

October 7, 2020



Volume 37  
Issue 39

# Iowa Newspaper Association Bulletin

www.INAnews.com

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### WEBINARS

Leading Your Team  
Through Disruptive  
Change

Thursday, October 15

Using Data to Improve  
Your Journalism

Friday, October 23

### MEETINGS

INA, INF & INA Services  
Board Meeting

Thursday, October 22

## Your colleagues need your help

*Support a new statewide  
open records project by  
signing up to collect data*

A group of Iowa Newspaper Association members is launching a statewide open records project that has important implications for all of the state's communities.

Video technology was supposed to improve law enforcement's accountability to the public and help eradicate injustice.

But some argue the opposite has occurred, particularly in situations when officer conduct is under scrutiny.

The public's demand for access to law enforcement video is national in scope and has intensified in the last year following cases like the George Floyd death in Minneapolis.

The fight in Iowa is particularly intense, where a standoff between transparency advocates and some of the state's most powerful law enforcement agencies centers on widely different interpretations of the state's 42-year-old public records law that predates police body camera technology.

This project will document what we already know is a widely divergent, unregulated system of video rules and policies among Iowa law enforcement agencies. It will tell the stories of everyday Iowans who have been unable to answer questions about a family member's death or prove their innocence after their video requests have been stonewalled by law enforcement. And it will unveil the forces in Iowa that are lobbying to permanently shut law enforcement's lens to the public.

**HERE'S THE ASK:** We need your help to request and collect data for this project.

The good news: You and your staff can be involved with a relatively minimal time commitment.

"Camera Shy" project participants are NOT required to write stories.

Newspapers are asked to simply "adopt" at least one county and – using record request templates written by the INA – request copies of the video policies of each law enforcement agency of the county identified in our database.



Newspapers will be asked to upload the videos and answer a few brief questions as part of the project.

In a second phase newspapers will seek copies of the first video a law enforcement agency recorded in 2020. Newspapers will be asked to answer questions about the responses they received from the counties.

That's it unless newspapers wish to volunteer to be a part of a specific request involving a case significant to your individual readership.

**HERE'S THE PAYOFF:** Newspapers will gain access to a series of articles the group plans to publish next year, along with photos, graphics and other online elements.

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED:** Visit <https://inanews.com/membersonly/camashy/> and use the password "news" to access more information and sign up to help collect data.

# 2021

## CONTEST CORNER

*The deadline to submit entries for the Better Newspaper Contests is Friday, October 16 at 4:30 p.m.!*

## Resources available for your last-minute questions!

**W**e're getting down to the wire. The deadline to submit entries for the Better Newspaper Contests is Friday, October 16. All entries must be submitted and uploaded to the [betternewspapercontest.com](http://betternewspapercontest.com) website by 4:30 p.m.; hard-copy examples must be postmarked on or before October 16. In past years, many entries were submitted in the 1-2 hours prior to the deadline, sometimes resulting in system slowness. To prevent any frustrations, which could be caused by internet speed, it is in your best interest to submit your entries as early as possible. If you would like to drop off your entries in person, please contact Jana Shepherd at [jshepherd@inanews.com](mailto:jshepherd@inanews.com) prior to Thursday, October 15.

To view an online tutorial that was created to assist INA members in preparing and selecting contest entries, go to [INAnews.com](http://INAnews.com). In the top right corner, hover over the "Convention" tab, select "Contest" and "Entry Information".

The contest entry guide contains detailed instructions on how to prepare and upload your entries. The call for entries contains all of the entry categories and specific details for each. Both of these can be found in the Contest section of [INAnews.com](http://INAnews.com).

If you have additional questions as you submit entries call the INA between the hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at 515-244-2145 or email [ina@inanews.com](mailto:ina@inanews.com).

## CONTEST TIMELINE

**September 9 & 16, 2020** - Distribute 2021 Call for Entries in INA Bulletin

**October 16, 2020 4:30pm** - Contest entry deadline

**November 2020** - Contest entries judged by MDCC Press Association members

**December 2020** - Winners notified by INF

**February 2021** - Winners announced during Convention Awards Banquet

Entries must have been published between **Oct. 1, 2019 and Sept. 30, 2020**, to be eligible.

### Questions?

Contact INA/INF at 515-244-2145 or [ina@inanews.com](mailto:ina@inanews.com).

## CONTACT US



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Des Moines, IA 50309

### INA LEGAL HOTLINE

515-283-3100 (paid service)



## IT'S CONTEST TIME!

*Entries can now be submitted online at*

**<https://betternewspapercontest.com/iowa2021>**

# meeting minutes

## Iowa Newspaper Association | INA Bylaws Ad-Hoc Committee September 30, 2020 Minutes

An ad hoc subcommittee to discuss the Iowa Newspaper Association bylaws, met via Zoom at 2:00 p.m. with the following members present: Jason Brummond, Iowa City Daily Iowan; Trevis Mayfield, Maquoketa Sentinel-Press; Mark Rhoades, Missouri Valley Times-News; and Jeff Wagner, N'West Iowa REVIEW. Also present was Susan Patterson Plank, INA.

### Action agreed upon:

- A. The committee directed staff to reach out to other press associations regarding membership classifications.
- B. The committee agreed to meet again prior to the fall INA board meeting.

### Other items discussed:

- A. The committee reviewed the current bylaws that were approved in February 2020. They specifically reviewed Section 3.2 Qualifications of Active Members and Section 3.4 Qualifications of Academic Members.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Patterson Plank



*Iowa Newspaper  
Association  
Bylaws Ad-Hoc  
Committee  
Meeting Minutes*



## Why we participate in contest...

*As journalists we don't often take time to savor our work. There's always another story to write, another deadline to hit, another product to get out the door. Preparing entries for the INA contest each fall provides an opportunity to take a moment to look over the body of work we have done in a year's time. Invariably, we are struck by the amount of great journalism we have produced. We enter nearly every category of the INA contest, including almost everyone in our newsroom. We celebrate once in December when we learn who is in the running for an award, and again in February after they are announced.*

*No one gets into print journalism for the glamor. The hours are long, the pay's not great, and we tend to tick people off sometimes. But journalists know the work we do is important, and our communities are better for the stories we tell. Once a year, to have our work recognized among our peers is one of the all too rare moments in community journalism when our work gets the acknowledgement it deserves. My favorite are the awards for young journalists -- and we've had several winners over the years. That's a real boost to an up-and-comer to be recognized with a statewide award.*

*We don't celebrate the outstanding work we do every day. But once in a while, it's good for the soul to stand together and be proud of our noble profession.*

**- Amy Gilligan, Dubuque Telegraph Herald**

**The Dubuque Telegraph Herald was awarded third place in General Excellence during the 2020 INA Convention and Trade Show Awards Banquet.**

# Members of Columbia Journalism School Community Demand Polk County Attorney's Office Dismiss Charges Against Alumna Andrea Sahouri

*Faculty, staff, alumni and students of Columbia Journalism School have signed the following letter demanding charges facing Andrea Sahouri, a 2019 alumna being charged for covering the George Floyd protests, be dropped. Please find the full text, to be delivered to Polk County, Iowa Attorney John Sarcone, below. Visit <https://journalism.columbia.edu/columbia-journalism-school-dismiss-charges-andrea-sahouri> to read the letter online and add your name to the list of signatories.*

Dear Attorney Sarcone:

We are faculty, staff, alumni and current students of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. We write to urge you to drop the unjustified charges of "failure to disperse" and "interference with official acts" that remain pending against Des Moines Register reporter Andrea Sahouri, who is a graduate of our school.

On the evening of May 31 Sahouri was reporting near Merle Hay Mall on a demonstration protesting the May 25 killing of George Floyd. A little before 8 p.m. Sahouri reported on her Twitter account(link is external) that police had used tear gas to disperse the protestors. As Sahouri moved with the protestors to escape the gas, she was confronted by police, who pepper-sprayed her. KCCI 8 News footage(link is external) shows her in custody, seated on a street curb with her hands behind her back in a zip tie.

In a video(link is external) she recorded while in a police transport vehicle, Sahouri says that she told police "I'm press, I'm press," before they pepper-sprayed her. In the video, posted to her Twitter account, Sahouri says, "I'm doing my job as a journalist. I'm just out here reporting as I see." She says she asked police why she had been arrested and was told "something about failing to disperse." Sahouri was in police custody, including time in the Polk County jail, for about three and a half hours before her release, according to an account in the Register.

Research by the US Press Freedom Tracker, which has documented the arrests of Sahouri and 56 other journalists covering Black Lives Matter protests in US cities since the end of May, shows that no more than seven of those journalists — including Sahouri — still face pending charges. In many cases, charges were dropped or dismissed after the journalists were identified as working members of the press.

In addition to her own statements to police, identifying herself as a journalist, Sahouri's professional status was confirmed on the scene by other journalists from her newspaper and a local TV station, according to a July 14 letter to you

from the Iowa Freedom of Information Council. Her supervisors at The Des Moines Register also confirmed to police and prosecutors that she was on assignment to cover the protests, the Council noted in its letter. After that, said the Council, "[T]here was no legitimate reason for the Polk County Attorney's Office to proceed with these criminal charges."

However, your office has continued its prosecution of Sahouri, who has pled not guilty to the charges. Requests by her attorney Nick Klinefeldt for police evidence have drawn negative responses. In July, for example, your office wrote that supplying body-camera footage in the case was too expensive and time-consuming, according to a Register story. The defense request, pursued in court, resulted in a September 11 court order to the state to provide "video, reports, audio recordings, and statements of the Defendant" by September 30. A court appearance in the case is scheduled in Iowa District Court for Polk County on October 9.

Sahouri was present at the May 31 protest as a working journalist, not a protestor. She was doing work clearly protected by the First Amendment, she identified herself as a journalist, others confirmed that information to police, and yet she remains charged with criminal misconduct — just for doing her job of newsgathering. We agree with the Iowa Freedom of Information Council, that there is no legitimate reason to proceed with these charges, and we ask that you immediately dismiss all charges against Andrea Sahouri.

**UPDATE 10/2/2020:** *The letter with more than 250 signatories has been sent to Polk County Attorney John Sarcone.*

# FREE MEMBER EXCHANGE

## ▼ HELP WANTED

**PART-TIME ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE.** The Northwood Anchor and Manly Junction Signal, newspapers in Worth County, are seeking a part time advertising sales representative, with potential for other opportunities. We offer a job with a flexible schedule, working with a small team to support several local communities, their businesses and their newspapers. Questions or resumes may be emailed to kris@nwdanchor.com.

**SPORTS EDITOR.** The Spencer Daily Reporter, located at the entry to the Iowa Great Lakes, is looking for an energetic Sports Editor to join our award winning editorial department. The ideal individual will have strong writing and story telling skills, a nose for sports features, people skills, photography experience and be willing to be part of fun, dedicated team. Social media and video skills a plus. Individual will be writing previews, covering two local high school teams and one college team. 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.

## ▼ FOR SALE

**NEW LISTING! For sale:** Northwest Iowa weekly newspaper with supplement and printing shop. County legal plus legal for four towns. Newly remodeled brick/block building, equipment, large inventory included. Selling because of age/health. Phone 712/230/1405 or e-mail rouse@nethtc.net

**For sale:** Brand new, never-out-of-the-box iMac, 3.1GHz 6-Core Processor with Turbo Boost up to 4.3GHz; 1 TD storage, Retina 5K display; 8GB 2666MHz DDR memory; Radeon Pro 575X with 4GB of GDDR5 memory, two Thunderbolt 3 ports, Retina 5K 5120-by-2880 P3 display; Lists \$1,999; Will Sell for \$1600. Call Charlie at 712-830-3646.

**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.

**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 Iowa newspaper.** Sellers contact Dave Tapp of News Brokerage of Iowa, dtappnewsbrokerageofiowa@gmail.com, 319-350-2770.

**If you are considering a purchase,** look no further! I have strong, profitable properties available across the state just waiting for owner operators or corporations. **Just listed:** Looking to be your own boss? Look no further! This small, profitable southern Iowa weekly is just waiting for you. Aggressively priced to move. **Just listed:** Rare opportunity to buy this profitable eastern Iowa weekly as current long-time owner ready to slow down. Located in a progressive community near larger communities. Perfect opportunity for an add-on to existing business or as a hands-on, stand alone business. **Motivated seller:** Small but mighty! Perennial award-winning eastern Iowa 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 as a hands-on, stand alone business. **Retirement awaits:** Profitable northwest Iowa weekly newspaper available for sale with or without real estate. **Weekly newspaper group:** Owner looking to retire making this highly profitable, privately held group of Iowa 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 to any property are strictly confidential. For more information contact: Ryan Harvey, Broker, Scenic Trail Media Brokers, LLC, at 515-689-1151 or by email at scenictrailmediabrokers@gmail.com

*View and submit ads on the Internet at [www.INAnews.com](http://www.INAnews.com). Students and professionals may also submit their resumes 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](mailto:cgordon@inanews.com).*



Iowa Newspaper Association

# Bulletin

www.INAnews.com

## IN THIS ISSUE...

- Leading Your Team Through Disruptive Change
- Using Data to Improve Your Journalism

## Q&A from the Iowa Public Information Board

**Did you know** that the Iowa Public Information Board staff is available to assist you with questions or problems involving open meetings and public records in Iowa? During the month of September 2020, 41 contacts were made with the Iowa Public Information Board office.

**QUESTION:** What is a public record? How do I ask for records?

**ANSWER:** Iowa Code section 22.1(3) provides a definition of 'public records' to include *"all records, documents, tape, or other information, stored or preserved in any medium, of or belonging to this state or any county, city, township, school corporation, political subdivision, (certain non-profits)... or tax-supported district in this state, or any branch, department, board, bureau, commission, council, or committee of any of the foregoing."*

This definition includes documents, tapes, etc. that exist and are stored or preserved. It does not include information that may be known by an official or employee of the government body that has not been memorialized as a public record as defined by the statute. Therefore, when requesting a public record, it is important to request a 'record' and not just answers to questions.

Public officials and employees should assist the public seeking answers to questions

about government activities. However, the public records laws set forth in Chapter 22 are limited to *"records, documents, tape, or other information, stored or preserved in any medium."*

Rather than asking questions ("How much has the city paid for snow removal in the last five years?"), a record request should ask for copies of the actual record that should contain this information ("Please provide copies of all snow removal invoices and payments for the last five years.").

The IPIB has a sample records request letter on its website that can be used when requesting public records. It is not required that a record request be made in writing, but using a written request helps to document the request.

**WHO CAN CONTACT THE IPIB AND HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?** Any person can contact the IPIB for assistance by telephone (515-725-1781), by email, or on the IPIB website. In 2020, 585 identifiable people have contacted the IPIB. Of these, 273 were private citizens, 243 were government officials or employees, and 69 were members of the media. In 2020, 70% of the incoming contacts were resolved the first day, 12% were resolved in one to five days, and 18% were resolved in six or more days. Opinions, rulings, FAQs, reports, and training documents are available on the IPIB website – [www.ipib.iowa.gov](http://www.ipib.iowa.gov).

FORMAL COMPLAINTS	ADVISORY OPINIONS	DECLARATORY ORDERS	INFORMAL COMPLAINTS	INFORMAL REQUESTS	MISCELLANEOUS	SEPTEMBER TOTALS
11	0	0	3	24	7	<b>41</b>

# AMERICA NEEDS JOURNALISTS

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK • OCTOBER 4-10, 2020

# Happy National Newspaper Week!

Materials are available to download at  
<https://www.nationalnewspaperweek.com/>



An Iowa Newspaper Foundation webinar...

# Leading Your Team Through Disruptive Change

Iowa New Member  
Benefit: **FREE!**  
Use Discount Code:  
**IAwebinars**



Thursday, October 15 · 1-2 p.m.

Registration fee: FREE · Deadline: October 12

## IN THIS WEBINAR...

How do leaders like you get the productive and creative best from employees during today's unpredictable world of change? What is required of you? What insights and practices do you need to commit to?

This 60-minute webinar will show you:

1. How leaders need to think and talk about the many forms of disruption touching our businesses, our communities and our employees' daily lives.
2. The five predictable responses to change you will see and hear from your employees.
3. A leadership tool you can use to help others continually adjust and innovate as you face new challenges and unexpected change.

You'll end this webinar with a vision and leadership tool to keep moving forward with your employees rather than get stuck doing what you have always done. Standing still in times of great change is not a winning strategy.

## THE PRESENTER...

### Mike Wagner



Mike Wagner is president of White Rabbit, a business consultancy he founded in 2004. He is a skilled communicator, facilitator and business consultant. Wagner serves leadership teams in the creation of competitive advantage and growth strategies. His approach is a unique combination of leadership development and organizational culture, informed by the tools and process of "design thinking."

Wagner has been speaking professionally for over 30 years. He started his career as a pastor and church planter before entering the business world. He engages audiences with fresh ideas and tells compelling stories to inspire them to keep creating! His mission is to release the wisdom and capacity of each organization he serves.

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An Iowa Newspaper Foundation webinar...

# Using Data to Inform and Improve Your Journalism

Iowa New Member  
Benefit: **FREE!**  
Use Discount Code:  
**IAwebinars**



Friday, October 23 · 1-2 p.m.

Registration fee: FREE · Deadline: October 20

## IN THIS WEBINAR...

All publishers want to become indispensable to their audiences. They want to know what drives engagement and subscriptions, how to make their work part of a reader's daily habit and how deeply to cover topics that matter. Those questions are not easily answered with conventional web analytics that were never intended for journalists. What people click on, spend time with, subscribe to and share can reveal why they rely on a publisher for their news and information. But data overload can become overwhelming, even paralyzing to decision making.

With insights from the American Press Institute's Metrics for News software and services, we will discuss which measures of engagement to focus on (hint: not just page views) and how to define success. Through a series of 11 lessons on using metrics for newsroom change (gathered from our work with 100+ newsroom partners), participants will learn how to prioritize which metrics to track and tips for leveraging the data-collection tool(s) they already use.

## THE PRESENTER...

### Katie Kutsko



Katie Kutsko is a graduate of the University of Kansas and the education & strategy manager for the American Press Institute's Metrics for News program. She empowers prospective and newly-signed partners to understand how MFN's suite of products can help them build a loyal and engaged audience over time. While at KU, she served as editor-in-chief at the University Daily Kansan, where she led a newsroom transformation from a print mindset to a digital-first operation. She has interned at the Chicago Tribune, Indianapolis Star and Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World.

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