



# Iowa Newspaper Association Bulletin

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## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### EVENTS

INA Awards Banquet  
April 28, 2022  
Downtown Des Moines  
Marriott

## Another record year for press-freedom violations in the US

KIRSTIN MCCUDDEN,  
FREEDOM OF THE PRESS FOUNDATION

Just six days into January 2021, journalists documenting the Capitol riots were assaulted and tens of thousands of dollars of media equipment damaged. In April, a journalist went on trial after her arrest while reporting from a Black Lives Matter protest the year before. By the time the year closed, one of the most venerated news institutions was under a publishing gag-order.

While we did not see the scope of national social-justice protests of 2020—a year in which journalists were arrested or assaulted on average more than once a day—2021 still outpaced the years before it for press-freedom violations. We systematically capture this data in the US Press Freedom Tracker, where Freedom of the Press Foundation, in partnership with the Committee to Protect Journalists and other press freedom groups, has documented aggressions against journalists in the United States since 2017.

It's tempting to compare 2021 against 2020—when assaults and arrests of journalists hit an all-time high—and conclude, because fewer journalists were arrested and fewer were hit with crowd-control munitions, that the state of press freedom in the US can be ignored. That conclusion would be wrong.

In fact, if you remove 2020 from the equation, the amount of press-freedom violations documented in 2021 outpaces the years before it across several categories:

- More than 140 assaults of journalists in 2021 captured in our “Physical Attack” category outpaces assaults from 2017 to 2019 combined;
- The number of journalists reporting equipment damaged outpaces the same reports from 2017 to 2019 combined; and
- The 59 arrests or detainments documented by the Tracker nearly equals the arrests and detainments documented from 2017 to 2019 combined.

In 2021, we documented 142 assaults of

journalists. For the second consecutive year, the majority of those assaults came during protests: 95 percent in 2020 and 77 percent in 2021.

The year began with a protest that became a riot, as the US Capitol was stormed by a mob attempting to stop certification of election results. The Tracker documented at least 16 journalists assaulted in Washington, DC, while covering those events, many of whom were targeted.

For the second year in a row, the response to federal and local mandates around COVID-19 also factored into physical attacks of journalists. From anti-lockdown to anti-vaccine protests, coronavirus-related assaults increased from four (and much harassment) in 2020 to 14 in 2021.

In 2020, an unprecedented 142 arrests and detainments of journalists occurred, a nearly 1500-percent increase over the nine documented in 2019. In 2021, that number was 59, with nearly half arrested or detained in kettles, a tactic used to hem in large crowds, often before mass arrests.

The last arrests of the calendar year came on Christmas Day, when two Asheville Blade reporters were arrested while covering the eviction of a homeless encampment in North Carolina. Both face charges of trespassing, with hearings scheduled for March, and one of the reporters, Matilda Bliss, had her phone confiscated during her arrest.

### Subpoenas, the Espionage Act and a Prior Restraint

Other Tracker categories—we monitor nearly a dozen—deserve closer looks as well.

For the first time in five years of documentation, the number of publicly-known subpoenas or other legal orders has decreased rather than increased. Of course, it's not unusual to find out about subpoenas much after the fact: In 2021, we published details about just more than 50 subpoenas requesting reporting material or journalistic testimony. Fewer than half of those were for subpoenas issued in 2021.

For example, the US Department of Justice informed The New York Times on June 2, 2021, that the agency secretly obtained phone records of four of

**VIOLATIONS** - cont. on page 4

# meeting minutes

## Iowa Newspaper Association Annual Meeting | February 3, 2022



The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom with a quorum present.

### INA Annual Meeting Minutes

#### Votes taken:

- A. On a motion of Woodward, Dubuque Telegraph-Herald, seconded by Wagner, Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW the following slate of candidates was elected to the INA Board of Directors:
- Brad Hicks, Algona Kossuth County Advance to a first, three-year term;
  - Christopher Hall, Charles City Press to a second, three-year term;
  - Matt Grohe, Clear Lake Mirror Reporter to a second, three-year term;
  - Jason Brummond, Iowa City Daily Iowan to a second, three-year term.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Patterson Plank

## Iowa Newspaper Association Board of Directors | February 3, 2022



### INA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The INA Board via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present Karen Spurgeon, Bloomfield Democrat; Zack Kucharski, Cedar Rapids Gazette; Christopher Hall, Charles City Press; Debbie Anselm, Davenport Quad-City Times; Bob Woodward, Dubuque Telegraph-Herald; Bill Tubbs, Eldridge North Scott Press; Terry Christensen, Fort Dodge Messenger; Jaime Zweibohmer, Humboldt Independent; Jason Brummond, Iowa City Daily Iowan; Trevis Mayfield, Maquoketa Sentinel-Press; Jeff Wagner, Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW; and Paula Buenger, Spencer Daily Reporter. Also present were Kris Maggard, INA Services Co; Jana Shepherd, INF; and Susan Patterson Plank, INA

#### Votes taken:

- A. On a motion by Kucharski, Spurgeon, the minutes of the October 28th and December 9th board meetings were approved.
- B. On a motion by Buenger, seconded by Woodward, the following INA Associate Members were approved:
- Brian Cooper
  - Julie Gammack
  - Mary Unga-Sogaard
- C. On a motion by Wagner, seconded by Kucharski, the Marion County Express was approved as an INA Active Member.

#### Action agreed upon:

- A. Anselm agreed to attend the new board orientation scheduled for April 7, 2022.
- B. The board agreed that its next board meeting would be April 28, 2022.

#### Other items discussed:

- A. The board heard an update from Christensen and Patterson Plank on public notice platforms.
- B. The board heard an updated from Brummond regarding the INA Digital Ad Hoc Committee.

## CONTACT US



Phone 515-244-2145  
Website [www.INAnews.com](http://www.INAnews.com)

### INA/CNA/INF STAFF DEPARTMENT MANAGERS

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**Foundation Director**  
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**Media Director**  
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**Technology & Digital Development Manager**  
Susan James,  
ext. 129, [sjames@cnaads.com](mailto:sjames@cnaads.com)

### BOARD PRESIDENTS

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**INA Services Company**  
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**Iowa Newspaper Foundation**  
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Iowa Newspaper Association  
319 East 5th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50309

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

# Iowa Public Information Board Year-In-Review

The Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) celebrated its eighth full year of operation in 2021. Created in 2012, IPIB is a free source of information for citizens and public officials on open meetings and public records laws. When there is a dispute involving these laws, the IPIB can resolve it inexpensively and efficiently.

The IPIB also provides public information and training opportunities on open meetings and public records laws. The IPIB is easily accessible to the public. It is located on the third floor of the Wallace Building, maintains a website at [www.ipib.iowa.gov](http://www.ipib.iowa.gov), and can be reached by telephone at 515-725-1781.

Iowans frequently turn to the IPIB as a resource. In 2021, 697 inquiries or actions were opened. This is on par with the last few years.

The IPIB website also experienced significant activity with 28,256 visitors in 2021. Around 88

percent of these visitors were first-time contacts.

The IPIB acts with speed. Of these 697 matters, most were resolved in less than a day, and 81 percent were resolved in five calendar days or less.

In addition to the 28,256 visitors to the IPIB website, members of the media (11%), citizens (54%), and government officials and staff (35%) also made direct contact with the IPIB in 2021.

The IPIB continues to conduct training presentations

throughout the year upon request. Another resource is a monthly informational column on topics of current interest. A slide presentation on the fundamentals of open meetings and public records is also available on the IPIB website.

For more information on the activities of IPIB, or to learn more about IPIB's past performance, view our annual reports on the IPIB website.

Opinions, rulings, FAQs, monthly columns, and training documents are also available on the IPIB website – [www.ipib.iowa.gov](http://www.ipib.iowa.gov). Questions for the IPIB can be posted on the website or by calling 515-725-1781.

**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 January 2022, 53 contacts were made with the Iowa Public Information Board office.

**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 website. In January 2022, 53 identifiable people contacted the IPIB. Of these, 33 were private citizens, 16 were government officials or employees, and 4 were members of the media. In the month of January 2022, 74% of the incoming contacts were resolved the same day, 17% were resolved in one to five days, and 9% were resolved in six or more days.

FORMAL COMPLAINTS	ADVISORY OPINIONS	DECLARATORY ORDERS	INFORMAL COMPLAINTS	INFORMAL REQUESTS	MISCELLANEOUS	JANUARY TOTALS
4	2	0	3	31	13	<b>53</b>

## INA to provide photos from State Wrestling Tournament

The Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Newspaper Association are again working together to facilitate the INA Photography Pool service for Iowa newspapers during the 2022 State Wrestling Championships.

The IHSAA will be announcing changes and possible restrictions later this week for its annual state wrestling tournaments. The tournaments are currently scheduled for February 17-19 at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. The Iowa Newspaper Association is in discussions with the IHSAA regarding updated procedures for credentialed media, including likely workspace and capacity limitations at the venue. Both

the INA and IHSAA encourage newspapers to utilize the INA Photo Pool and to consider staffing requirements before credential registration opens on February 13, 2022. IHSAA plans to post media procedures in the days following its tournament release. Visit the IHSAA Media page for more information: [www.iahsaa.org/resources/media](http://www.iahsaa.org/resources/media). The IHSAA will have all state-qualifying wrestlers listed on its website at <http://www.iahsaa.org/> by Sunday, Feb. 13.

Visit [www.inanews.com](http://www.inanews.com) to sign up. The deadline is February 16 at Noon. If you have any questions, please contact [ina@inanews.com](mailto:ina@inanews.com).

## A new spin on convention and awards banquet!

Convention is about networking, celebrating, and learning. With that in mind, we have moved the Awards Banquet to April 28, 2022 at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott.

Full refunds will be issued to everyone who has already registered for the event. When registration opens

for the April Banquet, it will be communicated in the Bulletin and through email. This is not a decision that was taken lightly, and we understand that there will be many questions. Your patience while working through the details is greatly appreciated.

We can't wait to see you in April!

# Thank you to our 2021 Foundation Donors!

The INF offers programs to help grow and enhance the quality of Iowa's newspapers such as scholarships, paid internships, mentorship programs, writer's workshops, high school media camps, professional trainings and much more. Your generous support helps local newspapers take advantage of the opportunities ahead. Visit [www.inanews.com](http://www.inanews.com) and click "donate" in the top right corner to make a donation today!

Jason Brummond  
Paula Buenger  
Sanford Burstein  
Randy Evans  
Emily Fletcher  
Carol Hunter  
Maureen Jefferson  
Erin Jordan

Lynne Lance  
Kris Maggard  
Nancy Mayfield  
Erica Michelsen  
Bill Monroe  
Alan Mores  
Jennifer Morlan-Homer  
Lyle Muller

Susan Patterson Plank  
David Purdy  
Kathleen Richardson  
Jana Shepherd  
Mark Spensley  
Karen Spurgeon  
Carl Vieregger  
Bob Woodward

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## VIOLATIONS - cont. from page 1

the newspaper's reporters more than a year before, during the Trump administration in 2020.

That administration also attempted to obtain the four reporters' email records in January 2021, an effort that continued for a time under the Biden administration. On June 5, the DOJ announced that it would no longer seize journalists' records during leak investigations.

In December, freelance journalist Amy Harris sued the US House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol after it subpoenaed telecom operator Verizon for her phone records. Of the more than 20 subpoenas captured in 2021, Harris' is among the eight still pending.

The Trump administration, together with the CIA, also reportedly plotted to kidnap—and possibly even assassinate—WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who has been held in a London jail since 2019, Yahoo! News reported in September. In October, more than two-dozen major civil liberties and human rights groups groups, including FPF, sent a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland demanding that the DOJ drop its prosecution of Assange, underscoring “that the criminal case against him

poses a grave threat to press freedom both in the United States and abroad.” To date, Biden's DOJ has continued the Trump administration's case against Assange, and in December, an appeals court in the United Kingdom said it would allow the US to proceed in extraditing him.

And while we only documented one prior restraint for all of 2021, even one is noteworthy. On November 11, a New York state court ordered the New York Times not to publish information around the group Project Veritas, the first prior restraint for the newspaper since the Pentagon Papers case 50 years ago. That prior restraint, which was struck down by the Supreme Court in a landmark decision in 1971, only lasted 15 days. As of this writing, this latest prior restraint remains in place, confounding press-freedom groups.

*Kirstin McCudden is the vice president of editorial for Freedom of the Press Foundation and managing editor of the US Press Freedom Tracker.*

*This article was originally published by Columbia Journalism Review. Visit <https://www.cjr.org/analysis/2021-press-freedom-prior-restraint-arrests.php> to read the articles online.*

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## MINUTES - cont. from page 2

- C. The board heard an update from Patterson Plank on the year-end consolidated financials.
- D. The board received a board attendance report.

The meeting was recessed at 9:39 a.m. to conduct the Annual Meeting of the INA Services Co.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:41 a.m.

The meeting was recessed at 9:41 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:44 a.m. on for the election of officers. A quorum was present.

### Votes taken:

- A. On a motion by Brummond, and seconded by Buenger, the following slate of officers was elected:

- President- Debbie Anselm, Davenport Quad-City Times
- Vice President- Trevis Mayfield, Maquoketa Sentinel-Press
- Sec/Treasurer- Abigail Pelzer, Marshalltown Times-Republican
- Member-at-large- Zack Kucharski, Cedar Rapids Gazette
- Executive Director- Susan Patterson Plank, Iowa Newspaper Association

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Patterson Plank

# FREE MEMBER EXCHANGE

## ▼ HELP WANTED

**EDITOR.** Immediate opening for an Editor to produce news, sports and photo content for print, website and social media to grow already-strong circulation and reader engagement for 155-year-old award-winning eastern Iowa weekly newspaper. Work with our team of experienced professionals at affiliated newspapers, Eldridge North Scott Press and West Liberty Index to fulfill our mission: "To provide information to readers in an accurate, dependable and professional manner which reflects the uniqueness and similarities of the communities it serves."

Résumé with references: [btubbs@northscottpress.com](mailto:btubbs@northscottpress.com)

**EDITOR.** Seeking an Editor to oversee the newsroom operations of our 3-day-per-week well established community newspaper in Le Mars, Iowa.

The editor will be a reporter who is also responsible for organizing the newsroom. Working/coordinating with other office department heads, dealing with the public. The Editor will be well organized and efficient planner, team player and ambassador of the newspaper.

Some of the duties will include but not limited to : Design/layout of several news pages including the front page, update website and social media accounts, write multiple stories per day, take photos, organize and assign assignments for reporters, copy editing, format press release, point of contact for the community, attend community events, photo orders, contact for special occasion announcements, conduct weekly news meeting, decide what stories will publish on a given day and what stories can be held for future publication. Maintaining the newsroom budget and preparing the next year budget. Review all expenses and assure they are necessary to the department. Being team leader of the newsroom.

Preferred candidate will have a : solid journalism background covering a variety of areas, knowledge using Adobe software and experience with social media and online strategies.

The Daily Sentinel offers a competitive salary and solid benefits package.

To apply for this position email a cover letter, resume' and examples of your work – writing- layouts to -Publisher monte Josy , [mjost70@gmail.com](mailto:mjost70@gmail.com) or mail to 41 1st Ave Ne Le Mars Iowa 51031 Attn: Publisher. 01.12

**NEWS SERVICES COORDINATOR.** Do you have a passion for writing that matters? Do you thrive in a collaborative work environment? Are you a go-getter with high initiative and keen attention to detail that meets deadlines? If so, this News Services Coordinator opportunity could be a great fit for you!

Who We Are: At Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF), we are committed to the people, progress, and pride of Iowa. IFBF is Iowa's largest farm organization, established in 1918. We remain a statewide, non-profit grassroots farm organization dedicated to our mission of creating a vibrant future for agriculture, farm families, and their communities. We work for family farmers in areas critical to the success of their farm enterprises, from representing their public policy interests at the local, state, and national levels, to enhancing market opportunities and providing cutting-edge information to enhance their decision-making abilities. In addition to working for farmers, we are strengthening rural communities, investing in youth and education, and promoting quality healthcare - serving Iowans in all walks of life.

What You'll Do: The News Services Coordinator is a high-profile position where you will oversee the weekly news gathering, story placement, and layout of the Iowa Farm

Bureau Spokesman, a key vehicle for communicating state and national legislative and general news of interest to over 153,000 Farm Bureau members in Iowa. You will also write and edit articles for the Farm Bureau website, blog, e-newsletter, podcast and other outlets. Additional responsibilities will include:

- Create content and write stories for the Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman and other news sources related to national policy; crop and livestock production and production costs; conservation, technology and the Shop and Field column.

- Work with freelancers to ensure news events of interest to members are covered and timely articles are published in the Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman and other outlets as directed.

- Coordinate with the News Services Manager to determine which articles and photographs will be produced for the Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman.

- Manage the weekly production of the Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman by running the weekly news meeting; determining which stories and photographs to run and making sure they are produced during the week, including ROP.

- Manage the layout of the Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman. Determine where stories and photos will be placed and assign layout duties to staffers.

- Contribute blog entries to Farm Fresh and articles for the Farm Bureau website and conduct interviews for the Spokesman Speaks podcast.

- Collaborate with the News Services Manager on exploring and implementing alternative news delivery methods to meet member needs.

- Work with Time Citizens Communications to make sure that the weekly pages are at the press and ready to be printed.

- Determine which Spokesman stories will be used on the Iowa Farm Bureau Internet pages and make sure those stories are posted.

- Identify and manage the Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman crop reporters from a cross section of the state that provide readers first-hand knowledge of crop conditions during the growing season.

External Application Link: <https://fbfs.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/3/home/requisition/3251?c=fbfs> 03.09

**REGIONAL REPORTER.** The Telegraph Herald in Dubuque, IA is looking for a confident journalist comfortable keeping tabs on a portion of our coverage area. He or she will handle everything from features to hard news, from education to politics, and must be as adept at breaking a story on our website in the middle of the afternoon as on the front page the next morning. The position will provide an opportunity for a diversity of stories and trend pieces. Primary responsibilities include writing news and feature stories, taking video and using social media to gather information and inform readers.

Prior professional or collegiate media experience is required. Prior experience at a daily newspaper is preferred, but we are willing to consider any talented journalist. New graduates of collegiate journalism programs are encouraged to apply.

Joining our team offers more than just the daily grind of churning out small stories. Reporters have time to tackle Sunday centerpieces on larger issues and to craft strong series. Investigative reporting and data-driven work also is encouraged.

Our salaries are very competitive with others in the industry. In addition, our employee-owned paper offers the possibility of raises after one year, and current employees earn shares

**MEMBER EXCHANGE** - cont. on page 5

## ▶ local & personal

Ronald Alyisious Colling, age 88, of Manning, IA, and formerly of Sanborn, IA, passed away Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at the Manning Regional Healthcare Center in Manning. Colling was owner of the Manning Monitor and formerly of the Manilla Times

### MEMBER EXCHANGE - cont. from page 4

in the company annually that vest after five years, providing another significant financial benefit. Additionally, due to our local ownership, the important decisions about our products are made by people who live and work in our community. Visit our website to learn more about this employee-owned organization.

Want to know more about our beautiful tri-state area right on the Mississippi River? Learn more from Greater Dubuque Development Corp. by clicking here: <https://www.greaterdubuque.org/>  
APPLY ONLINE: <http://www.wcinet.com/career-opportunities>

The Telegraph Herald is a product of TH Media, a division of Woodward Communications, Inc. (WCI). WCI is an equal-opportunity employer. 03.09

**REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER.** With the Eastern Iowa Media Group, we don't just drop you into a job, we all work together and co-mentor to get everyone's best. We have a strong, collaborative news gathering organization that's looking for talented journalists who know how to relay important news in a way that people can understand and enjoy reading. Our reporters are a team within a team, and we've all got one another's backs as we are constantly learning what drives our local communities - and then teaching our readers about it.

As part of our fun and close-knit team, you get to:

- Learn new thing
- Write informative news storie
- Meet new peopl
- Be part of a team within a tea
- Entertain readers with dynamic feature article
- Take engaging photograph
- Attend events throughout the area

Advancement opportunities are available for the right candidate.

The job averages 37 hours a week and is based in Dyersville, IA. It includes a comprehensive benefit package including health, dental, paid time off, tuition reimbursement, retirement, gym membership reimbursement, employee stock ownership (ESOP) and much more.

The Eastern Iowa Media Group is part of Woodward Community Media, a division of Woodward Communications, Inc., an employee-owned company based in Dubuque, Iowa.

Apply online at <http://www.wcinet.com/career-opportunities> 03.09

### ▼ FOR SALE

**FOR SALE-HAND OPERATED ADVANTAGE PAPER CUTTER WITH A PATENT OF JULY 23, 1889.** 2 blades included. Works fine. Best offer. Must come and get it. Best offer. Contact, Ron Slechta, The News, 419 B Avenue, Kalona, IA. 319-656-2273 or [publisher@thenews-ia.com](mailto:publisher@thenews-ia.com) 02.16

**FREE-2 ARTWAXERS AND A LABEL DISPENSER FOR MAILING.** Must pay shipping or come and get them. Contact, Ron Slechta, The News, 419 B Avenue, Kalona, IA. 319-656-2273 or [publisher@thenews-ia.com](mailto:publisher@thenews-ia.com) 02.16

**FOR SALE: WESTERN IOWA WEEKLY NEWSPAPER NEAR SIOUX CITY.** Legals for two counties, five schools and eight towns. Strong community support. Phone 712-870-9807

*View and submit ads on the Internet at [www.INAnews.com](http://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@inaneews.com](mailto:cgordon@inaneews.com).*