October 9, 2019



Volume 36 Issue 35

CALENDAR of EVENTS

MEETINGS

INA Government Relations Committee Meeting Thursday, October 10 Des Moines

INA, INF & INA Services Co. Boards Thursday, October 24 Des Moines

WEBINARS

The Community's Perception(s): State of U.S. Print Weekly Newspapering in the 21st Century Friday, October 18

Iowa Newspaper Association Bulletin

www.INAnews.com

IT'S CONTEST TIME!

Entries can now be submitted online at

https://betternewspapercontest.com/iowa2020

America's Newspapers: A new champion of the newspaper industry is reborn

BY INLAND PRESS ASSOCIATION

A merica's Newspapers—the association formed from the merger of the Inland Press Association and Southern Newspaper Publishers Association—was ceremonially launched October 6 at its inaugural annual meeting in Chicago.

America's Newspapers unites two of the oldest press associations to form one of the industry's largest advocates for newspapers and the many benefits to their communities, civil life, freedom of expression and democracy.

America's Newspapers has adopted a mission of redoubling the commitments of its legacy associations to explain, defend and advance the vital role of newspapers in democracy and civil life. It will put an emphasis on educating the public on all the ways newspapers contribute to building a community identity and the success of local businesses.

In speaking up for newspapers, the new industry organization will remind the public and the market that newspapers produce magazines, specialty publications and community events. Newspapers are multimedia operations that publish on all digital platforms and mobile devices and offer digital marketing services.

"Newspapers represent journalistic integrity with accuracy fairness, ethics and transparency. We are the voice for the voiceless, the defenders of the First Amendment and open records. We shine a light on government and expose corruption and injustice. We entertain, we delight, we educate and we inform," said Chris Reen, the president and publisher of The Gazette in Colorado Springs who will serve as the first president of America's Newspapers. Along with its new name and logo, America's Newspapers launched the website newspapers.org, and social media outreach on Facebook, LinkedIn and @ NewspaperOrg on Twitter.

For its members, America's Newspapers will continue the work of Inland and SNPA in providing research, education and practical information all aimed at optimizing their business, deepening their community engagement and enhancing the quality of their journalism. America's Newspapers will continue to reflect the culture of collegiality and sharing that characterized its predecessors, its leadership vowed.

In addition to its new president, Chris Reen, America's inaugural officers include

- Vice President: Alan Fisco, president, The Seattle Times Company, Seattle, Wash.
- Treasurer: Nat Lea, president and CEO, WEHCO Media, Little Rock, Ark.
- Secretary: Cameron Nutting Williams, regional publisher, Ogden Newspapers, Frederick, Md.

The initial board of the new association includes nine members from the former SNPA board, nine members from the former Inland board, three R&D partners and the four officers.

A nationwide search for a CEO for America's Newspapers is nearing completion. Tom Slaughter, who had been Inland executive director, and Edward VanHorn, who had served as SNPA executive director, will stay on at America's Newspapers through a transition period.

All current members of SNPA and Inland will become members of the new association.

See a video from America's Newspapers at newspapers.org.

> meeting **minutes**

Iowa Newspaper Association Finance Committee September 27, 2019



INA Finance Committee Meeting Minutes The committee met at 10:00 a.m. at the Iowa Newspaper Association office in Des Moines with the following members present: Kristin Grabinoski, Armstrong Journal; Karen Spurgeon, Bloomfield Democrat; Becky Maxwell; Centerville Iowegian; Christopher Hall, Charles City Press; Ron Gutierrez, Clinton Herald; Terry Christensen, Fort Dodge Messenger; and Mark Rhoades, Missouri Valley Times-News. Also present were Angie Ahrens, Samantha Fett, Geof Fischer, Susan Patterson Plank and Jana Shepherd, INA.

Votes taken:

A. On a motion by Rhoades, seconded by Grabinoski, the committee voted to recommend adoption of the 2020 Consolidated Budget to the INA, INA Services Co. and INF boards.

Other items discussed:

- A. The committee heard a report from Wells Fargo representatives on INF investment performance.
- B. The committee directed the staff to develop an investment policy recommendation for consideration by the Finance Committee to address the amount of monies not directly invested in stocks or bonds.
- C. Staff presented an overview of the 2020 consolidated budget.
- D. Patterson Plank provided an update on status of the INA Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Patterson Plank

CONTEST TIMELINE

October 11, 2019 4:30pm - Contest entry deadline

November 2019 - Contest entries judged by Virginia Press Association members

December 2019 - Winners notified by INF

February 7, 2020 - Winners announced during Convention Awards Banquet

Entries must have been published between **Oct. 1, 2018 and Sept. 30, 2019**, to be eligible.

Questions?

Contact INA/INF at 515-244-2145 or ina@inanews.com.

CONTACT US



Phone 515-244-2145 Website www.INAnews.com

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U.S. MAIL Iowa Newspaper Association 319 East 5th St. Des Moines, IA 50309

INA LEGAL HOTLINE 515-283-3100 (paid service)

The Wall of Wine is back...

ast year, the Wall of Wine fundraiser brought in \$2,500 for the Foundation. This year, our goal is to receive 500 bottles donated. If we reach this goal, we could raise as much as \$5,000 toward INF programs!

HOW TO HELP

Donate a bottle of wine, liquor or beer. All bottles must have a retail value of at least \$10, though we need some bottles valued at \$50, \$100 or \$200 also!

MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CASH DONATION. We have a partnership with area distributors to purchase wine at cost—stretching your donation even further.

PLAY THE GAME! We know we don't have to remind you, but by attending the INA Convention & Trade Show and playing the Wall of Wine you get to support an incredible cause, while having a ton of fun!

Remember, your contributions help pay for programs like our Paid Internship program, annual scholarships for journalism students, our brand new Strong Newspapers Strong Communities initiative and all of the Foundation's top notch trainings and webinars!

We are thankful for your support!

To make a donation, or if you have questions, contact Geof Fischer at (515) 422-9070 or gfischer@inanews.com. If you'd like to send in your donation to the INA offices, **please do so before January 29, 2020**.

The Iowa Newspaper Foundation is a 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization, and your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.



Send in your Pages for the 21st Century pledge today!

Pages—our most important fundraising program—is the easiest way to support the work of the Foundation.

Ver 95 percent of Iowa's newspapers receive more advertising from CNA than the newspaper paid in dues, which makes it a convenient way to invest in the future of journalism in Iowa.

Newspapers participating in Pages agree to donate the equivalent of one page of advertising sold into their newspaper by the Iowa Newspaper Association's ad service, Customized Newspaper Advertising.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR INVESTMENT CAN BE FELT IN THREE PRIMARY WAYS:

- 1. Ensuring the future of the Iowa newspaper industry by developing its next generation audience and identifying and training its future employees. Among the many ways the Foundation does this include: our special events and programs for blossoming high school journalists, our paid internship matching grant program and annual scholarships annually to deserving college journalism students.
- 2. Training current industry professionals to apply new skills and knowledge, increase revenues and

manage in an evolving industry. Online Media Campus, the Foundation's premiere training program, provides quality, cost-effective online training for members.

3. Fostering excellence in journalism through recognition. The Foundation recognizes hundreds of talented professionals at the INA Convention through the Better Newspaper Contest Awards Banquet, Master Editor Publisher and Distinguished Service Awards.

PLEDGE TODAY!

If you do not currently participate in Pages, call or email us today. You can make your pledge or ask any questions by contacting Geof Fischer at (515) 422-9070 or gfischer@inanews.com.

DID YOU KNOW? Almost all of INA member newspapers receive more advertising dollars from CNA than the newspaper pays in dues.

A CONVENIENT WAY TO SUPPORT FOUNDATION PROGRAMMING

Participating newspapers agree to donate the equivalent of one page of advertising sold into their newspaper by CNA.



What is a retraction statute? A retraction statute is a law that allows a defamation plaintiff to retract, or take back, a defamatory statement. Retraction statutes vary considerably from state to state in terms of their coverage and net effect. Under many statutes, a plaintiff has to request a retraction within a certain time frame. Then, the defendant must comply in a certain time frame. In many states, if a defendant issues a proper retraction, the defendant can reduce (but not eliminate) the damages they will have to pay. For example, in Tennessee, if a defendant issues a proper retraction, the defendant cannot be held liable for punitive damages. (Punitive damages are damages designed to punish the wrongdoer; they are controversial in some circles, because they go beyond compensatory damages, which are damages designed to compensate the plaintiff for wrongdoing.)

Jury rules for the Times in Craig Malin lawsuit

BY TARA BECKER-GRAY QUAD-CITY TIMES

Scott County jury on Friday ruled in favor of the Quad-City Times and its journalists in a lawsuit brought by former Davenport city administrator Craig Malin.

The jury of four men and four women deliberated for close to three hours.

The lawsuit hinged on how the paper covered Malin in the final months of his 14-year tenure in Davenport. Malin claimed the Times published "objectively and knowingly false" articles between June 18, 2015, and June 29, 2015, about him and a deal to grade the lot at the privately-owned Rhythm City Casino in Davenport. The deal sparked controversy at City Hall, where the then-mayor called for Malin to resign.

Malin has maintained the city was never obligated to pay the casino costs, but former Alderman Jason Gordon testified at trial that the city did pay.

Malin further alleged the Times "bluntly, persistently, and nonsensically" opposed a now-defunct city website, davenporttoday.com, and that the paper and the authors of the articles and columns, Barb Ickes and former reporter Brian Wellner, intentionally interfered with his contract as city administrator through their reporting, leading to the end of his employment with the city.

Ultimately, the jury disagreed.

"We appreciate the jury's service and their careful consideration of the evidence, arguments and testimony," said Ian Russell, an attorney for the newspaper. "Today was, of course, a victory for Barb Ickes, Brian Wellner, and the Quad-City Times. But, it is also a victory for the First Amendment and the freedom of the press locally, at the state level and nationally."

Malin's attorneys, Richard Pundt and Larry Thorson, called more than a dozen witnesses. Pundt claimed the Times "wrongfully portrayed" Malin as someone who engaged in improper acts.

The paper stood by its reporting throughout. Russell, who also represented the Times' parent company, Lee Enterprises, argued at trial that there was no evidence the Times ever printed anything it knew was false and that the newspaper was doing its job as a community watchdog. A judge threw out Malin's claims against Lee earlier in the trial.

Malin's 14-year tenure ended in June 2015 and the city council approved a separation agreement that included severance payments and other compensation that could have reached \$310,000, depending on when he found another job. The agreement also required Malin to forgo legal claims against the city. Malin was hired as city manager in Seaside, California, just a few months later, in December 2015.

His civil trial began Sept. 23 in Scott County District Court.

Malin had sought more than \$1.5 million in damages. Judge Henry Latham ordered Malin to pay court costs.

This article was originally published by Quad-City Times in October 2019. To read the article online visit https:// gctimes.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/jury-rules-forthe-times-in-craig-malin-lawsuit/article_5c2ce769-5dc2-5519-abc5-e1f0917b2003.html.



If you were to write out every number name in full (one, two, three, four...), you wouldn't use a single letter B until you reached one billion.

And

FREE MEMBER EXCHANGE

V HELP WANTED

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR. The Times-Republican, a sevenday daily newspaper located in central lowa, is looking for a results-driven advertising director to lead our team of sales professionals.

Applicants should have previous experience in newspaper advertising sales management for print and digital platforms. Good presentation skills, written and verbal communication skills and team motivation ability will be a deciding factor for the successful candidate. Knowledge of Microsoft Office and other software programs will be helpful. Our newspaper is part of a family-owned newspaper group with 47 daily newspapers and more than 100 weekly newspapers in 17 states. We offer a competitive salary and fringe benefit package as well as excellent opportunities for advancement within the company. Please send a letter of application, resume and references by email to apelzer@ timesrepublican.com. 1106

- ASSISTANT EDITOR. Enterprise Media Group, a progressive regional publishing company headquartered in Blair, Neb., is looking for someone with news writing and photography experience, as well as online and social media skills, to help spearhead our online movement and to also handle traditional newspaper duties. Candidates must have previous newspaper experience and have a desire to think outside the box. Duties would include assisting the managing editor for a twice-weekly newspaper and two weekly newspapers, as well as serve as our online editor for several regional publications. If you have the desire to bring new ideas to the table, and are tired of the same old newsroom, we'd love to hear from you! Please email your resume and cover letter to Associate Publisher Chris Rhoades at crhoades@enterprisepub.com. 1106
- **REPORTER.** The Marshalltown Times-Republican has an immediate opening for a news reporter to join its community newspaper staff.

The ideal candidate will thrive in a fast-paced newsroom and be disciplined with meeting short and long-term deadlines. Strong photography skills, solid knowledge of AP Style and the ability to write clear, concise copy is required. The reporter will be expected to cover stories on government, education, breaking news and other community news and events. The position requires the reporter to generate their own story ideas, field assignments from editors and turn out stories on a daily basis.

This is a full-time, hourly position, Monday-Friday with some weekend work. It offers health benefits and a 401(k). To apply, send a cover letter and resume to Publisher Abigail Pelzer at apelzer@times republican.com. 1106

- STAFF WRITER. RARE OPENING The Spencer Daily Reporter, located at the entry to the Iowa Great Lakes, is looking for an energetic staff writer to join our award winning editorial department. The ideal individual will have strong writing and story telling skills, a nose for news, bring considerable people skills, have some photography experience and be willing to be part of fun and dedicated news and feature team. Social media and video skills a plus. Looking to fill immediately. Experience preferred but willing to consider the right candidate with a desire to grow in the job. Benefits include health and dental insurance, paid days off, holiday pay, 401K, flexible spending account. Please send cover letter, resume and any writing or photography samples to Randy Cauthron, Spencer Daily Reporter, PO Box 197, Spencer, IA 51301 or email: rcauthron@spencerdailyreporter. com. TBD
- **STAFF WRITER.** The Daily lowegian is searching for a full-time news writer to join its award-winning staff.

Our next reporter must be a self-starter with a passion to learn and report important stories to our community. The Daily lowegian offers great opportunity for reporters to grow in a variety of subjects and mediums.

This reporter will go from reporting feature stories on local people to producing important watchdog packages that either hold governments accountable or further educate readers on trends and happenings in their community. Our newsroom gives the freedom to be able to pursue projects you're interested in that go beyond the day-to-day responsibilities.

The lowegian has a marked history in creating important, award-winning journalism despite its status as a small southern lowa newspaper. We are a 21st century newsroom that seeks to break news that matters to our community. Our journalism has won awards on a state and national stage, even competing against the likes of the Boston Globe and ESPN in the past year.

A college-degree is not required. On-the-job experience is preferred but we'll train the person who is eager to learn and succeed in the field.

Interested candidates should email their resume and writing samples to Daily lowegian editor Kyle Ocker by email at kocker@dailyiowegian.com. 1106

FOR SALE

- **Considering a sale of your newspaper but not sure where to start?** Iowa's newest media broker, Scenic Trail Media Brokers, LLC, is here to help you. Scenic Trail Media Brokers will work with you in every step of the process to properly market your newspaper to help you attract the right buyer for your property. We'll work with you until the final closing to make sure you get top dollar. Call Ryan Harvey today at 515-689-1151 or reach him by email at scenictrailmediabrokers@ gmail.com for more information.
- Iowa weekly newspaper for sale; excellent community; city, school, county legals, gross around \$200K. 40 year owner seeking to slow down. Contact Northeast Iowa, Iowa Newspaper Association, 319 E. 5th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Contact: Iowa Newspaper Association, 319 E. 5th St., Des Moines, Iowa.
- Two weekly newspapers, including one in county seat community. Progressive communities. City, county, school legals. Located in southwest Iowa. Contact: Weekly Newspapers, Iowa Newspaper Association, 319 E. 5th St., Des Moines, Iowa.
- Profitable group of three small weekly newspapers for sale in South Dakota, two in Black Hills. If interested write to: S.D. Newspapers c/o Iowa Newspaper Association, 319 E. 5th St., Des Moines, IA 50309.
- IN NEED OF NEW LISTINGS. This could be the right time to sell! *Appraisals-Consultations-Brokerage services* Your full service broker, News Brokerage of Iowa, dtappnewsbrokerageofiowa@gmail.com, 319-350-2770.
- Two Weekly Newspapers: Great opportunity for first-time owner or company seeking to expand to West Central Iowa. Can be purchased individually or as a pair. Great community support; city, county, school legals. Contact WCIA, Iowa Newspaper Association, 319 E. 5th St., Des Moines, Iowa.
- County seat weeklies with top line revenues at \$1.4M. Over \$200k in cash flow. This listing won't last long. Please call today--Edward Anderson, Broker--National Media Associates--417-338-6397 or email: brokered1@gmail.com

Client looking to purchase a small weekly lowa newspaper. Sellers contact Dave Tapp of News Brokerage of Iowa,

MEMBER EXCHANGE - cont. on page 6



Iowa Newspaper Association

Bulletin

www.INAnews.com

N THIS ISSUE.

 The Community's Perception(s): State of U.S. Print Weekly Newspapering in the 21st Century

local & personal

Steve Fisher, joins **Adams Publishing Group** effective October 1, 2019, as Regional President of APG Media of Southern Minnesota. Fisher spent 18 years at **Woodward Communications**, Inc. (Dubuque, Ia) prior to joining APG.

The **Iowa Supreme Court** appoints **Benjamin Jacobson**, **Dubuque Telegraph Herald**, to serve as the news media coordinator for **Region 1**, which includes Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware and Dubuque counties. This order takes effect immediately.

MEMBER EXCHANGE - cont. from page 5

dtappnewsbrokerageofiowa@gmail.com, 319-350-2770.

- Three great properties now available! Just listed: Small but mighty! Perennial award-winning eastern lowa community weekly is now available. Aside from newspaper, the business has a strong social media and on-line presence. Book of digital printing business also available for extra cost. Perfect opportunity for an add-on to existing business or hands-on, stand alone business. Just listed: Profitable northwest lowa weekly newspaper available for sale with or without real estate. Just listed: Owner looking to retire making this highly profitable, privately held group of lowa weekly newspapers available for the first time in decades. The group features a strong staff with a centralized graphics department. Perfect add-on for a current group, or great opportunity for a hands-on owner. All inquiries are strictly confidential. While a cash purchase is preferred, contract terms are available under the right circumstances. For more information on these properties, or to list yours contact: Ryan Harvey, Broker, Scenic Trail Media Brokers, LLC, at 515-689-1151 or by email at scenic trailmediabrokers@gmail.com
- **Wanted:** I'm looking for a small letterpress in working condition, suitable for printing handbills, etc. If you have one in your basement and want to free up some space, please let me know. John Cullen, The Storm Lake Times, news@stormlake.com.
- Former editor/reporter (now retired) seeks part-time work involving reporting, editing, or proofreading(or combination thereof) for your fine publication. I have extensive experience covering city council, school boards, sports of all types, county board, and/or any type of hard news. I can also write features on any subject. I would work from home via my cell phone, internet and computer and I've had many years of experience doing my job this way. I would be an independent contractor and I would be very flexible. I would be able to work nights and weekends since some contacts wouldn't be available during day-time hours. Advertising sales: I also have extensive experience in advertising sales for newspapers, shoppers, TMC products, and websites. I actually enjoy a combination of writing and sales. Full-time possible: My wife also has experience in sales and writing. If you wanted the equivalent of full-time (remote) we could become a full-time team for you. The Best Movie of all time was His Girl Friday, a great comedy about the newspaper business. Please call Glenn Schreiber, 515-570-5709 (cell) or e-mail me at schreiberglenn@gmail.com.

View and submit ads on the Internet at www.INAnews.com. Students and professionals may also submit their resumés for online viewing.

There is no charge for most of these ads. They are a free service to INA active (newspaper) members only. The name of the newspaper in the ad must be the same as published in the current INA Directory.

If you are trying to help an employee relocate, please send us the ad information on your letterhead, rather than having the employee write us. We will not run ads for persons living in a member's town without first clearing the ad with the publisher.

Please have copy to the INA office no later than noon on Monday. The INA will make the determination of whether an ad qualifies for free or paid publication. If payment for an ad is not enclosed with the ad, the INA will require payment in advance before the ad will be published.

Ads for products or services which could be marketed for a profit may be published for a fee of \$10 per insertion, paid in advance, with a 40-word maximum.

Recruitment (help wanted) ads for positions in states other than Iowa may be published for a fee of \$25 per insertion, with a 100-word maximum.

For more information, contact Cicely Gordon at cgordon@inanews.com.

Year Club Nomination Form

"I submit the name of the following person, certifying that to the best of my knowledge he or she has completed 50 years of service to the newspaper industry."

Name: (Please print)

Entered Newspaper Service At: (Location)

Now Living At:

This Nomination Submitted By:

Newspaper:

Please complete and return to Iowa Newspaper Association, 319 E. 5th St., Des Moines, IA 50309 or fax to 1-866-593-7406 by Jan. 3, 2020





An Iowa Newspaper Foundation webinar...

THE COMMUNITY'S PERCEPTION(S): STATE OF U.S. PRINT WEEKLY NEWSPAPERING IN THE 21ST CENTURY



Friday, October 18 1-2 p.m.

IN THIS WEBINAR...

Christina Smith plans to engage with the audience on two major discussion points concerning community newspapers. First, she will briefly discuss one of her current research projects that explores why small-town, geographicallybounded U.S. weekly newspapers continue to be viable in the digital era, despite the struggles larger U.S. newspapers continue to undergo. Based on a recent exploratory study, Smith argues that U.S. print weekly newspapers continue to be perceived by their audiences as the most relied upon news sources for the communities in which they serve Community members believe that local newspapers, journalists and owners serve as community builders, produce relevant, truthful, local information, and are highly motivated by community needs in order to do their jobs – all of which have long been the foundational rules guiding community journalism. Following the brief research presentation, Smith will share with viewers a useful survey tool she produced for research purposes that she believes newspaper publishers can use in their own communities to better understand the expectations of their audiences.

Registration fee: FREE · Deadline: October 15

THE PRESENTER... Christina Smith



Christina Smith is an assistant professor of communication at Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, GA, where she teaches journalism. Before getting her Ph.D. in mass communications in 2015 at the University of Iowa, she worked in the newspaper industry as a daily and weekly news reporter for more than 13 years.

As a scholar, Smith's research interests include the roles of journalism in small, rural towns in the U.S., specifically as they relate to print weekly newspapers with circulations of less than 5,000.

Online Media Campus

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REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.ONLINEMEDIACAMPUS.COM

Online Media Campus is brought to you by Southern Newspaper Publishers Association and Iowa Newspaper Foundation





YES! Sign me up for the *The Community's Perception(s): State of U.S. Print Weekly Newspapering in the 21st Century* webinar Friday, October 18.

Registration fee: free to Iowa Newspaper Association members

Find out more at www.onlinemediacampus.com or contact Erica Wipperling at 515-422-9052 or ewipperling@inanews.com.

Registration deadline: October 15

Name	Newspa	per		
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	SEND YOUR COMPLETED REG IOWA NEWSPAPER FOUNDATION EMAIL to ewipperling@inanews.com or REGI	l, 319 E. 5th St	t., Des Moines, IA 50309	
	RECEIPT OF You will receive log-in instructions 48-hours have questions, please contact Erica Wipperlin	prior to the web	binar you've registered for. If you	