NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER HALL OF FAME

2022 Induction Ceremony

Friday, April 29, 2022 Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel





The Hall of Fame honors newspaper industry heroes whose talent, hard work and exceptional accomplishments are an inspiration to all journalists in our six-state region.

Thank you for joining us as we honor our 2022 New England Newspaper Hall of Fame inductees.

- ❖ George Geers, Academy of New England Journalists
- Loren Ghiglione, Southbridge (MA) Evening News
- Charles F. Goodrich, Newspapers of New England
- Leonard I. Levin, The Providence Journal
- Linda Lotridge Levin, University of Rhode Island
- ❖ Gregory J. Popa, Vermont Community Newspaper Group



George L. Geers

Academy of New England Journalists

It's likely that almost every editor and publisher who has spent time in the New England journalism world has benefited from the wisdom – and wit – of George Geers.

As a career journalist and book publisher, George has always had ink flowing through his veins. He dipped his toe into the newspaper world as a college intern reporter at Foster's Daily Democrat, rising through the ranks there until being named managing editor. From Foster's he left to become executive editor of the Southbridge News when it was a pugnacious small-town daily.

His newspaper career took him to The Chronicle in Willimantic, Conn., where he worked as editor, then in 1994, he was named editor of The Telegraph in Nashua.

In 2000, he returned to his hometown of Concord to form Plaidswede Publishing, which specializes in New Hampshire and New England books, fiction and non-fiction. In addition, he continued his journalism career as editor at the New England Newspaper Association.

George has been involved with the New Hampshire Writers' Project since 2000, serving as president from 2006-2007 and, most recently, as executive director.

He is a founding board member of the New England First Amendment Coalition, clerk of the Academy of New England Journalists, and has served as executive director of the New Hampshire Press Association.

He was presented the Academy of New England Journalists' Yankee Quill award for lifetime achievement in 2005.

George has organized workshops, lined up speakers, drafted contest judges and overseen countless newspaper and book publishing industry events. For many in the field he has been an essential resource for information, education and for demonstrating his talent to bring journalists together to benefit and improve the profession. His work leading newsrooms to excellence and his labor to help us all fight the good fight for New England newspapers make him a worthy candidate for the Hall of Fame.





Loren Ghiglione

Southbridge Evening News

Loren Ghiglione served as editor and publisher of the Southbridge (Mass.) Evening News for 26 years. Innovation and idealism have characterized his work as a defender of press freedom, advocate for inclusion, media critic, and leader of national organizations of journalism educators and journalists.

Ghiglione served as president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and set the tempo in such areas as minority hiring, the first survey of gay and lesbian journalists, in attitudes toward the handicapped, and in reporting on society's forgotten—the 12 million children living in poverty and the 1 million in penal institutions.

His journalism careers goes back to his student days at Haverford, where he edited the Haverford News, the student newspaper. To help train his staff, he developed a course on editing and reporting that brought more than a dozen prominent journalists to campus.

Loren dreamed of someday putting out his own newspaper. But first he earned a law degree and Master's of Urban Studies from Yale and worked as a Congressional Fellow in Washington, D.C. With the help of Frank McNitt, owner of the Southbridge (Mass.) Evening News, he was able to buy the struggling, 5,000-circulation daily in 1969, paying the purchase price to McNitt from the paper's earnings over 12 years.

Ghiglione is a member of The Academy of New England Journalists, receiving his Yankee Quill Award when he was only 35 years old. He served as president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in 1989-1990, and made ASNE-organized trips to places in the news—China, South Africa, Central America, and the Middle East. He also participated in a 10-year dialogue between the New England Society of Newspaper Editors and representatives of Pravda, Izvestia, and other national newspapers of the Soviet State press.

As president of the New England Press Association, the New England Society of Newspaper Editors, and the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Ghiglione is best known as an advocate for greater inclusion throughout the news industry. He received diversity awards from the Asian American Journalists Association, the National Association of Multicultural Media Executives, the National Broadcast Editorial Association, the National Conference of Editorial Writers, and the National Association of Black Journalists (the Ida B. Wells Award).

Ghiglione left the newspaper business in 1995 and taught journalism at several universities until 2017. He continues to write, most recently op-eds in the Chicago Tribune.





Charles F. Goodrich

Newspapers of New England

Anyone who has been involved in New England newspapers at any time during the past three decades has probably crossed paths with Chuck and many of them - whether cub reporters in far-flung newsrooms, or hard-charging ad sales people - have worked for him and learned from him.

Chuck worked as North Region president and vice president of sales, serving as the longest tenured senior executive in GateHouse New England until his departure. He was either an advertising or circulation director or publisher almost from the beginning of what would eventually become GateHouse New England. He worked for Harte-Hanks, Bay State Newspapers, various phases of Community Newspaper Company, Herald Media and, finally, GateHouse. He also had roots in journalism, often citing his brief time writing news stories and editorials for the Brunswick Times-Record after graduating from Colby College.

Chuck Goodrich was the institutional memory for this sprawling newspaper company, leading the charge over the years to launch new newspapers, initiate total-market coverage campaigns, niche magazines and innovative sales and marketing strategies. If someone brought up what they thought was a new idea in a meeting, it was very likely Chuck had been involved in some predecessor of that concept years earlier and could recall how it evolved and whether it succeeded or failed.

Chuck was a mentor to many people over the years but was also a hard taskmaster for those who couldn't reach expected goals or standards in the organization.

Chuck Goodrich seemed to live in his car, taking part in countless conference calls while on the road from the Framingham office to Danvers, from Danvers to Beverly, from Beverly to a meeting on the South Shore, then back to Needham. He worked hard at GateHouse and its predecessors to do his part for the organization to succeed and grow, if possible.

Chuck was also proud of the important role community newspapers played in the towns and cities the publications covered. He recognized that even as he was forced to ask managers under him to make painful cuts in budgets and, ultimately, in staff positions. Even in the toughest times, most people who reported to Chuck respected and trusted him. For his positive impact on hundreds of employees still at GateHouse or at innumerable media companies and other businesses across the country, and for his leadership in a major media organization in New England through the years, Chuck Goodrich richly deserves inclusion in the Newspaper Hall of Fame.





Leonard I. Levin

The Providence Journal

Len Levin is best known as a grammar/usage/style guru. For 30 years, he served as The Providence Journal's news editor, overseeing the copy desk with a velvet fist.

Len, or "The Chairman," as he was referred to on The Journal copy desk for his "Mao-like" enforcement of grammar and style, was also the author, keeper, and enforcer of the several-hundred-page Journal Stylebook. His monthly "Excellence Newsletter" would offer compliments or throw barbs at reporters and editors – a brilliant incentive to get it right.

Len was a teacher— he trained scores of copyeditors who went on to work on "the horseshoe" at The New York Times, The Washington Post, the Boston Globe, the Los Angeles Times and many other metro papers.

He also taught copyediting and newswriting courses as an adjunct professor at the University of Rhode Island.

When Len took an early retirement from The Providence Journal in the mid-1990s, he didn't stop. He pivoted. He became a copyeditor for the Patriot Ledger and eventually ended up editing Rhode Island Supreme Court decisions.

Len has been a leader on the New England journalism stage. He served as president of both the New England chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and the New England Society of Newspaper Editors.

He is a recipient of the Yankee Quill Award, bestowed by the Academy of New England Journalists, and is a member of the Rhode Island Press Association Hall of Fame.

Len is also known for his love of baseball – he is a former secretary of the Society for American Baseball Research and was the group's archivist. He has also edited many of SABR's books on the nation's baseball parks.





Linda Lotridge Levin

University of Rhode Island

Linda Lotridge Levin started her extraordinary career in the 1960s at The Providence Journal as one of the first women to cover actual news.

She leveraged her reporting career into a teaching one – as professor and eventually chair of the Department of Journalism at the University of Rhode Island. In this capacity, she has educated hundreds of students over three decades on media law, advanced news reporting, the history of American journalism and the critical importance of journalism in a democracy.

In essence, she raised two generations of journalists who have made their mark in New England and beyond – CNN's John King among them.

She has been a fellow at the Poynter Institute, the American Press Institute and the Annenberg Washington Program. She is the former president of the Rhode Island Press Association and board member and founder of ACCESS / Rhode Island, a coalition of organizations devoted to open government. She is also the author of "The Making of FDR: The Story of Stephen T. Early, America's First Modern Press Secretary."

Linda has been recognized with several industry awards including the Judith Vance Weld Brown Spirit of Journalism Award, given by the New England Society of News Editors; the Yankee Quill Award, bestowed by the Academy of New England Journalists; the Sunshine Award from the National Society of Professional Journalists; and she is a member of the Rhode Island Journalism Hall of Fame.

"Her students describe her as sarcastic, funny, caring and compassionate — and a lifelong mentor. I underscore every description here. She hired me as an adjunct professor at URI in 1996, which ultimately changed the course of my life. If it had not been for Linda, I would have never known the incredible satisfaction of mentoring young journalists. I am forever grateful she took a chance on me. "

- Karen Bordeleau Director of Career and Professional Development Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Arizona State University; Former Senior Vice President and Executive Editor, The Providence Journal





Gregory J. Popa Vermont Community Newspaper Group

Gregory Popa is publisher of the weekly newspapers in the Vermont Community Newspaper Group. Under his leadership, the Stowe Reporter has not only been financially successful, but has been the best small weekly newspaper in the NENPA competition twice in six years.

In 2016, the Reporter acquired a neighboring newspaper, the News & Citizen, based in Morrisville, Vt. It has a long history, founded in the 1800s, and under Greg's leadership, it was transformed into a first-rate newspaper and its lead reporter, Andrew Martin, was named New England Weekly Newspaper Reporter of the Year for 2018. In 2017, the Reporter acquired the Shelburne News and The Citizen of Hinesburg and Charlotte and turned them into much-improved weeklies. In 2018, the Reporter acquired The Other Paper, a respected weekly in South Burlington, and is ensuring stability and quality in that operation. Now, under Greg's leadership, first-class journalism is being delivered to thousands of households in communities that otherwise would be news deserts.

Under Greg's leadership, these newspapers not only were kept alive, but became excellent. Greg led the transitions and built new teams, always on the principle that excellent, must-read journalism is the key to a weekly newspaper's economic health.

Greg started as a Stowe Reporter photographer more than 30 years ago, and has since been a reporter, the editor, advertising manager and publisher. About 20 years ago, Greg took over the Stowe Guide & Magazine and built it into a powerhouse — a 240-page, twice-a-year package of journalism, photography, attractive advertising, and excellent design. Greg handles every aspect of it. Every year since 2010, the magazine has earned first place among niche publications in the NENPA competition.

Greg has long had an interest in nurturing young journalistic talent and there are scores of successful journalists throughout New England who have benefited from his mentoring and his commitment to producing quality local community journalism. He is also very active in community affairs and serves on several boards.

The New England Newspaper Hall of Fame is a place for "newspaper professionals whose talent, hard work and exceptional accomplishments provide inspiration to all New England Journalists..." Greg Popa has certainly earned his place here.



New England Newspaper Hall of Fame Members

Jack Authelet, The Foxboro Reporter Alan L. Baker. The Ellsworth American. Nelson Benton, The Salem News Ellen Beveridge, The Trumbull Times Robert Bissonnette, York County Coast Star Louis Bleiweis, The Call Roswell Bosworth, Jr., East Bay Newspapers Roswell Bosworth, Sr., East Bay Newspapers Chris Braithwaite. the Chronicle Mary Dodge Brewer, Boothbay Register David Brickman, The Homesteader-Newton Alexander Bacon Brook, York County Coast Star Judith Brown, The Herald Dorothy Whipple Burgess, The Observer Ann Burghardt, Independent Granite Publishing Jacob Burghardt, Independent Granite Publishing Phillip C. Camp Sr., The Vermont Standard Peter J. Caruso Sr., Caruso & Caruso, LLC Curtiss Clark, The Newtown Bee William T. Clew, Telegram & Gazette Timothy Cotter, The Day of New London Tom Condon. The Hartford Courant Ross Connelly, Hardwick Gazette Kevin Crosbie, the Chronicle Lucy B. Crosbie, the Chronicle David Cutler, Stonebridge/Salmon Press Nicholas Daniloff, Northeastern University Oreste D'Arconte, The Sun Chronicle Ed DeCourcy, Argus Champion Paul Dietterle, Jr., Sanford News Rodney G. Doherty, Foster's Daily Democrat William P. Dole, Cambridge Chronicle John Donoghue, Burlington Free Press

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Michael Donoghue, St. Michael's College

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