



Bulletin



Save the Dates!

Sunshine Week

March 10-16, 2024

NPA Annual Convention

April 26-27, 2024

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel / Lincoln

National Newspaper Assn. Foundation Convention & Trade Show

September 26-28, 2024

Embassy Suites, Omaha, NE
(downtown Old Market)

Call for Nominations - don't delay!

Master Editor-Publisher

The Master Editor-Publisher Award is back for 2024!

The last award was given in 2019, to Kent Warneke. *The award was put on hold during COVID ('20/'21); Allen Beermann's retirement event ('22); and NPA's 150th Anniversary Convention ('23).* **The award is based on this criteria:**

- The nominee has worked hard and lived honorably
- The nominee has thought soundly and influenced unselfishly
- The nominee, through his or her newspaper connections, has been active in a variety of ways in his or her community or in the state or nation. This may or may not include being active in press association affairs
- The nominee has been a practitioner of his or her craft in the production of a quality newspaper product.

Any past nominations that were submitted for this award must be re-submitted for 2024 consideration. Deadline to submit nominations is February 26, 2024. The list of past recipients is attached to the Bulletin.

Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist

The Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist Award was created and funded in 2001 by Zean and Marilyn Carney. Zean is a past president of the Nebraska Press Association, Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame inductee, Master Editor-Publisher recipient, and is the retired publisher of the Wahoo Newspaper, Waverly News, Ashland Gazette and David City Banner-Press.

The annual award – administered by the NPA and Nebraska Press Advertising Service -- was established to recognize the outstanding work of the state's young journalism talent. **The Young Journalist Awards will be recognized at the NPA Convention Awards Luncheon on Saturday, April 27, at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln, NE. Nomination deadline is (postmarked by) February 23, 2024.**

Golden Pica Pole Award

Any person who has worked in the Nebraska newspaper business for 50 years or more, is eligible to receive a Golden Pica Pole Award. **Pica Pole Awards (certificate and pica pole) will be recognized at the NPA Convention Awards Luncheon on Saturday, April 27, at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln, NE. Nomination deadline is February 23, 2024.**

Call for Entries - 2024 Omaha World-Herald Contest!

Omaha World-Herald

Community Service & Service to Agriculture Awards

One winner may be selected in each of the five circulation categories.

Omaha World-Herald Awards will be recognized during the NPA 2024 Convention, Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln, NE. Contest entry deadline is (postmarked by) Friday, February 23, 2024.

Award nomination forms/criteria & OWH contest entry guidelines are attached to the Bulletin.

CONTACT INFO:

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FAX: 402-476-2942

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Web Site: <http://www.nebpress.com>

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Prairie Doc Perspectives offer free, weekly columns with focus on rural

health topics



Prairie Doc® Perspectives' health care columns provide the public with free, accurate information written by trusted, local health professionals. Their weekly columns are published in more than 500 newspapers across SD, ND, NE, KS, WY, MT and IL.

Several Nebraska newspapers already publish these free columns as a service to their readers - and they've given the columns high marks. Papers can publish the columns on a weekly basis, or as you have space available.

To sign up to receive the free, weekly Prairie Doc columns - sent directly to your newspaper each week, email: contact@prairiedoc.org.

Their mailing address: Healing Words Foundation, PO Box 752, Brookings, SD 57006. **To view past Prairie Doc columns, go to: <https://www.prairiedoc.org/blog>**

Save the dates!

**2024 NPA Annual Convention
Fri. & Sat., April 26 & 27, 2024**

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln, NE

Details coming soon.

Sunshine Week is March 10-16, 2024

Sunshine Week is March 10 to 16, to coincide with the National Freedom of Information Day, which occurs on the same day.



Sunshine Week highlights the importance of open government and the dangers of excessive and unnecessary secrecy.

For decades, Sunshine Week has provided an annual rallying point for educational initiatives, including in-depth newspaper reporting projects, government proclamations, and public education. All U.S. residents have the right

to attend public meetings and see government documents through "sunshine laws," shedding light on issues of public importance.

Beginning in 2024, the News Leaders Association (NLA), which has led the annual Sunshine Week campaign nationally since 2005, has transferred the public awareness campaign and coordination over to the Joseph L. Brechner Freedom of Information (FOI) Project at the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications. The Brechner FOI Project has provided education and research in acquiring civic information since its inception in 1977. On Dec. 8, 2023, the News Leaders Association board voted to dissolve the organization in June 2024.

Sunshine Week resources - logos, events, quizzes/games and articles will be available soon on the website:

<https://sunshineweek.org/>

We encourage you to write and share editorials, stories and columns about the importance of openness to your community. Make plans to educate your readers about "sunshine laws" and what they mean for you and your community. It's your right to know.

Strategic planning session brought many issues to light

Twenty people with a combined 600-plus years of newspaper experience, sat around a rectangle of tables in Kearney's Crowne Plaza hotel earlier this month.

The group included several NPA past presidents, and nearly all current NPA, NPAS and NPA Foundation Board members.

We faced a daunting challenge.

We were tasked with the goal of examining the big issues facing the Nebraska Press Association, One Press and the Nebraska Press Association Foundation.

The group asked a lot of questions - big, existential questions.

- Why does the Association exist ?
- What do our members want from NPA/NPAS ?
- What does success for the Association look like?
- How is the industry to survive if we can't find qualified people to work for our newspapers, and people to take over once the Old Guard retires?

After four hours of discussions, a couple things became clear.

Everyone agreed the Association needs to continue its work to ensure Nebraska newspapers remain the source to publish legal notices.

The NPA will, of course, continue to monitor current legislative bills to make sure nothing changes with current statutes. But NPA leaders also agreed this isn't enough.

Our Association needs to be proactive on this issue and set in motion a plan for discussions over the summer with representatives of the major players placing public notices — the Nebraska League of Municipalities, Nebraska Association of School Boards Association, Nebraska Association of County Officials, the Bar Association, and others.

Nebraska's current public notice laws are better than what many states have, but they are not guaranteed to stay in place forever. In some states, newspapers have lost public notices and we need to work hard so we don't join their ranks.

By having frank discussions with the leaders of these organizations, the intent is to find a long-term agreement on public notices that would keep newspapers as the essential independent, third-party in the public notice process.

Everyone was also in complete agreement on a few other items.

The Association will need more revenue if it is going to be able to tackle the issues and provide the support member newspapers need.

We realize that member newspapers are not in a financial position to make significant increases in NPA dues

and fees, though.

Since the Association needs more revenue, and member newspapers can't afford a big rate increase, it was proposed that the Association sell four quarter-page ads per year and keep 100 percent of the revenue from those sales. That way NPA members would help the Association by donating ad space, instead of by writing a bigger check.

We also agreed it would be beneficial to find a good grant writer to help bring in funds to help support another possible revenue stream for the Association - Kid Scoop News.

Communication between NPA and its members was also discussed.

It's sad, but for being communicators, I have to admit, we sometimes do a terrible job of communicating.

That's exactly why NPAS President Marcia Hora and I decided back in November that we would try to better communicate with members through these columns.

Back when I was NPAS President, nearly 20 years ago, now, columns like this were an effective tool to help keep folks up to date on the issues facing our industry

Marketing, or the lack of it, was also discussed at our strategic planning session.

Our daily and weekly newspaper staffs produce phenomenal products each week, but we are battling a perception — a misperception — that we are no longer a relevant source for news and information.

We all know that's simply not true.

People still love to read about the people and happenings of their community, but they do a lot of it from their phones and computers these days and not just by picking up a printed copy of their community newspaper.

It will take all of us — large and small members alike — to educate the public about our many news and advertising platforms.

We also took note that most of the people in the room had been in the business for 30 years or more and came to the realization that if our Association and our industry are to survive, we have got to make a concerted effort to get more people involved in our industry, both as owner/publishers and as editors, reporters, designers, and sales people.

To that end, we decided to take better advantage of some of the resources available to us and identified possible groups and state agencies that might help us make ownership transitions and recruit and train talent.

These are just a few of the highlights from our discussions. Anyone who would like to further discuss these issues, or anyone that feels like there are other issues that need to be discussed, please don't hesitate to drop me a note, or give me a call at ccnews@mac.com or 402-254-3997.



Rep. Adrian Smith sends letter to USPS expressing ‘strong concerns’ on possible North Platte facility closure

In an open letter February 6, Nebraska Rep. Adrian Smith expressed strong concerns to U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy over consideration of moving North Platte’s USPS mail processing and distribution center to Denver.

The U.S. Postal Service announced January 10, that it is reviewing the potential efficiency of transferring mail operations to a center in Denver, more than 250 miles from North Platte.

The congressman released the following statement:

“The postal service has an alarming track record of disproportionately targeting rural service in an effort to save money. While USPS must address the billions of dollars it is losing each year, any reform must preserve its fundamental duty to provide reliable mail service to all Americans. Adding days to delivery times and undermining customer satisfaction is not a solution to these fiscal issues. I will continue to work to protect Third District from counterproductive rural postal closures, and ensure USPS decisions are made with customer impacts in mind.”

He noted that the on-time delivery rate for first-class mail is slipping. In 2022, 91% of first-class mail was delivered on time in an average of 2.5 days. In the first quarter of 2023, the on-time rate dropped to 84%. And in the Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota region in the second quarter of 2023, the on-time rate was only 72.6%.

Smith said the North Platte P&DC is “central to many of western Nebraska’s postal functions, (and) consolidation would further compromise the situation.”

Past consolidations in 2013 and 2015 have added hundreds of miles to the distance that mail travels to reach customers in Nebraska. “While I appreciate the public comment period provided for the MPFR (Mail Processing Facility Review), I remain concerned local views will be disregarded, as they were in 2013 and 2015,” he wrote.

Last week, newspapers in Stapleton, North Platte, Mullen, Springview and Broken Bow published editorials and articles alerting readers of USPS’ potential closure of the North Platte mail facility.

Rep. Smith’s February 6 letter to the Postmaster General is attached to the Bulletin.



Postal Service Allows a Grace Period for Implementation of the USPS Electronic Postage Statement Requirement

Grace period effective through Mar. 31, 2024.

To provide mailers additional time to comply with the discontinuance of hardcopy postage statements policy change, there will be a limited-time grace period. During the grace period, the Postal Service will continue to accept and process hard copy postage statements that are presented to PostalOne! locations.

The Postal Service will allow this grace period following the implementation of this policy change on January 28, 2024. **This grace period is effective through March 31, 2024. At that time, mailers will be required to comply with the new policy change and submit their BMEU Domestic postage statements electronically. Mailers are encouraged to adopt the new policy as soon as possible.**

USPS has created a strike team to specifically assist customers with this transition.

Any of these USPS contacts can assist you with questions, etc:

IN LINCOLN:

Michelle Hayden, 402-473-1799;

Michael Sindorf, 402-473-1618

IN OMAHA:

Jamie Betts, 402-348-2871;

Lori Thrapp, 402-348-2867;

Sydney Anderson, 402-348-2867

The Postal Service is discontinuing the use of hardcopy postage statements to improve efficiency by expediting the acceptance of commercial mail. Except for Electronic Verification System (eVS®) mailings, all domestic commercial mailings must use an approved electronic method to transmit a postage statement to the PostalOne!@system.

- Mailers should be aware that there are approved third-party software options available on PostalPro at <https://postalpro.usps.com/Full-Service-Cert>.
- Electronic documentation by eDoc submission can decrease the quantity of undocumented errors.
- IMsb and Postal Wizard@are both options the USPS provides through the Business Customer Gateway.

Mailers that are currently working with an approved software vendor should contact their software provider for electronic submission solutions.

SAVE THE DATE
Sept. 26–27, 2024

NNAFOUNDATION.ORG/CONVENTION

Nonmembers welcome; pay the member price



Have you earned your press pass?

The web-based course, *Earn Your Press Pass*, teaches the fundamentals of journalism.



Thanks to funding from the NPA Foundation, the course is available to all Nebraska Press members/staff at no cost.

Earn Your Press Pass began as a cooperative project with Kansas Press Association and Lindsey Young, part owner of Kansas Publishing Ventures, which operates four community weekly newspapers in south central Kansas. Lindsey, a former high school teacher, has experience instructing students in everything from English to public speaking to journalism.

This training will be especially helpful for employees with limited journalism training or experience, early-career journalists and freelancers.

Training topics include newspaper basics, interviewing & reporting skills, sourcing considerations, news judgement, headline & cutline writing, AP Style, copy editing & basic photography. The *Earn Your Press Pass* course designed to go at your own pace & fit your schedule. Members who complete the entire course will receive a Certificate of Completion.

Since NPA began promoting the course in May 2023, 56 people from 30 different member newspapers have enrolled in the *Earn Your Press Pass* course!

To enroll in the course, contact Susan Watson, nebpress@nebpress.com, or Violet Spader, vs@nebpress.com.

Staff reporter's comments after completing the course:

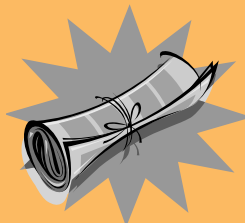
"The course was very helpful and I received the certificate for completing the course, and I printed a copy to put on my desk. It was a very comprehensive and easy to follow course. I thought the section about conducting interviews was particularly informative, and having that topic right up front was a good idea.

Going forward, a section could be added to the course about what to expect while working in a newsroom. Maybe an emphasis on working with editors, especially with the ongoing trend of publications moving online. Also include a brief overview of how all the parts come together to make a finished newspaper product."

T.S., North Platte Telegraph

Network Ad Order Forms

Network ad order forms can now be found on the NPA website in the weekly download folders for 2x2s and NCANs.



The order forms are also attached to this Bulletin.

Thank You!

NPA members - newspaper staffs, Affiliate & Collegiate members, & board members - who helped judge South Carolina Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

We appreciate your time & expertise to help South Carolina newspapers!

Have a Legal Question?

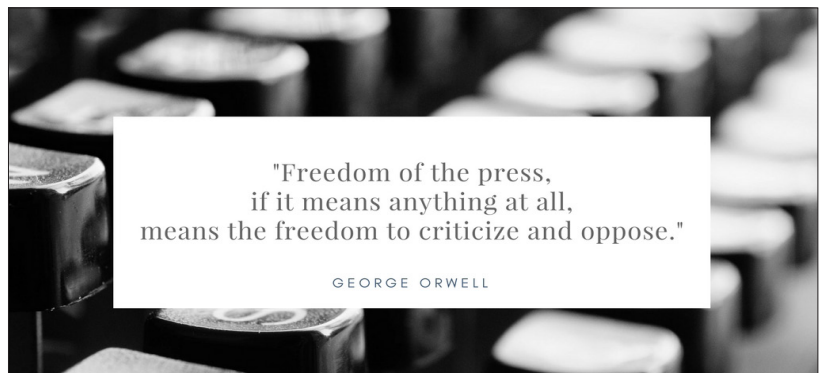
Call the Nebraska Press Association Legal Hotline

Max Kautsch,
Attorney at Law
Phone 785-840-0077
Fax 785-842-3039
maxk@kautschlaw.com
kautschlaw.com



Max Kautsch

785-840-0077



"Freedom of the press,
if it means anything at all,
means the freedom to criticize and oppose."

GEORGE ORWELL

Classified Advertising Exchange

February 12, 2024

NEWSPAPER FOR SALE: The Dakota County Star in South Sioux City, Nebraska is available for purchase. The Star is an award-winning weekly newspaper that serves a growing and diverse market area in the north-east corner of the state bordering Sioux City, Iowa along the Missouri River. It is competitively priced and would be an outstanding opportunity for a first-time buyer or to add to an established company's media portfolio. Direct inquiries to Jason Sturek of Sturek Media, Inc. at 402-922-0982.

ATTACHED TO THE BULLETIN:

- Award Nomination Forms/Criteria
Master Editor-Publisher
Outstanding Young NE Journalist
Pica Pole**
- Omaha World-Herald Contest
Guidelines (Community Service &
Service to Ag)**
- Rep. Smith's Letter Postmaster
General**
- Network Ad Order Forms
(2x2s & NCANs)**

Advertising in the Classified Advertising Exchange is no charge for NPA members and \$10 per week for non-members (approximately 25 words). It's a great way to sell or find equipment, hire a new employee, advertise a service you provide, sell or buy a newspaper. Only Nebraska member newspapers may advertise for help wanted for Nebraska newspapers. No out-of-state help wanted advertisements accepted.

Mail, email or fax us your ad copy by noon Friday for the following weeks' Bulletin. Contact Susan Watson in the NPA office: (402)476-2851/NE: 800-369-2850, or email: nebpress@nebpress.com.



Nebraska Press Association
 Master Editor-Publisher Award
 Nomination Form

The Best of
THE BEST

2024

Eligibility: This award may be given to any person who at the time of the selection is a present or former publisher or editor of a Nebraska Newspaper, either weekly or daily. Nominations must come from an executive or employee of a Nebraska newspaper which is a member of the NPA; however, no family member may nominate another family member.

The selection procedure: The president of the Nebraska Press Association shall name four other members to join him or her in the selection process.

No committee member may be among the nominees. This award may be given to any person who at the time of the selection is a present or former publisher or editor of a Nebraska newspaper, either weekly or daily.

The committee members will vote for the person they wish to receive the award based on this criteria:

- The nominee has worked hard and lived honorably;
- The nominee has thought soundly and influenced unselfishly;
- The nominee, through his or her newspaper connections, has been active in a variety of ways in his or her community or in the state or nation. This may or may not include being active in press association affairs;
- The nominee has been a practitioner of his or her craft in the production of a quality newspaper product.

Any past nominees would need to be re-nominated.

I nominate:

 (name)

 (newspaper)

 (address)

 (city, state zip)

Nominated by:

 (your name)

 (newspaper)

 (address)

 (city, state zip)

Please include a biography and any letters of recommendation along with this nomination form to supply information that will be helpful in deciding the award winner. Information should be as complete as possible.

**Nomination entries must be received at the NPA office
 no later than February 26, 2024.**

The recipient will be honored at the Friday banquet (April 26) at the 2024 NPA Annual Convention, Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, NE. Please complete and return this form to:

**Susan Watson, Nebraska Press Association
 845 "S" St., Lincoln, NE 68508.**

Nebraska Press Association
Master Editor-Publisher Winners

1972	Joe W. Seacrest, Lincoln	2000	Ken Rhoades, Blair
1973	Fred Seaton, Hastings	2001	Loral Johnson, Imperial
1974	Jack Lough, Albion	2002	Alton "Mook" Wilhelms, Stromsburg
1975	Ronald R. Furse, Aurora	2003	Clancy Hebda, Lincoln
1976	James Kirkman, North Platte	2004	Richard L. Lindberg, West Point
1977	Jack Lowe, Sidney	2005	R.L. "Butch" Furse, Aurora
1978	Lyman P. Cass, Ravenna	2006	William "Bill" Nuckolls, Fairbury
1979	Harold Andersen, Omaha	2007	Ted Huettmann, Wisner
1980	J. Alan Cramer, Wayne	2008	John Gottschalk, Omaha
1981	Bob Bogue, Oakland	2009	Dean Dorsey, Cozad
1982	Dwight King, Holdrege	2010	Gilbert M. Savery, Lincoln
1983	George Miller, Plattsmouth	2011	Zean Carney, Wahoo
1984	Joe R. Seacrest, Lincoln	2012	Donald R. Russell, Sutton
1985	Everette Waters, Bertrand	2013	Ted Gill, Arapahoe
1986	Henry Mead, Seward	2014	Gene Morris, McCook
1987	Henry Trysla, South Sioux City	2015	Elna Johnson, Imperial
1988	Ray Dover, Valentine	2016	Greg Viergutz, Gothenburg
1989	Norris Alfred, Polk	2017	John Edgecombe, Jr., Geneva
1990	Fred Rose, Ainsworth	2018	Charlyne Berens, Seward
1991	Jack Tarr, David City	2019	Kent Warneke, Norfolk
1992	David Beliles, Grand Island	2020-2023	No Award Given
1993	Jack Pollock, Ogallala		
1994	Doug Duncan, Papillion		
1995	Bob Pinkerton, Kimball		
1996	Lee Warneke, Plainview		
1997	Jerry Huse, Norfolk Daily News		
1998	Lloyd Reeves, Crete News		
1999	Arnold "Arnie" Kuhn, Hemingford		



OUTSTANDING YOUNG NEBRASKA JOURNALIST AWARD

NEBRASKA PRESS ASSOCIATION



PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

The OUTSTANDING YOUNG NEBRASKA JOURNALIST AWARD was created and funded in 2001 by Zean and Marilyn Carney. Zean is a past president of the Nebraska Press Association, Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame inductee, Master Editor-Publisher recipient, and is the retired publisher of the Wahoo Newspaper, Waverly News, Ashland Gazette and David City Banner-Press.

The annual award -- administered by the Nebraska Press Association and the Nebraska Press Advertising Service/OnePress -- was established to recognize the outstanding work of the state's young journalism talent. The winner receives a plaque and a \$500 cash stipend; the runner-up receives a plaque.

The competition is open to all weekly and daily newspaper journalists, including reporters, photographers, graphic designers, production and advertising professionals, working full time for any legal Nebraska newspaper.

One winner and runner-up from all weekly and daily entries will be recognized at the NPA Convention's Saturday Awards Luncheon on April 27, 2024 at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, NE.

The nominee must be under the age of 30, as of December 31, 2023. Past winners are not eligible to enter again.

A panel of judges, appointed by the NPA/NPAS executive director, will consider each nominee's professionalism, creativity, career goals, impact on their community, and overall journalistic excellence.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

1. The young journalist, or his or her editor or publisher, may submit entry nominations. The nominating newspaper, publisher or executives must be members of the Nebraska Press Association.
2. Nominees must submit six examples of their work product (published within the previous 2 years) along with a statement from their editor or publisher, as well as a statement from a person of the nominee's choice attesting to his or her qualifications.
3. Each entry must include a statement of no fewer than 150 words, written by the nominee, telling of his or her journalistic goals. This statement must be included with all other entry materials. **The nominee must also submit a photo copy of their Nebraska driver's license.**
4. All entries should be sent in a 9x12 envelope to the NPA office in Lincoln (address below). The envelope should be clearly labeled "Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist Award."
5. If entry materials must be returned after the competition, special arrangements should be made with the NPA office staff. Contest materials, with the permission of nominees, may be used for education or instructional purposes by NPA/NPAS.
6. Winners will give permission to NPA to have their work published in the contest online or print publications produced for conventions or shown during any photo galleries, videos or presentations.
7. **The deadline for nomination submissions is (POSTMARKED BY) FEBRUARY 23, 2024.**
8. If you have questions, please contact the NPA/OnePress office located at 845 "S" St., Lincoln NE 68508. Phone: 800-369-2850 or 402-476-2851. Email: nebpress@nebpress.com.

**Nomination submissions must be
POSTMARKED BY FEBRUARY 23, 2024!**



Nebraska Press Association Golden Pica Pole Award

(50 or more years service to Nebraska newspapers)

Nomination Form



Name of nominee: _____ Phone: _____

Current Mailing address of nominee: _____

Number of years employed in newspaper business: _____

Locations Worked:

No. of Years:

Locations Worked:	No. of Years:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Is the nominee presently employed? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, where presently employed? _____

Present job title: _____

Nomination submitted by: _____

Title: _____

Newspaper: _____

Date: _____

Return this form no later than February 23, 2024 to:



Nebraska Press Association
Attn: Susan Watson
845 "S" Street, Lincoln, NE 68508-1226
(402)476-2851, NE: (800)369-2850, FAX: (402)476-2942
e-mail: nebpress@nebpress.com



2024
Omaha World-Herald
Community Service
Award

Deadline:

Entries must be **POSTMARKED BY**
February 23, 2024.

Classes:

Division A: Up to 699 circulation
Division B: 700 to 999
Division C: 1,000 to 1,899
Division D: 1,900 and up
Division E: Dailies - All circulations

Prizes:

One winner may be named in each of the five circulation categories. Each class winner will receive an award.

What to Enter:

On a one-page cover letter, explain what your newspaper has done to promote community service over the past year. Each entry should include **up to ten copies** of examples from your paper containing photos, stories, editorials, etc. that demonstrate your newspaper's commitment to community service. A letter of recommendation from outside source is optional. Cover letter and examples should fit in a 1-inch X 11½-inch three-ring binder. No large scrapbooks allowed. **Mail entries to: Nebr. Press Assn., 845 "S" Street, Lincoln, NE 68508**

Contest Theme:

Judges will consider cover letter and examples as evidence of your newspaper's community service. Premiums will be assigned to initiative, enterprise, originality and effectiveness.

Awards Presentation:

Awards will be presented at the 2024 NPA Convention at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, NE.

Questions? Contact NPA office: 800-369-2850/402-476-2851, or nebpress@nebpress.com.

**Deadline: Postmarked by Friday,
February 23, 2024.**

2024
Omaha World-Herald
Service to Agriculture
Award

Deadline:

Entries must be **POSTMARKED BY**
February 23, 2024.

Classes:

Division A: Up to 699 circulation
Division B: 700 to 999
Division C: 1,000 to 1,899
Division D: 1,900 and up
Division E: Dailies - All circulations

Prizes:

One winner may be named in each of the five circulation categories. Each class winner will receive an award.

What to Enter:

On a one-page cover letter, explain what your newspaper has done to promote service to agriculture over the past year. Each entry should include **up to ten copies** of examples from your paper containing photos, stories, editorials, etc. that demonstrate your newspaper's commitment to service to agriculture. A letter of recommendation from outside source is optional. Cover letter and examples should fit in a 1-inch X 11½-inch three-ring binder. No large scrapbooks allowed. **Mail entries to: Nebr. Press Assn., 845 "S" Street, Lincoln, NE 68508**

Contest Theme:

Judges will consider cover letter and examples as evidence of your newspaper's service to agriculture. Premiums will be assigned to initiative, enterprise, originality and effectiveness.

Awards Presentation:

Award will be presented at the 2024 NPA Convention at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, NE.

Questions? Contact NPA office: 800-369-2850/402-476-2851, or nebpress@nebpress.com.

**Deadline: Postmarked by Friday,
February 23, 2024.**

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2703

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General & Chief Executive Officer
USPS – Headquarters
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I write with strong concerns about the recent Notice of Intent to Conduct a Mail Processing Facility Review (MPFR) at the North Platte Mail Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) located on Industrial Avenue in North Platte, NE. Based on this proposal, it appears the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is again targeting rural postal facilities for consolidation in a manner inconsistent with its legal obligation to provide Americans with universal service. As you know, in 2013, outbound mail processing from the Grand Island and Norfolk Distribution Centers was consolidated into the Omaha Distribution Center, and the Alliance Distribution Center was consolidated into North Platte, each more than 120 miles away. Subsequently, in 2015, inbound mail processing was also consolidated from Grand Island to Omaha.

Per the notice of intent, the MPFR will evaluate the potential efficiency impact if operations performed by North Platte P&DC were transferred to the Denver, CO, P&DC more than 250 miles away. Also under consideration is the conversion of the North Platte Facility to a Local Processing Center, a Sorting and Delivery Center, or both. Transfer of postal operations from North Platte to Denver would leave only two remaining P&DCs in the state, both located in eastern Nebraska. The removal of postal operations from western Nebraska risks more delayed mail for my constituents.

Despite its promise of \$40 billion in new capital investments, USPS's Delivering for America plan risks harming rural communities in the Third District of Nebraska and across the nation. While action must be taken to address continued losses by USPS, including another \$6.5 billion deficit in FY23, this cannot come at the expense of customer service. According to the Delivering for America second-year progress report, in FY22, 91% of first-class mail was delivered on time and in an average time of 2.5 days. However, according to the USPS's service performance dashboard, in the first quarter of FY24, the on-time rate dropped to 84%, and in the Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota region in the second quarter of FY24, the on-time rate was only 72.6%.

I regularly hear from constituents about these mail delays and the inability of local postal officials to address the problem. With this MPFR, rural communities, which tend to have older populations who are more reliant on USPS, are being overlooked once again. The North Platte P&DC is central to many of western Nebraska's postal functions, consolidation would further

compromise the situation. While I appreciate the public comment period provided for the MPFR, I remain concerned local views will be disregarded, as they were in 2013 and 2015. I urge USPS to take into consideration the views of those affected by any future consolidation and insist those decisions are made with customer impacts in mind.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to working with you to ensure the Postal Service continues to serve the needs of all Nebraskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adrian Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Adrian" being more prominent than the last name "Smith".

Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Nebraska Press Association

ONEpress

ORDER FORM FOR NEWSPAPERS
Newspaper Display Ad Network

845 "S" St., Lincoln, NE 68508-1226 | (402) 476-2851 | vs@nebpress.com

Form with fields for Advertiser's Name, Full Address, Originating Newspaper, and checkboxes for ad sizes (2x2, 2x4, 2x6, 1x4, 1x8) and regions (Statewide, Northeast, Southeast, Central, Western).

Please place sample ad copy below. When you sell a 2x2, 1x4, 2x4, 1x8 or 2x6 SAU 50 ad, you must provide OnePress with an electronic ad transfer in the form of a .pdf (with all fonts embedded). Email ad copy to: vs@nebpress.com.

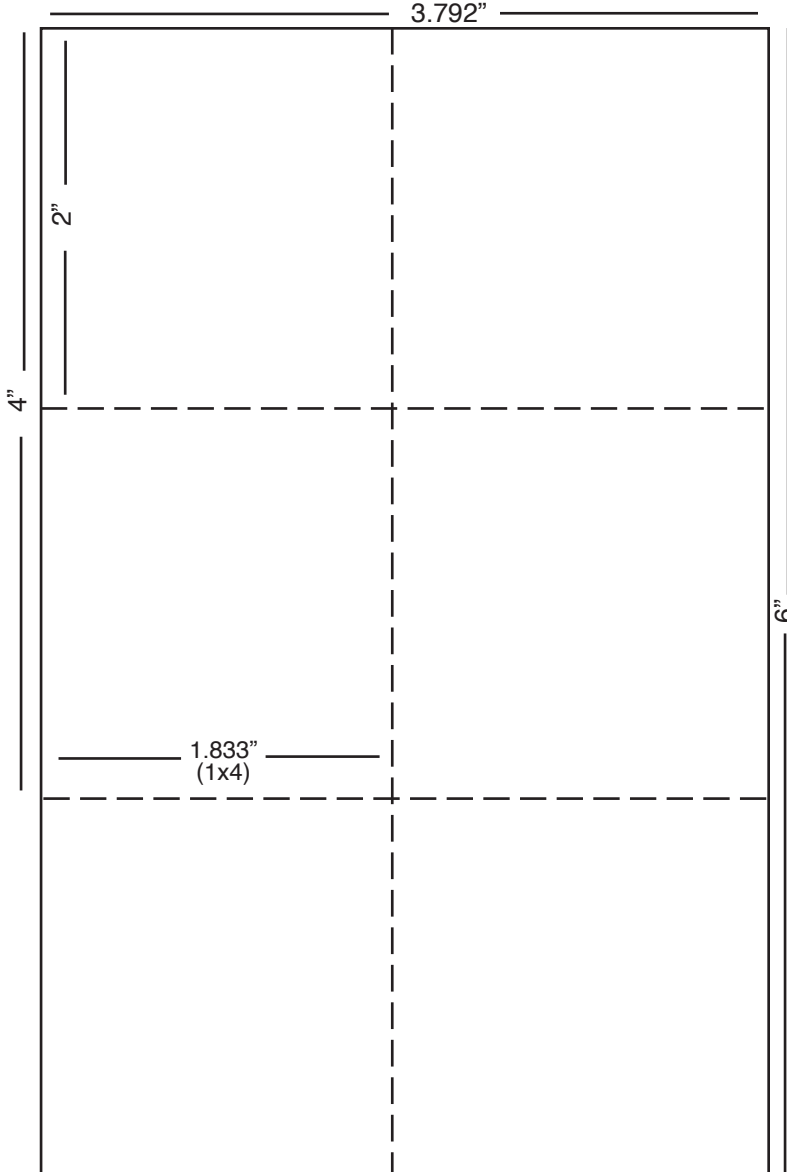
DEADLINE: The black/white pdf (with all fonts embedded) must be received by OnePress, 845 "S" Street, Lincoln, NE 68508-1226, by Thursday at 10am, preceding the week of insertion.

PAYMENT: Each ad submitted to OnePress must have check from the newspaper. If a statewide 2x2 or 1x4 display ad is sold, mail OnePress \$487.50 (newspaper retains balance of \$487.50). If a regional 2x2 or 1x4 display ad is sold, mail OnePress \$150.00 per SE or WE region; CE or NE Region-\$162.50. (newspaper retains balance of \$150.00 per SE or WE region, \$162.50-CE or NE Region). If a statewide 2x4 or 1x8 is sold, mail OnePress \$975 (newspaper retains balance of \$975). If a regional 2x4 or 1x8 is sold, mail NPAS \$300.00 per SE or WE region; \$325.00-CE or NE Region. (newspaper retains balance of \$300.00 per SE or WE region; \$325.00-CE or NE Region). If a statewide 2x6 is sold, mail OnePress \$1,125 (newspaper retains balance of \$1,125). If a regional 2x6 is sold, mail NPAS \$375.00 per SE or WE region; \$400.00-CE or NE Region. (newspaper retains balance of \$375.00 per SE or WE region; \$400.00-CE or NE Region).

PROOF OF PUBLICATION: OnePress does not guarantee 100% of participating newspapers will run an accepted ad. OnePress will monitor participants in the statewide 2x2 program periodically. At the advertiser's request, an affidavit or one tearsheet certifying an advertisement's appearance will be issued if requested at time of order.

RESTRICTIONS: The originating newspaper, OnePress, or any participating newspaper reserves the right to reject any ad. See 2x2 brochure for additional guidelines and restrictions.

ERRORS: Typographical errors (wrong address, telephone number, name, price, etc.) will require a make-good in the next edition of the participating newspaper in error.



Submit ads in the following three (3) sizes to accommodate the majority of newspapers in the network:

- 2x2
3.22" wide x 2" tall
3.22" wide x 2.35" tall
3.79" wide x 2" tall

- 2x4
3.22" wide x 4" tall
3.22" wide x 4.9" tall
3.79" wide x 4" tall

- 2x4
3.22" wide x 6" tall
3.22" wide x 7.45" tall
3.79" wide x 6" tall

Frequency Discounts

- Buy 2 weeks, get 3rd week 50% off
OR
Buy 3 weeks, get 4th week free

Please return a copy of this form to OnePress along with order.



Nebraska Press Association

ONEpress

**ORDER FORM FOR NEWSPAPERS
NCAN Classified Ad Network**

845 "S" St., Lincoln, NE 68508-1226 | (402) 476-2851 | vs@nebpress.com

Advertiser's Name _____ Full Address _____ _____ _____ Originating Newspaper _____	Start date _____	No. of insertions _____ Amount paid to OnePress _____
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Statewide: 25 words, \$225 • **West:** 25 words, \$150 • **East:** 25 words, \$150 (extra words at \$5 each)
Typewritten copy only.
Frequency Discount: Buy 2 consecutive weeks, receive 3rd week free. No copy changes.

DEADLINE: Copy must be received by NPAS, 845 "S" Street, Lincoln, NE 68508-1226, **by Thursday at 10 a.m.** preceding the week of insertion. **NO TELEPHONE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Use the above form to mail ad copy & payment to OnePress.

PAYMENT: Each ad submitted for NCAN MUST have a check from the newspaper in the amount of \$112.50 (newspaper retains balance of \$112.50, plus 50% of any additional word charges.) (East or West Region only \$75.00 to OnePress & \$75.00 to newspaper). Make checks payable to OnePress.

CIRCULATION: This statewide program delivers an estimated 450,000+ classified advertising readers each week based on scientific research of Nebraska newspaper readership.

PROOF OF PUBLICATION: OnePress does not guarantee 100% of participating newspapers will run an accepted ad. OnePress will monitor participants in the statewide classified program periodically. At the advertiser's request, an affidavit or one tearsheet will be issued.

WORD COUNT METHOD: Telephone number, including area code, is one word. City addresses include either: 1) the house number, street and direction; or 2) the post office box number as two words. Rural addresses include the box number and route number as two words. The name of the city, state, and ZIP code are each one word. E-mail addresses are counted as one word.

RESTRICTIONS: The originating newspaper, OnePress, or any participating newspaper reserves the right to reject any ad. "Work at home" ads subject to preapproval. See NCAN brochure for additional guidelines and restrictions.

ERRORS: Typographical errors (wrong address, telephone number, name, price, etc.) will require a make-good in the next edition of the participating newspaper in error.