has the legally mandated responsibility of reviewing and accrediting the 520 school districts in Missouri and assessing the achievement and continuous growth of all students. Performance on the American Government test is a factor in this assessment.



- · Missouri already has several graduation requirements with regard to American government/civic education:
- 1) A required two semesters of American history. (5 CSR 50-345.3)
- 2) A required semester of civics. (5 CSR 50-345.3)
- 3) Regular instruction in the constitutions of the United States and of the state of Missouri and in American history and institutions and testing in those same subjects. (§ 170.011 R.S.Mo.)

he design, content and passing criteria for the test(s) are at the discretion of local school districts. According to the Graduation Requirements for Students in Missouri Public Schools, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:

Students must also pass the course

or courses designated as containing the required instruction in the institutions, branches and functions of federal, state and local government and in the electoral processes."

In its report, "The Guardian of Democracy: The Civic Mission of Schools," the Annenberg Public Policy Center, APPC, recommends actions to increase students' civic literacy, skills and engagement:

"New high-stakes tests in civics are unlikely the solution, partly because civic outcomes are difficult to measure, partly because students and schools already face many (sometimes unhelpful) mandatory evaluations How civics is taught matters a great deal."

The full 56-page report is excellent reading and

can be downloaded at mo-nie.com using download code: APPCreport.

Perhaps we should look at ways to make our civic education curriculum more meaningful instead of more measured.

Here are some recommendations from the APPC's report:

- · Schools should incorporate discussions about current local, national, and international issues and events into the classroom, particularly those that young people view as important to their lives. The local newspaper is an ideal resource.
- Change how civic learning is taught, from the dry facts to an emphasis on how citizens can and must participate in civic life. The local newspaper is a useful tool to show citizens and government in action.
- · "Teach students to discuss important current issues in a civil and productive way to develop tolerance for others." The newspaper's editorial pages help citizens engage in dis-
- Parents should encourage their children keep themselves informed about current events, take an interest in and volunteer in their community, and help them develop civic skills and habits. The newspaper is a family resource for civic literacy and involvement.

 The media should recognize schools as an ideal venue for reading news and

should support schools through programs such as Newspapers in Education. Community newspapers can enhance civic literacy by providing MPA educational resources.

· Return to introducing civic learning earlier, allowing students to build knowledge from year to year. MPA's educational features are created to be used beginning with elementary school students.

Missouri Press has produced 53 civic education features in partnership with The Missouri Bar covering the U.S. Constitution, Missouri Constitution, Bill of Rights, Handbook on Citizenship, Voting in Missouri, Judges: Umpires of the Law, and many more.

When you publish civic features in your newspaper, you contribute to the

civic literacy of your entire community and help strengthen our American democracy for this generation and the

Perhaps we should look at ways to make our civic education curriculum meaningful instead of more measured.

Judges needed for Georgia Press **Association contest**

Missouri Press is seeking members to help judge the Georgia Press Association's Better Newspaper Con-

Georgia newspaper people will be returning the favor by judging the MAMA Best Ad Contest and MPA's Better Newspaper Contest later this year!

Judging is set to begin Feb. 27, with a deadline to complete your assignment(s) by mid March. Fill out the form, submit it, and you will receive your assignments in February!

PLEASE REMEMBER, the more judges we have volunteer, the lighter the load on each volunteer will be! We have a goal of 90 volunteers to keep the load nice and light!

To register as a judge and to request specific categories, please go online to: https://mopress.wufoo.com/ forms/georgia-press-contest-judging-signup-form/

Submit work for APME contest

The Associated Press Media Editors Journalism Excellence Awards contest deadline is Friday, Feb. 27, 2015.

Awards will be presented for journalism published between Jan. 1, 2014 and Dec. 31, 2014.

The entry fee is \$75 per entry for APME members and \$100 per entry for non-members.

Nominations are received online only. The website is: http://bit. ly/1vNh4Zy

For more details, go to the APME website: www.apme.com

For more information, contact Sally Jacobsen (siacobsen@ap.org) at The Associated Press at 212-621-1838 or Sue Price Johnson (sue.price.johnson@ gmail.com) at 919-810-1169.

The awards will be presented at the joint ASNE-APME Conference in October at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California,



Life on the Mississippi

Missouri Press moments is a look back in the association's long history, designed to highlight interesting and significant events and people; provide historical notes; or simply entertain. Enjoy!

--Bryan E. Jones, MPA Editor

The 30th annual meeting of the Missouri Press Association was June 5-11, 1896. What was a bit unusual about that year's gathering was it was aboard an Anchor Line steamboat between St. Louis and Memphis.

"Members of the association and their wives, daughters and other guests, [Editor's comment: I am not sure what the sons were doing left St. Louis on the night of June 5, aboard the steamship Belle Mem-

"On the succeeding day, Saturday, June 6, at 4:15 o'clock, the annual session was begun in the cabin of the boat...

Captain Lesueur made an earnest appeal in behalf of the St. Louis cyclone sufferers... One hundred dollars was raised to be sent to the proper authorities...

"Every morning, except Sunday, during the trip down and up the river, a handsomely printed and illustrated copy of the *Daily Missouri Editor*, fresh from the press, was handed to each one on board. The paper was set up and printed on the boat, edited by Walter Williams, with E. W. Stephens as publisher."

Get the facts from us.



Doing research on Missourians? AARP in Missouri can help you get the information and insight you need. Not only are we dedicated to championing positive social change through our advocacy and service, but also a valuable resource for reporters looking to learn more about fellow Missourians.

For more information, contact Anita K. Parran at (816) 360-2202 or aparran@aarp.org



/aarpmissouri



@aarpmissouri



Making a difference at the state capitol

Newspapers should cover, communicate with legislators

whith the start of the new year comes the opening of the Missouri legislative session. Bills are being filed and committee hearings have begun. The next few months are busy as Doug Crews, Missouri Press Association's executive director, with the help of our lobbyists, watch for bills that might have an impact on newspapers across the state.

You play a role in that activity. You know that MPA sends out a weekly summary of legislative activity and I encourage you to read that carefully. Watch for news about bills that will have an impact on businesses in your town and write about those issues. Your readers can help you localize those activities.

And, of course, watch for your legislator to be in town. While most are busy in Jefferson City this time of year, they do stop by to visit on occasion. For certain, they send you columns they want you to publish for them. Those columns are full of thoughts about how they are watching out for local interests.

I encourage you to push your legislators for details about statements that seem to have local importance. Call their office and ask them to flesh out things they say with local examples. Ask for bill numbers, if they mention legislation, so you can give your readers specific information to make it easy for them to follow progress of legislation.

Be the reporters I know you can be – do not just accept what you are handed as the "full story" about what is happening up there in our state's capitol!

ome to Jefferson City in a few weeks for the Missouri Press Association and Associated Press' Day at the Capitol. While you are there, stop in to see your local legislators. Call to tell them you are coming and want a chance for a few minutes for an interview. Plan ahead a few pertinent questions you can ask. Take



advantage of being on their "turf" to write a story about what they are doing. Politicians love publicity.

Your readers need to understand how what their legislators do affects their lives. Bring the point home to them. Most of them don't get to make a trip to Jefferson City. MPA makes this easy for you and you shouldn't let this opportunity pass you by.

As you follow what your local legislators are doing, take the opportunity to praise them for taking a stand that benefits your local readers. They will appreciate the recognition. Of course, if they are taking an action that is creating controversy in town, you should cover that, also.

hat presents a great opportunity for a detailed look at why the legislator is taking the position that he or she is taking and why local interests are concerned about it. Help your readers see both sides of the issue.

For example, just last month a new state representative wrote "home" in his column that he was grateful for the chance to serve: "As we move into a new year, we find ourselves confronted with many issues and challenges. Yet, many new opportunities abound when we realize truly great ideas come from our citizens in the district and not from government."

Sentences like that just beg for specifics. What issues are this legislator most concerned about? What challenges does he intend to focus on? What ideas have district residents presented to him that he wants to focus on and share with his fellow legislators? What is this

legislator's number-one priority for this session?

When you read these "letters home," use them as a springboard for a 15-minute phone call and ask your legislator some simple questions like this. Add your quotes to this and turn this into a story. You get some personal insight from someone your readers need to know. You turn a puff-piece into some hard news.

ast, but most importantly, when you get word from MPA that an urgent phone call or editorial support is needed to deal

with a crisis, make those calls to your legislators! Write those editorials! Take a stand and show that Missouri newspapers care about what happens in Jefferson City!

MPA constantly reminds us that newspapers write the "first draft of history." If you don't write it, it won't be recorded. Write those stories. Tell what's happening locally and how it is affected by what govern"I encourage
you to push
your legislators
for details
about
statements
that seem to
have local
importance...
turn a puff
piece into
hard news."

ment does, on the local, state and national level. Legislators are indeed watching what you say and especially note when you call them. You can make a difference in what happens in our state capital!

Missouri Newspaper Organizations

NORTHWEST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Mike Farmer, Rock Port; Secretary, Kathy Conger, Bethany; Treasurer, W.C. Farmer, Rock Port. Directors: Past President, Adam Johnson, Mound City; Jim Fall, Maryville; Dennis Ellsworth, St. Joseph; Jim McPherson, Weston; Chuck Haney, Chillicothe; Steve Tinnen, Plattsburg; Kay Wilson, Maryville; Steve Booher, St. Joseph.

SHOW-ME PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, vacant; Vice President, vacant; Secretary-Treasurer, Sandy Nelson, Liberty. Directors: Dennis Warden, Owensville; Carolyn Trower, New London; John Spaar, Odessa; Buck Collier, New Haven; and Bruce Wallace, Ashland.

OZARK PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Adam Letterman, Springfield; Vice President, Matthew Barba, Bolivar; Secretary-Treasurer, Emily Letterman, Springfield. Directors: Past President Roger Dillon, Eminence; Keith Moore, Ava; Dala Whittaker, Cabool; Norene Prososki, Gainesville; Jody Porter, Ava; David Burton, Springfield; Sharon Vaughn, Summersville; Terry Hampton, West Plains.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Amanda Layton, Perryville; First Vice President, Scott Seal, Portageville; Second Vice President, Toby Carrig, Ste. Genevieve; Secretary-Treasurer, Michelle Friedrich, Poplar Bluff; Historian, Peggy Scott, Festus. Directors: Kim Combs, Piedmont; Ed Thomason, New Madrid; Gary Rust, Cape Girardeau; Teresa Ressel, Park Hills.

MISSOURI CIRCULATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: President, Brenda Carney, Harrisonville; First Vice President, Jack Kaminsky, Joplin; Second Vice President, Steve Edwards, St. Joseph; Treasurer, Doug Crews, Columbia. Directors: Jim Kennedy, Bolivar; Rob Siebeneck, Jefferson City.

MISSOURIADVERTISING MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION: President, Jeanine York, Washington; First Vice President, Mark Maassen, Kansas City; Second Vice President, Adam Letterman, Ozark; Secretary, Suzie Wilson, Milan; Treasurer, Kristie Williams, Columbia. Directors: Les Borgmeyer, Columbia; Jane Haslag, Jefferson City; Jacob Warden, Owensville; Curtis Simmons, Eldon. Past President, Jana Todd, Warrenton.

MISSOURI PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATORS: Co-Presidents, Linda Jarrett and Linda Briggs-Harty; Secretary, Peggy Koch, Barnhart; Online Editor, Fran Mannino, Kirkwood; Contest Director, Janice Denham, Kirkwood; Archivist, Dee Rabey, Granite City, III.; Past President, Colene McEntee, St. Charles.

MISSOURI PRESS SERVICE: President, Mark Maassen, Kansas City; Vice President, Phil Conger, Bethany; Secretary-Treasurer, Joe May, Mexico. Directors: Kevin Jones, St. Louis; Vicki Russell, Columbia.

MISSOURI PRESS FOUNDATION, INC.: President, Vicki Russell, Columbia; First Vice President, Wendell Lenhart, Trenton; Second Vice President, Kirk Powell, Pleasant Hill; Secretary-Treasurer, Doug Crews, Columbia. Directors: Betty Spaar, Odessa; James Sterling, Columbia; Dane Vernon, Eldon; Bill Miller, Sr., Washington; Tom Miller, Washington; Chuck Haney, Chillicothe; Dave Berry, Bolivar; Brian Brooks, Columbia; Kathy Conger, Bethany; Paul Stevens, Lenexa; Dalton Wright, Lebanon. Directors Emeritus: Edward Steele, Corvallis, Ore.; R.B. "Bob" Smith III, Lebanon; Wanda Brown, Harrisonville; Wallace Vernon, Eldon; Rogers Hewitt, Shelbyville.

MISSOURI-KANSAS AP PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS: Chairman, Susan Lynn, Iola, Kan. Missouri AP Managing Editors: Chairman, vacant; Past Chairman, Carol Stark, Joplin.

MISSOURI COLLEGE MEDIA ASSOCIATION: President, Kelsey Schriver, Northwest Missouri State University; Vice President, Katelyn Canon, Missouri Western State University; Secretary, vacant; MPA Liaison, Jack Dimond, Missouri State University; Adviser, Steven Chappell, Northwest Missouri State University.

Upcoming Webinars

Pub Aux Live -Working with eDoc: Save time, money and problems with USPS Thursday, February 12

Presenters
Max Heath, NNA Postal Chair
and Brad Hill, Interlink
Register at www.regonline.com/IMbPart2

The Art of Prospecting: Your Guide to Getting in the Door Thursday, February 12

> Presenter Steve Kloyda, The Prospecting Expert

Register at onlinemediacampus.com

Presented in partnership with:

Missouri Press Association

High-quality, low-cost web conferences that help media professionals develop new job skills without leaving their offices.



A contribution to the Missouri Press Foundation is a wonderful way to honor the memory of an associate.

(573) 449-4167



25th Annual Missouri P

Missouri Press Association and the Associated Press Day at the Capitol • Jefferson City • February 12, 2015

Thursday, February 12 in Jefferson City

8:00-9:30am: Breakfast for MPA Members and Legislators (pastries and coffee), House Hearing Room 1, State Capitol Basement.

10:00 - 11:45 a.m.: Day at the Capitol program in the Senate Lounge, Third Floor, State Capitol. The morning program features two leading GOP candidates who have expressed interest for governor in 2016 and a panel discussion on legislation responding to the events in Ferguson, Mo.

10:00 *a.m.*: State Auditor Tom Schweich, Republican, a possible candidate for Missouri Governor in 2016.

10:30 a.m.: Senate Panel on proposed legislation relating to Ferguson. Panelists, Sen. Maria Chappelle-Nadal (D-St. Louis), Sen. Jamilah Nasheed (D-St. Louis), and Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Glendale).

11:15 a.m.: Former Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, Catherine Hanaway, a Republican candidate for Missouri Governor in 2016.

12 noon: Luncheon with Governor Jay Nixon in the Governor's Mansion. Attendees will leave the Capitol at 11:45 a.m. for the brief walk to the Governor's Mansion. After lunch, Governor Nixon will offer remarks and take questions from the audience.

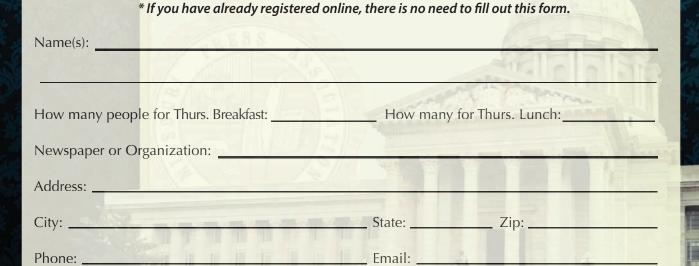
(You must be registered with Missouri Press Association to attend the luncheon in the Governor's Mansion. Missouri Press Association pays for breakfast and luncheon costs. There is no charge to members. However, last-minute cancellations will result in a \$25 cancellation fee.)

1:30 *p.m.*: Adjourn

Need a sleeping room?

MPA is holding a block of rooms for Wednesday, February 11, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jefferson City. Call 573-636-5101 by January 30, and ask for Missouri Press Association's \$109 room rate. DoubleTree's address is: 422 Monroe Street, Jefferson City.





Please send this registration form to Kristie Williams at Missouri Press Association 802 Locust Street • Columbia, MO 65201 • Fax: 573-874-5894 • kwilliams@socket.net