

DEMYSTIFYING DIGITAL

142ND SDNA CONVENTION
APRIL 24-26, 2025 | ABERDEEN
DAKOTA EVENTS CENTER



from the president



Molly McRoberts
Potter County News,
Gettysburg

I love this job.

I love the familiar routine that comes with producing a weekly newspaper in my hometown, and I love the people who add spice to shake up that routine each week. Every issue comes with laughs, disagreements, tears, celebrations, and hope.

Doing what we do is surely a labor of love. That's a common thread we share.

It's an exciting time for our industry. Changes in how news is shared gives us the opportunity to explore new methods of communication, prompting different ways to reach busy readers to keep them connected and informed.

Although the way the information is shared may be changing, the important job of providing fair and accurate reporting is not.

During our time together this week, we'll explore ways to better connect with our readers through creative and more efficient means. We no longer spend hours at a light table, and the waxer sits cold and idle as we watch pages come together on our computer screens. Images now spring to life with video to help us tell stories, and scads of avenues are available to get our message to our communities.

I'm glad you're here, and hope you leave energized to keep doing the important work you do. This is a time to connect with old friends, make new ones, and share ideas, all while celebrating the incredible work done by all of you to ensure that truth and transparency remain at the heart of our communities and our history.

On behalf of your South Dakota NewsMedia Association board, welcome and have fun as we offer ways of Demystifying Digital.

board of directors

2024-2025 South Dakota NewsMedia Association
Board of Directors



Molly McRoberts
President
...
Potter County News,
Gettysburg



Jason Ferguson
First Vice President
...
Custer County Chronicle,
Custer



Carson Walker
Second Vice President
...
South Dakota
News Watch



Luke Hagen
Third Vice President
...
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...
Hamlin County
Publishing,
Castlewood



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



Kristi Hine
Immediate
Past President
...
True Dakotan,
Wessington Springs



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Executive Director

South Dakota NewsMedia Association Staff

John Brooks
Advertising Director

Sandy DeBeer
Advertising & Public Notice
Placement Coordinator

Nicole Herrig
Business Director

Grace Lehman
Tearsheet Coordinator

schedule of events

Featuring



LeeAnne Dufek
Publisher,
Hamlin County
Publishing



Kristi Hine
Publisher,
True Dakotan



Jill Meier
Publisher,
Brandon Valley
Journal



Molly McRoberts
Publisher,
Potter County News



Matt Waite
Journalism Professor,
University of
Nebraska-Lincoln

THURSDAY / APRIL 24

- 2 p.m. SDNA Board Meeting
- 5:30–7:30 p.m. **Opening reception**
- 7–9:30 p.m. **Tarot Card Readings**
- 8–10 p.m. **Karaoke Party & Contest**

FRIDAY / APRIL 25

Breakfast on your own.

- 8:30 a.m. Registration opens
- 9 a.m. **“A Year Later: Is AI Ready for Your Newsroom?”** with Matt Waite, University of Nebraska/Lincoln
- 10:30 a.m. **“I Get By... with a Little Help from My Friends”** A panel discussion of weekly publishers on engaging your community to help cover the news.
- Noon Lunch and **Outstanding Young Journalist** presentation
- 1:00 p.m. **SDNA Better NewsMedia Awards Presentation**
– News/editorial/advertising awards

schedule of events

Featuring



Rocky Dailey
Journalism Professor,
South Dakota
State University



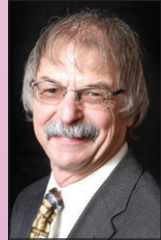
Luke Hagen
Editor,
Mitchell Republic



Jim Helland
Journalism Professor,
South Dakota
State University



Marcus Traxler
Assistant Editor,
Mitchell Republic



Tim Waltner
Retired Publisher,
Freeman Courier

FRIDAY / APRIL 25 (Continued)

- 1:45 p.m. **“Learn Data Journalism for Free”** with
Matt Waite, University of Nebraska/Lincoln
- 2:30 p.m. **“All In on Digital”**
– Luke Hagen & Marcus Traxler,
Mitchell Republic
- 3:30 p.m. **“Opinion Writing – A Hands-on Approach”**
– Tim Waltner, Freeman Courier
- 4:30 p.m. SDNA/SDNS Business Meetings
- 6:00 p.m. Reception
- 7:00 p.m. **Banquet and Awards Presentations**
– Hall of Fame
– General Excellence
– Sweepstakes
– A-Mark Prize for Investigative
Journalism in South Dakota

SATURDAY / APRIL 26

- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast & General Session:
“Training to Be a Multi-media Journalist”
–SDSU professors Jim Helland &
Rocky Dailey and SDSU journalism students

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. Trevillyan, 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, Mobridge 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
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

hall of fame

S.D. Newspaper Hall of Fame

- 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, Elk Point & Dakota Dunes/North Sioux City Times
- 2024 - Gayle A. Van Genderen & J.P. Studeny, Jr., South Dakota Mail, Plankinton

2025 South Dakota Hall of Fame Inductee



Debbie Hemmer

Debbie Hemmer worked at the Grant County Review in Milbank for more than 40 years. She started in 1980 as a part-time typesetter and it proved to be the first step in a long and rewarding journey in community newspapering. She worked for longtime publishers Phyllis and Clarence Justice. Debbie went on to become co-owner of the newspaper with Holli Seehafer before retiring from full-time work at the end of last year. She served on the SDNA Board and was association president in 2018-19. Debbie and her husband Warren now enjoy spending more time with their children and grandchildren and at their lake cabin.



eagle award

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



recognition awards

Distinguished Service Award

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

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

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

Distinguished Service/Achievement Award

Combines the features of both awards.

1987 - Sen. James Abdnor	2002 - Allen H. Neuharth
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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 Prevalier 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 County Leader-Courier, Elk Point
2007 – Seth Tupper, The Daily Republic, Mitchell | Anne Homan, The Lennox Independent
2008 – Nathan Johnson, 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 Prevalier 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 Prevalier News
2022 – Erin Woodiel, Argus Leader, Sioux Falls
2023 – Matt Case, Rapid City Journal | Esther Noe, Hill City Prevalier-News
2024 – Makenzie Huber, South Dakota Searchlight | Emelia Enquist, Grant County Review
2025 –



Division I & II



Division III

past presidents

SDNA Past Presidents

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

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 Blegen, 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

A-Mark Prize

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) 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 2024 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2024).

The 2024 winners will be announced during the Friday evening banquet.

foundation

L♥CAL NEWS

—Our community depends on it.  SDNA

Thank you for your support!

Thank you to all who pre-ordered the 'Local News' gear. Your purchase helps support the South Dakota NewsMedia Foundation – which supports education and professional development opportunities for news media in our state.

If you missed the pre-order, some items are available for purchase online at sdna.com.

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