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# HEADLINES & HIGH



*Stakes*

143rd SDNA Convention  
*April 30–May 2, 2026*  
The Lodge at Deadwood



## *From the president*

Welcome to the beautiful Black Hills!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you to the 143rd South Dakota NewsMedia Association convention. I may be the first to do so, but I certainly hope I'm not the last to welcome you!

I look forward to the SDNA convention every year. I have to admit, that anticipation is a little extra when the convention is in Deadwood. This year is no different. We think we have a great lineup of events set for all of you!

If you've been to more conventions than you can remember, welcome back. If this is your first convention, an extra welcome! Please come introduce yourself to me—and all the SDNA board members—and let us know more about you. We are so glad you are here, and we want you to feel welcome! It takes all of us to make this convention work, and it definitely takes all of us to make the SDNA work.

This year's lineup features some great sessions. I think you will learn a lot. There will also be plenty of fun. After all—we are in Deadwood! We will also celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Black Hills Pioneer. What a milestone!

I hope you plan to attend all of the sessions, all of the meals, and all of the fun. Get to know your colleagues. This is where we can celebrate all the things that make us similar. Our triumphs. Our losses. Our frustrations. Whether you need a shoulder to lean on, or some friends to have a laugh with, may you find it this weekend with your fellow SDNA members.

We are all here because we believe in journalism, and we believe it is something we are called to do. Never forget how important the work you are doing is. It always has mattered, and always will. Perhaps now more than ever.

Feel free to approach any of your SDNA board members with questions. Let's have some fun!

Welcome once again to your SDNA convention, as we explore Headlines and High Stakes together!



**Jason Ferguson**  
Custer County Chronicle,  
Custer

## *Board of Directors*

### 2025-2026 South Dakota NewsMedia Association Board of Directors



**Jason Ferguson**  
President  
...  
Custer County  
Chronicle,  
Custer



**Carson Walker**  
First Vice President  
...  
South Dakota  
News Watch



**Luke Hagen**  
Second  
Vice President  
...  
Mitchell Republic



**Mike Brownlee**  
Third Vice  
President  
...  
Rapid City Journal



**LeeAnne Dufek**  
At-Large Director  
...  
Hamlin County  
Publishing,  
Castlewood



**Jill Meier**  
At-Large Director  
...  
Brandon Valley  
Journal,  
Brandon



**Molly McRoberts**  
Immediate  
Past President  
...  
Potter County News,  
Gettysburg



**David Bordewyk**  
Executive Director

### South Dakota NewsMedia Association Staff

**John Brooks**  
Advertising Director

**Sandy DeBeer**  
Advertising & Public Notice  
Placement Coordinator

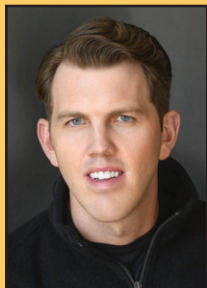
**Nicole Herrig**  
Business Director

**Katie Foiles**  
Advertising Assistant

**Grace Lehman**  
Tearsheet Coordinator

## Schedule of Events

### Featuring



**Kenny Katzgrau**  
Broadstreet



**Chase Moon**  
SDSU Extension



**Letti Lister**  
Black Hills Pioneer

### THURSDAY, APRIL 30

- 3:00 p.m. SDNA Board Meeting  
5-7:00 p.m. **Opening Reception**  
8:00 p.m. **Slots Tourney at**  
Deadwood Mountain Grand  
(*transportation on your own*)



**Jill Meier**  
Brandon Valley  
Journal

### FRIDAY, MAY 1 (MORNING)

- Breakfast on your own.  
*On-site options: The Lodge / Oggie's Bar & Grill*  
8:30 a.m. Registration Opens  
9:00 a.m. **Long Live Local News**  
with Kenny Katzgrau / Broadstreet  
9:45 a.m. **Challenges, Innovation**  
**and Opportunities**  
with Chase Moon / SDSU Extension  
10:45 a.m. Open Mic Session -  
"From Start Up to Sesquicentennial"  
with panelists Letti Lister, Jill Meier  
and Roger Whittle



**Roger Whittle**  
Watertown Current

- Noon **Lunch**  
**SURF 101**  
with Mike Ray / Sanford Underground Research Facility  
**Presentation of SDNA Eagle Award:**  
Rep. Mary J. Fitzgerald

## *Schedule of Events*

### Featuring



**Jeremy Waltner**  
Freeman Courier



**Kelli Bultena**  
Dirks, Van Essen  
& April

### FRIDAY, MAY 1 (AFTERNOON)

- 1:00 p.m. Presentation of SDNA Better NewsMedia Contest Awards
- 1:45 p.m. Quick Takes:
- Selling SDNA Network Ads
  - SDNA Legal Hotline
  - News Content Sharing:  
with SD News Watch / SD Searchlight / SDPB
- 2:30 p.m. **Selling Digital Advertising Locally**  
with Kenny Katzgrau
- 3:30 p.m. **Getting the Difficult Story in Your Community**  
with Jeremy Waltner / Freeman Courier
- 4:30 p.m. SDNA/SDNS Business Meetings
- 6:00 p.m. Reception
- 7:00 p.m. Banquet and Awards Presentation
- Outstanding Young Journalist
  - General Excellence & Sweepstakes
  - A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism
  - Strengthen Civil Society Journalism Award

### SATURDAY, MAY 2

- 8:00 a.m. Buffet Breakfast Served
- 8:30 a.m. **Buying / Selling / Retiring. Succession Planning  
for Community Newspapers**  
with Kelli Bultena / Dirks, Van Essen & April

Adjourn

# Hall of Fame

## S.D. Newspaper Hall of Fame

- 1934 - Alice B. Gossage, Rapid City Journal  
1935 - George W. Kingsbury, Yankton Press & Dakotan  
1935 - George Schlosser,  
Wessington Springs Republican  
1935 - Clate Tinan, Kimball Graphic  
1936 - Newman C. Nash, Sioux Valley News, Canton  
1936 - Carter Sherwood, De Smet News  
1937 - Len V. Doty, Doland Times-Record  
1937 - C.E. Sanders, Garretson News  
1938 - Robert E. Dowdell, Artesian Advocate  
1938 - Charles F. Hackett Sr., Parker New Era  
1939 - Irwin D. Aldrich, Big Stone Headlight  
1939 - Erie S. Danforth, Vermillion Daily Republican  
1940 - Lyman J. Bates, Lake Preston Times  
1940 - Thomas B. Roberts, Pierre Daily Dakotan  
1941 - W.C. Allen, Dakota Farmer  
1942 - Paul Dutcher, Brookings Register  
1943 - Baron C. Dow, Argus Leader  
1946 - D.C. DeVany, Vermillion Plain Talk  
1946 - J.F. (Dick) Halladay, Iroquois Chief  
1947 - Charles M. Day, Argus Leader  
1948 - H.A. Sturges, Arlington Sun  
1949 - R.O. Schaber, Hudson Hudsonite  
1950 - John H. Craig, Tripp Ledger  
1951 - James S. Smith, Belle Fourche Bee  
1951 - J.B. Townsley, Vermillion Dakota Republican  
1952 - W.W. Sanders, Dell Rapids Tribune  
1953 - Albert J. Adams, Sisseton Courier  
1954 - W.R. Ronald, Mitchell Daily Republic  
1954 - Edward L. Senn, Deadwood Daily Telegram  
1955 - John E. Hipple, Pierre Capital Journal  
1956 - Stephan A. Travis, Pierre Times, Capital Journal  
1957 - Charles H. Hornbeck, Centerville Journal  
1958 - Doane J.L. Robinson, SD Historical Society  
1959 - E.B. Yule, Alexandria Herald  
1960 - Howard C. Anderson, Aberdeen American News  
1961 - Will A. Wells, Webster Journal  
1962 - William S. Dolan, Grant County Review  
1962 - R.W. Hitchcock, Rapid City Journal  
1963 - Royal A. Turner, Brookings County Press  
1964 - Charles H.J. Mitchell, Brookings Register  
1965 - Fred H. Monfore,  
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan  
1966 - Lloyd B. Boorman, Lemmon Leader  
1967 - E.H. Lighter, Rapid City Journal  
1967 - Robert D. Lusk, Huron Daily Plainsman  
1967 - H.B. Tysel, Britton Journal  
1968 - John B. Perkins, Highmore Herald  
1969 - George M. Hunter, Madison Daily Leader  
1969 - Charles A. Mitchell, Brookings Register  
1969 - John T. Trevisyan,  
Tyndall Tribune and Register  
1970 - B.W. (Jeff) Condit, Clark County Courier  
1971 - Casper Nohner, Hayti Herald-Enterprise  
1971 - John P. Sanders, Garretson News  
1971 - Dean C. Trippler, Canova Herald  
1972 - L.L. Coleman, Moberg Tribune  
1973 - Grace M. Adams, Sisseton Courier  
1974 - Clifford D. Sanders,  
Sioux Falls Suburban News  
1974 - Rachel A. Walradth, White Leader  
1975 - Harold W. Card, Webster Reporter & Farmer  
1976 - Ed B. Oddy, Woonsocket News  
1976 - Albert Applegate, S.D. State University  
1977 - James E. Hammer, Wolsey News  
1978 - Morris H. Ingalls, Murdo Coyote  
1979 - Andrew M. Johnson, Sioux Valley News  
1980 - Mike Heinbaugh, Black Hills Pioneer  
1981 - Eldredge MacKay, Pollock Prairie Pioneer  
1982 - Camille Yuill, Deadwood Pioneer-Times  
1983 - Les Helgeland,  
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan  
1984 - Fred Christopherson, Argus Leader  
1984 - Aubrey Sherwood, De Smet News  
1985 - Fritz Clement, Selby Record  
1985 - Ida Clement, Selby Record  
1986 - Ed Hofer, Lennox Independent  
1987 - Fred H. Breukelman, Corsica Globe  
1988 - Don Johannsen, Winner Advocate  
1988 - Phyllis Justice, Grant County Review  
1989 - Robert Hipple, Pierre Capital Journal  
1989 - Bert Moritz, Clark County Courier  
1989 - George Phillips, SDSU Journalism  
1990 - William McDermott, Highmore Herald  
1991 - Harold Jones, Redfield Press  
1992 - Wendell Long, Bennett County Booster II

# Hall of Fame

## S.D. Newspaper Hall of Fame

- 1993 - Jack Dorman, Hamlin County Republican  
1994 - Verlyn Hofer, Lennox Independent  
1994 - Anson Yeager, Argus Leader  
1995 - Keith Jensen, SDNA  
1996 - Bob Karolevitz, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan  
1997 - Chuck Card, Britton Journal  
1997 - Gene Chamberlin, Mobridge Tribune  
1998 - Gerald Sturges, Arlington Sun  
1999 - Wendell Anderson, Canistota Clipper  
2000 - Jack Adams, Sisseton Courier  
2000 - Larry Ingalls, Webster Reporter & Farmer  
2001 - Merrill Hunter, Madison Daily Leader  
2002 - Richard Lee, SDSU Journalism  
2004 - Merle E. Lofgren,  
Corson/Sioux Co. News-Messenger  
2007 - Wayne Bertrand, Scotland Journal  
2007 - Gordon Garnos, Watertown Public Opinion  
2007 - Tim Giago, Indian Country Today  
2007 - Ralph Nachtigal, Platte Enterprise  
2011 - Dale Blegen, De Smet News  
2011 - Jo Hall, Mobridge Tribune  
2011 - David Kranz, Argus Leader  
2012 - Noel Hamiel, The Daily Republic  
2016 - Jim Moritz, Faulk County Record  
2016 - Kathy Nelson, Timber Lake Topic  
2016 - Tim Waltner, Freeman Courier  
2016 - K.B. "Kenneth" Way,  
Watertown Public Opinion  
2017 - Larry Atkinson, Bridge City Publishing, Inc.  
2018 - Helen Clausen, Eagle Butte News  
2018 - Brian Hunhoff, Yankton County Observer  
2020 - Charley Najacht, Custer County Chronicle  
2020 - Norma Najacht, Custer County Chronicle  
2022 - Jon Hunter, Madison Daily Leader  
2022 - Mark Roby, Watertown Public Opinion  
2024 - Bruce & Susan Odson,  
Southern Union County Leader-Courier  
& Dakota Dunes/North Sioux City Times  
2024 - Gayle A. Van Genderen & J.P. Studenly, Jr.,  
South Dakota Mail, Plankinton  
2025 - Debbie Hemmer, Grant County Review

# Recognition Awards

## Eagle Award

This award is given annually to an individual, group or organization who has demonstrated outstanding efforts to protect and enhance openness in the conduct of the people's business.

- 2002 - The Justices of the 2001 South Dakota Supreme Court
- 2003 - Rodney Hall, Mitchell School Board Member
- 2004 - Larry Long, South Dakota Attorney General
- 2005 - Brian Hunhoff, Yankton County Commissioner
- 2006 - Vince Foley, Codington County State's Attorney
- 2007 - Jason Gant, South Dakota State Senator, Sioux Falls  
South Dakota State University Collegian Staff
- 2008 - Nancy Turbak Berry, South Dakota State Senator, Watertown
- 2009 - Dave Knudson, South Dakota State Senator, Sioux Falls
- 2010 - Gordon Heber, Sioux Falls
- 2012 - Al Novstrup, South Dakota State Senator, Aberdeen
- 2016 - Corey Brown, South Dakota State Senator, Gettysburg
- 2018 - Dennis Daugaard, South Dakota Governor
- 2019 - Arthur Rusch, South Dakota State Senator, Vermillion
- 2022 - Tim Reed, South Dakota State Representative, Brookings
- 2024 - Chuck Baldwin, Journalist and Educator

## 2026 Eagle Award Recipient



**Mary J. Fitzgerald**  
SD State Representative

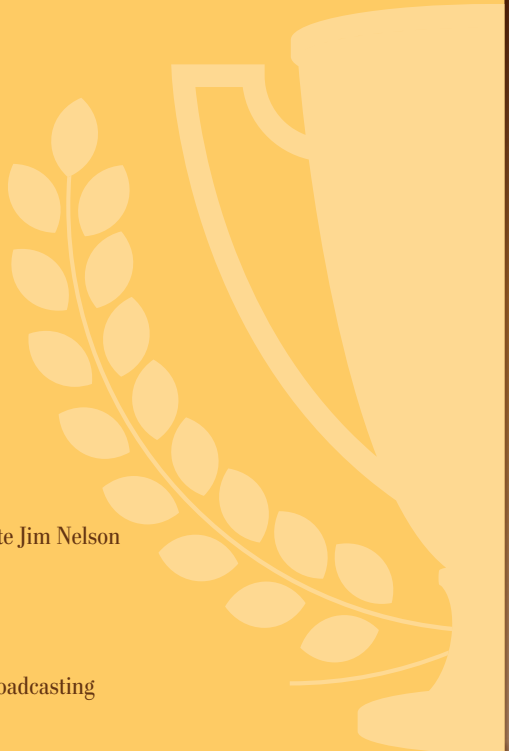
Mary J. Fitzgerald is a South Dakota Representative for District 31, which includes Lawrence County. She was first elected to the Legislature in 2020. Rep. Fitzgerald has been a strong, consistent proponent for government transparency, sponsoring and advocating for various legislation that has improved our open meetings and open records laws.

# *Recognition Awards*

## **Distinguished Service Award**

Recognition of people who have provided outstanding service to the newspaper profession in South Dakota.

- 1978 - Camille Yuill
- 1979 - Fred Christopherson
- 1980 - Alex Johnson
- 1981 - Aubrey Sherwood
- 1983 - Robert Hipple
- 1984 - Fritz Clement
- 1985 - Fred Breukelman
- 1986 - E. J. Buckingham Jr.
- 1987 - Wendell Long
- 1988 - Anson Yeager
- 1989 - Jeanette Lusk
- 1990 - George Phillips
- 1991 - William McDermott
- 1992 - Jim Kuehn
- 1993 - Knowles Trippler
- 1994 - Bert Moritz
- 1995 - John Lowrie
- 1996 - Gene Chamberlin
- 1997 - Charles L. Card
- 1998 - Merle E. Lofgren
- 1999 - Keith Jensen
- 2000 - Phyllis Justice
- 2001 - Ralph Nachtigal
- 2003 - Dorothy Allison
- 2006 - Roger Toland
- 2007 - Terry Hipple
- 2008 - Clarence Justice
- 2009 - Noel Hamiel
- 2011 - Cindy Eikamp
- 2012 - Terry Woster
- 2013 - Parker Knox
- 2014 - Chuck Brokaw
- 2015 - Kathy Nelson and the late Jim Nelson
- 2016 - Cherie Jensen
- 2017 - Bob Mercer
- 2021 - Tim L. Waltner
- 2022 - Dan Bechtold
- 2024 - South Dakota Public Broadcasting



## *Recognition Awards*

### **Distinguished Achievement Award**

Recognition of non-newspaper people who have distinguished themselves in achievement in or for South Dakota.

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1975 - Dr. Hilton M. Briggs               | 1996 - Linda Hasselstrom     |
| 1976 - Gladys Pyle                        | 1997 - Sen. Larry Pressler   |
| 1977 - Al Schock                          | 1998 - Dr. Robert Wagner     |
| 1978 - Ron Howe, Dr. Robert Vandemark     | 1999 - Terry Redlin          |
| 1979 - Mike Evans                         | 2000 - Sen. Tom Daschle      |
| 1980 - Ted Hustead                        | 2001 - Lincoln McIlravy      |
| 1981 - Robert Karolevitz                  | 2002 - Amb. George McGovern  |
| 1983 - D.J. Cline                         | 2003 - Carole Hillard        |
| 1984 - Joseph Robbie                      | 2004 - Dr. Aelred Kurtenbach |
| 1985 - Josef Meier                        | 2005 - Jack Marsh            |
| 1986 - Gene Amdahl                        | 2006 - Dar Baum              |
| 1987 - Wilbur Foss                        | 2008 - Bernie Hunhoff        |
| 1988 - Bernard Thomas                     | 2016 - Jerry Lohr            |
| 1989 - C. P. 'Buck' Moore                 |                              |
| 1990 - Eugene Thin Elk, Tillie Black Bear |                              |
| 1991 - Ruth Ziolkowski                    |                              |
| 1992 - Lionel Bordeaux                    |                              |
| 1993 - Charles D. Gemar                   |                              |
| 1994 - Kevin Locke                        |                              |
| 1995 - Dr. Richard Lee                    |                              |

### **Distinguished Service/Achievement Award**

Combines the features of both awards.

- 1987 - Sen. James Abdnor  
2002 - Allen H. Neuharth



# Recognition Awards

## Outstanding Young Journalist Award

For recognition of the outstanding work of a journalist under the age of 30.  
One winner is chosen annually from a weekly newspaper and a daily newspaper.

- 1999 – Jay Gravholt, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan | Misty Wahlstrom, Custer County Chronicle  
2000 – Steve Buchholz, Rapid City Journal | Jeremy Waltner, Freeman Courier  
2001 – Jerrod Niedermyer, Brookings Register | Wendy Williams, Custer County Chronicle  
2002 – Chuck Blomberg, The Daily Republic, Mitchell | Jason Ferguson, Custer County Chronicle  
2003 – Wayne Hammond, Watertown Public Opinion | Laura Woodard, Hill City Prevailor News  
2004 – Elissa Grossell, American News, Aberdeen | Erik Kaufman, Hutchinson Herald  
2005 – Rich Remmers, Watertown Public Opinion | Sarah Ebeling, Parker New Era  
2006 – Emily Arthur, American News, Aberdeen  
Ariel Emery, Southern Union Co. Leader-Courier, Elk Point  
2007 – Seth Tupper, The Daily Republic, Mitchell | Anne Homan, The Lennox Independent  
2008 – Nathan Johson, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan | Jamie Gibson, Parker New Era  
2009 – Kayla Gahagan, Rapid City Journal | Amanda Fanger, Onida Watchman  
2010 – Joe O’Sullivan, Watertown Public Opinion | Billy Drown, Hill City Prevailor News  
2012 – Chris Huber, The Daily Republic, Mitchell | Matt Heinrichs, Lake Preston Times  
2013 – Luke Hagen, The Daily Republic, Mitchell | Carrie Moore, Custer County Chronicle  
2014 – Jeremy Hoeck, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan | Erica Gaspar, Tea Weekly  
2015 – Brooke Cersosimo, The Daily Republic, Mitchell  
2016 – Evan Hendershot, The Daily Republic, Mitchell |  
Emre “Ray” Erku, Reporter & Farmer, Webster  
2017 – Marcus Traxler, The Daily Republic, Mitchell | Dana Ferguson, Argus Leader, Sioux Falls  
2018 – Ellen Bardash, The Daily Republic, Mitchell  
2019 – Brian Haenchen, Argus Leader, Sioux Falls |  
Beth Fennel, Dakota Dunes-North Sioux City Times  
2020 – Arielle Zions, Rapid City Journal | Gray Hughes, Hill City Prevailor News  
2022 – Erin Woodiel, Argus Leader, Sioux Falls  
2023 – Matt Case, Rapid City Journal | Esther Noe, Hill City Prevailor-News  
2024 – Makenzie Huber, South Dakota Searchlight | Emelia Enquist, Grant County Review  
2025 – Amelia Schafer, Rapid City Journal | Wren Murphy, Madison Daily Leader  
**2026 – TO BE ANNOUNCED!**

## Past Presidents

### SDNA Past Presidents

1882-1883 - John T. Cain, Huron Times	1928-1929 - L. W. Robinson, Mitchell Gazette
1883-1884 - J.F. Ryan, Blunt Times	1929-1930 - C. P. Sherwood, De Smet News
1884-1885 - S. J. Conklin, Watertown Dakota News	1930-1931 - Casper Nohner, Hayti Herald-Enterprise
1885-1889 - Augustine Davis, Huron Huronite	1931-1932 - G. G. Warner, Gregory Times-Advocate
1889-1891 - George W. Hopp, Brookings	1932-1933 - H. H. Heath, Artesian Commonwealth
1891-1892 - N.C. Nash, Canton News	1933-1934 - W. G. Tamblin, Miller Press
1892-1893 - Thomas W. Bishop, Volga Tribune	1934-1935 - C. E. Saunders, Centerville Journal
1893-1894 - John Longstaff, Huron Huronite	1935-1936 - H. B. Tysell, Britton Journal
1894-1895 - J. E. Patten, Salem Special	1936-1937 - D. C. DeVany, Mobridge Tribune
1895-1896 - J. D. Reeves, Groton Independent	1937-1938 - Harold W. Card, Webster Reporter & Farmer
1896-1897 - T. B. Roberts, Armour Chronicle - Times	1938-1939 - Harold W. Carpenter, Beresford Republic
1897-1898 - Lyman J. Bates, Lake Preston Times	1939-1940 - John B. Perkins, Highmore Herald
1898-1899 - G. M. Farley, Madison Outlook	1940-1941 - L. B. Boorman, Lemmon Leader
1899-1900 - Henry S. Volkmar, Milbank Review	1941-1942 - Aubrey H. Sherwood, De Smet News
1900-1901 - J. H. Halliday, Iroquois Chief	1942-1943 - Fred Christopherson, Sioux Falls Argus Leader
1901-1902 - T. W. Taubman, Plankinton Herald	1943-1944 - Chas. H. J. Mitchell, Brookings Register
1902-1903 - W. F. Bancroft, Watertown Public Opinion	1944-1946 - E. Y. Berry, McLaughlin Messenger
1903-1904 - Charles E. Allen, Brookings Press	1946-1947 - Fred Breukelman, The Corsica Globe
1904-1905 - C. R. Tinan, Kimball Graphic	1947-1948 - R. W. Hitchcock, Rapid City Daily Journal
1905-1906 - Harry Wentzy, Pukwana Press-Reporter	1948-1949 - A. M. Johnson, Sioux Valley News/Canton
1906-1907 - Charles F. Hackett, Parker New Era	1949-1950 - T. R. Burges, Clear Lake Courier
1907-1908 - W. R. Donald, Britton Sentinel	1950-1951 - Fritz Clement, Selby Record, Java Herald
1908-1909 - R. E. Dowdell, Artesian Advocate	1951-1952 - J. T. Trevillyan, Tyndall Tribune & Register
1909-1910 - C. M. Day, Sioux Falls Argus-Leader	1952-1953 - F. Lyn Gladstone, Valley Irrigator, Newell
1910-1911 - W. C. Lusk, Yankton Press & Dakotan	1953-1954 - Sid I. Davison, Miner Co. Pioneer/Howard
1911-1912 - Len V. Doty, Doland Times-Record	1954-1955 - L. L. Coleman, Mobridge Tribune
1912-1913 - Charles McCaffree, Howard Press	1955-1956 - B. W. "Jeff" Condit, Clark Co. Courier, Clark
1913-1914 - Hans Demuth, Deutcher Herald, S. Falls	1956-1957 - Wm S. Gibson, Vermillion Plain Talk
1914-1915 - M. M. Bennett, Yankton Herald	1957-1958 - Oliver F. Freed, Woonsocket News
1915-1916 - George Schlosser, Wessington Springs Republican	1958-1959 - E. H. Lighter, Rapid City Daily Journal
1916-1917 - E. B. Yule, Alexandria Herald	1959-1960 - Charles A. Mitchell, Brookings Register
1917-1918 - L. E. Aldrich, Big Stone Headlight	1960 - Roy S. Adams, Gregory Times-Advocate
1918-1919 - J. H. McKeever, Aberdeen American News	1960-1961 - John A. (Jack) Adams, Sisseton Courier
1919-1920 - H. A. Sturges, Beresford Republic	1961-1962 - Marvin T. Gilbertson, The Parkston Advance
1920-1921 - R. O. Schaber, Hudson Hudsonite	1962-1963 - Mike Heinbaugh, Queen City Mail, Spearfish
1921-1922 - Dean C. Trippler, Canova Herald	1963-1964 - Wendell E. Long, Bennett Co. Booster, Martin
1922-1923 - E. S. Danforth, Vermillion Republic	1964-1965 - George M. Hunter, Madison Daily Leader
1923-1924 - Paul Dutcher, Brookings Register	
1924-1925 - John H. Craig, Tripp Ledger	
1925-1926 - J. S. Smith, Belle Fourche Bee	
1926-1927 - E. B. Oddy, Woonsocket News	
1927-1928 - Carmon L. Bates, Onida Watchman	

# Past Presidents

## SDNA Past Presidents

- 1965-1966 - Harold D. Jones, The Redfield Press  
1966-1967 - M. B. Chilcott, Seaton, Lead, Deadwood  
1967-1968 - Wm. R. Owens,  
Potter Co. News, Gettysburg  
1968-1969 - Don L. Johannsen, Winner Advocate  
1969-1970 - Clifford D. Sanders,  
Suburban News, Sioux Falls  
1970-1971 - Bert Moritz, Clark Co. Courier, Clark  
1971-1972 - E. E. Hanssen, Hot Springs Star  
1972-1973 - Charles L. Card, Britton Journal  
1973-1974 - Colin Monfore, Yankton Press & Dakotan  
1974-1975 - Gene Chamberlin, Mobridge Tribune  
1975-1976 - Virgil M. Smith, Dell Rapids Tribune  
1976-1977 - E. J. Buckingham Jr., Chamberlain Register  
1977-1978 - Larry Ingalls, Webster Reporter & Farmer  
1978-1979 - L. J. "Bud" Maher, Huron Daily Plainsman  
1979-1980 - L. Bruce Boorman, Lemmon Leader  
1980-1981 - G. L. Sturges, Arlington Sun  
1981-1982 - Ralph Nachtigal, Platte Enterprise  
1982-1983 - Phyllis Justice, Grant Co. Review, Milbank  
1983-1984 - John Lowrie, Watertown Public Opinion  
1984-1985 - Allen Hermann,  
Spearfish Queen City Mail  
1985-1986 - Wayne Lyford, Enterprise, Flandreau  
1986-1987 - Wayne Bertrand, Scotland Journal  
1987-1988 - Verlyn Hofer, Lennox Independent  
1988-1989 - Larry Fuller, Argus Leader, Sioux Falls  
1989-1990 - Dale Bleggen, De Smet News  
1990-1991 - Hubert Alewel, Chamberlain Register  
1991-1992 - Tim Waltner, Freeman Courier  
1992-1993 - Wendell Anderson, Canistota Clipper  
1993-1994 - Tim Waltner, Freeman Courier  
1994-1995 - Jim Moritz, Faulk Co. Record, Faulkton  
1995-1996 - Kathy Snyder Nelson, Timber Lake Topic  
1996-1997 - Jon M. Hunter, Madison Daily Leader  
1997-1998 - Brian Hunhoff,  
Mo. Valley Observer, Yankton  
1998-1999 - Nelson L. Miller, Gregory Times-Advocate  
1999-2000 - Larry Atkinson, Mobridge Tribune  
2000-2001 - Don Ravellette, The Pioneer Review, Philip  
2001-2002 - Arnold Garson, Argus Leader, Sioux Falls  
2002-2003 - Bill Masterson Jr., Rapid City Journal  
2003-2004 - Scott E. Ehler, Parkston Advance  
2004-2005 - David Clausen,  
Potter County News, Gettysburg  
2005-2006 - Bruce Odson, Leader-Courier, Elk Point  
2006-2007 - Tim Huether,  
Bennett County Booster II, Martin  
2007-2008 - Bill Krikac, Clark County Courier  
2008-2009 - Mark Roby, Public Opinion, Watertown  
2009-2010 - Hollie Stalder, Northern Hills Weeklies  
2010-2011 - Doug Card, Britton Journal  
2011-2012 - Lucy Halverson,  
Lyman County Herald, Presho  
2012-2013 - Charley Najacht, Custer County Chronicle  
2013-2014 - Steve Baker, Capital Journal, Pierre  
2014-2015 - John Suhr, Reporter & Farmer, Webster  
2015-2016 - Bill Krikac, Clark County Courier  
2016-2017 - Jeremy Waltner, Freeman Courier  
2017-2018 - Kelli Bultena,  
Lennox Independent & Tea Weekly  
2018-2019 - Debbie Hemmer,  
Grant County Review, Milbank  
2019-2020 - Letitia Lister,  
Black Hills Pioneer, Spearfish  
2020-2021 - Beau Ravellette, Pioneer Review, Philip  
2021-2022 - Robert Slocum, Timber Lake Topic  
2022-2023 - Garrick Moritz, Garretson Gazette  
2023-2024 - Kristi Hine,  
True Dakotan, Wessington Springs  
2024-2025 - Molly McRoberts, Potter County News,  
Gettysburg

# *Journalism Awards*

A-MARK PRIZE FOR

# Investigative Journalism

IN SOUTH DAKOTA



**South Dakota NewsMedia Association  
and the A-Mark Foundation have teamed up to create the  
A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism in South Dakota  
with cash awards totaling \$15,000**

The first-place prize awards \$5,000 to the journalist and \$2,500 to the news organization. Second place awards \$3,000 to the journalist and \$1,500 to the news organization. Third place awards \$2,000 to the journalist and \$1,000 to the newsroom.

The contest for the A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism will be open to all journalists and all news organizations in South Dakota. (See details below.)

South Dakota NewsMedia Association represents the state's newspapers and various digital news outlets. The A-Mark Foundation ([amarkfoundation.org](http://amarkfoundation.org)) is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in 1997.

This award will recognize excellence in investigative reporting. For this contest, investigative reporting will be defined as the development of information about government, organizations, businesses, institutions or individuals that is not readily available to journalists and requires exceptional skill and effort by the journalist. In many cases, the subjects of the reporting wish the matters under scrutiny to remain undisclosed. Information should be presented in a way that gives readers understanding and insight into subject matter that is not generally known to the public.

This contest is open to all news media organizations based in South Dakota and their staff members and includes newspapers, broadcast outlets and digital-only platforms. Freelance journalists based in South Dakota whose reporting is published or aired by South Dakota news media organizations are also eligible to enter. Entries must have been published or aired during 2025 (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2025).

**The 2025 winners will be announced during the Friday evening banquet.**

# *Journalism Awards*

## STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY



***An Award for Journalism About Non-Profits in South Dakota.***

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**Strengthening Civil Society – an award for  
exceptional journalism about non-profits in South Dakota  
with cash awards totaling \$1,500**

*Administered by South Dakota NewsMedia Association*

This award honors exceptional reporting about the nonprofit sector. It recognizes investigative journalism on issues such as finances, governance, and operations of nonprofits, uncovering potential abuses such as fraud, misuse of funds or conflicts of interest. It also highlights reporting on topics like service fees, executive pay, or political influence, and addresses criminal activity involving nonprofits.

This award also honors journalism that helps the public understand the mission, programs and social value of nonprofit organizations in the communities they serve. Reporting that provides clear insight into the challenges nonprofits face and the strategies they use to pursue the public good and to meet the needs of communities and segments of our state's population.

This contest is open to all news media organizations based in South Dakota and staff members who reside in South Dakota and includes all South Dakota-based newspapers, broadcast outlets and digital-only platforms. Freelance journalists who reside in South Dakota and whose reporting is published or aired by South Dakota-based news media organizations also are eligible to enter. Entries must have been published or aired during 2025 (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2025).

**The 2025 winners will be announced during the Friday evening banquet.**

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