



Our Members Speak Out

Why have professional communicators across the nation joined NFPW? Some of our members speak out...

Catherine Petrini, Virginia

"NFPW has introduced me to a diverse group of talented writers, editors and broadcasters throughout the country: a terrific source for advice, ideas and even freelancing assignments. Some of my best friends are NFPW members!"

Melissa Piper Nelson, Pennsylvania

"As a newspaper reporter living in an isolated area of eastern Montana in the 1980s, I wanted to learn more about newspaper editing, but I was 220 miles from the nearest large town and college. NFPW gave me the opportunity (through a mini-grant) to attend the seminar. Later I became the managing editor of a daily. I often think that was my stepping stone to further my journalism career, and I have been grateful many times over for that chance."

Glennis McNeal, Oregon

"Over the years NFPW has given me access to wisdom and experience beyond what was available to me locally. It's been valuable to meet people from other parts of the nation doing the same kind of work that I do, and who are generous in sharing their experiences and advice."

Vivien Sadowski, Kansas, Former NFPW President

"As one of six female publishers among 250 Kansas newspapers, NFPW gave me the confidence I needed to succeed in so many ways – opportunities for professional development and the networking and camaraderie among my peers that was impossible to find elsewhere."

Cynthia Price, Virginia

"The friendships forged are a huge bonus, but what NFPW really offers is a nationwide network of contacts in so many professions. I have called on members from Colorado and Kansas, to name a few, for suggestions and expertise."

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Karen Glines, Missouri

"Supportive, informative, an organization filled with camaraderie - all of these reasons and more drew me to NFPW. The leaders and members of National Federation of Press Women open their hearts and minds accepting each person as a unique individual who has significant ideas and goals that contribute to the overall strength of this fine group of communicators."

Shayne Del Cohen, Nevada

"Why join? For an annual reminder of what we are supposed to do, but don't always...Pithy - my kind of discoursing...because constant interaction with members creates a constant reality check, sets a high standard of professional excellence, provides an incredible network for the 'down days,' and is a constant source of amusement and amazement...To provide a comprehensive reminder and reinforcement of the very radical, revolutionary principles embodied in the U.S. Constitution and its experiment in representative democracy, to be reported and interpreted by a free press. "

Donna Hunt, Texas

"I joined NFPW 30 years ago because my newspaper publisher thought it was the thing to do. I have stayed in NFPW because I loved the camaraderie with other members. I still enjoy the programs at both state and national conferences because they help me continue to grow in my profession, and I enjoy being recognized by my peers for good work. The network of members across the country still is a great help to me now that I am retired and doing column and freelance writing."

Marlene Cook, Illinois

"Life is like a baby – you can't make it alone. Thank goodness I have NFPW to help me make it through when I have doubts about my abilities and begin thinking of quitting the race. The cost to join – \$75. The cost to participate – time. The friends and mentors – priceless."

Elizabeth Laden, Idaho

"Why do I renew my NFPW membership every year? For the same reason I prefer a restaurant with white linen and silver to a fast food joint. NFPW has ambiance and class. With those qualities come people who value traditional journalism spiced with promising new ideas. And, it helps that the Idaho affiliate's members are people I am proud to know and love to work with."

(more)

Betty Packard, California

“Over my 37 years as a member, I have participated in press women events that I never could have done as an individual. I have talked with the editors of Pravda while in Moscow, rafted down the Snake River and Colorado...seen the Lewis and Clark trail from the perspective of the American Indian. I have chatted with many esteemed members of Congress and sat in on press conferences in the White House and Executive Office Building; I have been motivated by outstanding national figures at conference who have given me insider knowledge I have chatted with Betty Ford and Hillary Rodham Clinton, both of whom gave me new insights into the demands of political life. Through attendance at conferences, I continue to share memories with some of the most wonderful women who have become great friends. My life would not have been nearly as complete had I ignored that first plea to join.

“The kind letters and remarks that I receive from journalism teachers, students and parents regarding their experiences with our high school journalism contest make me extremely proud to be a part of an organization which emphasizes and encourages a solid high school journalism program.”

Janice Denham, Missouri

“Press Women have honor and professional integrity. They work hard at their profession and are enthusiastic about what they do. They show responsibility toward each other as well as for themselves. They complement and compliment each other. They support each other, even when they compete doing the same work.”

Mary-Lynne Reiner, Washington

“NFPW was to me the greatest help of the myriad of things I belonged to. As a freelancer you don’t have a base, but my card gave me credibility and an entree to wonderful places all over the world. I’m sure I would never have published like I did without it. Thank you many times over.”

Suzy Barile, North Carolina

“I first joined a women’s press organization in the mid-1970s as a young reporter just out of college looking for some mentoring and support. As I moved around in later years, I continued my affiliation. When finally resettling in North Carolina, I immediately looked up NFPW and have been a busy member ever since. NFPW provides a place for professional growth, friendship and learning about the other fields of communication, and I encourage any young communicator to take advantage of the opportunity!”

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Sandy Mickelson, Iowa

“I joined Press Women in self defense. I started working at the Oshkosh, Wis., Northwestern, which had three die-hard members, so I couldn’t not join. I love contests. I love winning, though that doesn’t happen often enough. I just love the idea, the suspense of possibilities. Several years ago I moved to Iowa. I still love the contests, but I enjoy more getting together with other IPW members.”

Revised 7/04