

# PWPA

PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN'S PRESS ASSOCIATION

July 2013 | [www.pwpa.us](http://www.pwpa.us)

2013

## Journalist of the year



Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association

**Jo Ciavaglia, PWPA journalist of the year for 2013, stands with new PWPA President Daveen Rae Kurutz (left) and past President JoAnne Harrop after receiving her award at the Excellence in Journalism luncheon in Harrisburg in May. Find out how Jo got her winning stories on Page 4.**

# PWPA colleagues challenge, encourage

**By Daveen Rae Kurutz**  
PWPA PRESIDENT

It's a pretty surreal feeling to be writing a president's note.

I've spent the past four years watching JoAnne Harrop lead this group, and I am incredibly honored to take the reins of the Pennsylvania Women's Press Association from such an inspiring woman. I hope I can serve this organization half as well as she has.

For those of you who don't know me — or only know me as your outgoing contest director — I'm a reporter with Trib Total Media, covering the Murrysville area. I am the sole news reporter for the Murrysville Star, a 10,000-plus circulation weekly newspaper covering an affluent suburb of Pittsburgh, specializing in education, Marcellus shale and data-driven reporting.

I am incredibly passionate about what I do and believe in print journalism — you'll find me clinging to my newsprint until the very end. Digital media has helped journalism evolve, a change I believe can be for the better if used properly. I'm incredibly fortunate to have the support of my husband, who has sat through many a budget meeting and is accustomed to how “going out for drinks” with fellow reporters usually turns into three hours of shop talk.

But support is a funny thing — you



don't realize how much you need it until it's there for you.

That's what I've found here at PWPA. When I joined in 2007 at the urging of JoAnne as a very green, very idealistic reporter, I wanted to find a connection with others in the field who believed in promoting women in journalism. What I've found during the past six years is an amazing support network of incredibly gifted colleagues who continue to challenge and encourage me. That's a pretty awesome thing.

But for each member, PWPA can provide something different. Maybe you joined for the same reasons I did.

Perhaps you enjoy our contest or wish to support up-and-coming journalists. Maybe a co-worker or friend was relentless in recruiting you. Nonetheless, we are all here for a shared reason — to promote women in journalism and this field we have all devoted so much of ourselves to.

That said, we want to hear from you. If there are any endeavors, any suggestions or anything that you — our membership — would like to see from PWPA, please reach out to myself (dkurutz@tribweb.com) or new Vice President Stephanie Longo (stephanie.a.longo@gmail.com). I look forward to working with our board during the next year to help PWPA grow, flourish and inspire.



## NEED TO PERK UP?

Buy a pound of PWPA Blend coffee for \$15. If you're interested, contact President Daveen Rae Kurutz (dkurutz@tribweb.com) or Vice President Stephanie Longo (stephanie.a.longo@gmail.com).

# Spatara was dedicated to PWPA

**Not even a two-month hospital stay could keep the retired newspaper woman from administering our scholarship this year. Spatara died last month after an illness.**

**By Daveen Rae Kurutz**  
PWPA PRESIDENT

The Pennsylvania Women's Press Association lost a valuable member last month.

Teresa Spatara, our long-time scholarship chairwoman and founder of the scholarship, died June 26 after an illness.

Spatara, a member of the Northwest District, was a long-time member of PWPA.

Spatara spent most of her life in GroveCity, Mercer County, and graduated from high school at 16. About two years later she started selling ads for Allied Newspapers, a community-newspaper publisher in Grove City. When a reporter left for a teaching job, Spatara began work as a reporter. She prepared for her new job by borrowing six books on journalism from the library at Grove City College.

Spatara worked at the Herald in



Sharon for 39 years.

She was working full time during the four years she earned a degree in English from Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio, a degree she was awarded in 1968.

During her tenure at the Herald, she worked as a reporter, feature writer, county editor, Spectrum editor, special project editor and editorial page editor. Among the professional accolades she received are the prestigious Silver Gavel from the American Bar Association,

awards from the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association.

After her retirement, Spatara wrote features for the Youngstown Vindicator in Ohio. She also wrote stories and took photos at Mercer County churches for the Lakeshore Visitor for the Catholic Diocese of Erie.

In her time with PWPA, Spatara served as president, vice president, treasurer and Northwest district director. The organization honored her by naming the scholarship after her.

PWPA Past President JoAnne Harrop worked closely with Spatara, particularly this past year. Harrop admired her dedication and passion for our organization.

"Teresa Spatara was one of the most dedicated members of PWPA," Harrop said. "She handled the scholarship, which was named after her, with such professionalism and a passion that was contagious. She had a love for journalism and for getting the message about PWPA out to college students to help them advance their writing careers. She didn't allow a two-month hospital stay to prevent her from administering the scholarship this year, and that is a tribute to the kind of woman she was and how she will be remembered."

Biographical information obtained from obituary appearing in the Sharon Herald and PWPA newsletter archives.

## Recollections from her storied career

**This is an excerpt of a Q&A with Spatara from the November 2008 issue of the PWPA newsletter:**

**Q.** How did you manage working full time and going to school full time?

**A.** I think about it, and I say, "Were you nuts?" I'd work from 8 to 4, and I'd drive to Youngstown and had classes from 5 to 10. I still covered all those city council meetings and school board meetings and I'd have to miss

classes to do that, and then I'd have to make up my classes. Ask me how I did it, I don't know.

I consider that the greatest accomplishment of my life. I was doing enough to keep the Herald happy, and I was doing enough to keep my grades up.

**Q.** How have things changed for women in newspapers since you started your career?

**A.** I was doing the same work as the men, but not getting the same pay. If there was an accident at night, I covered it.

I went to school board meetings, borough council meetings, and I went back at night and I wrote it up. Then I talked to the editor about it. His very words were, "It's a tradition at the Herald to pay women lower salaries than we pay men. And it's not just a Herald tradition. You'll find that all over Mercer County."

I said, "I'm for tradition, like turkey on Thanksgiving. But if I'm doing the same work, I should get paid the same as the men."

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## JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

# Award-winner keeps digging for answers

By **Jo Ciavaglia**

BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

The caller had a problem. He claimed that his doctor got PennDOT to revoke his driver's license for a medical problem, but wouldn't tell him why. Neither would PennDOT. He hoped I'd be able to tell him what happened and maybe get his license restored.

I had no luck getting him an answer, either.

But I managed to get a prize-winning story about how doctors have the power to take away Pennsylvania citizens' driving privileges for "medical issues" without telling you what those medical issues are. All they need to do is fill out a form that the transportation agency doesn't verify for accuracy and won't share with you, unless you get a lawyer and file a challenge.

The story — "Doctors can put brakes on driver's licenses" — was one I started before I was abruptly reassigned from health enterprise to the crime beat, and I managed to finish it by working between arrests, fires, floods, wild goose chases and preliminary hearings. The additional time, though, gave me a chance to make sure I looked at the issue from every angle and find more people who were impacted.

The story not only was picked up by The Associated Press and widely distributed, but later was honored with several awards, including a first place from the PWPA in the health

and science category.

The story behind the driver's license story is the story behind many of my stories: Something strikes me as wrong, strange, moronic, or infuriating (the driver's license story had all the elements) and I start digging.

That is what happened with the "Child abuse law is painfully lacking" story, too.

An 18-month-old girl was murdered by her mother's boyfriend who was babysitting her, but it turned out she had evidence of other previous injuries that somehow didn't seem to grab the attention of child welfare officials who were notified a month before the girl died after she showed up in a hospital with a twisted leg fracture and cigarette burns on her thighs. (The social workers accepted the mom's explanation the leg was broken during horseplay).

What I learned in my research is that Pennsylvania has the broadest child abuse definition in the nation. So broad that most things one might think would qualify for abuse — burns, black eyes, broken bones — don't necessarily meet the abuse definition. In many cases, social workers hands are tied, even when they suspect abuse and cannot force families to accept services. Scary stuff, but also timely as a state task force (headed by our Bucks County district attorney) is in the process of creating recommendations to change child abuse laws

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## NEW MEMBERS

### May 2013

■ **Kelly Cernetich**, staff writer, Altoona Mirror

### February 2013

■ **Lini Kadaba**, freelancer

■ **Tara Kinsell**, staff writer, Observer-Reporter

■ **Jason Lanza**, multimedia designer, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

■ **Christopher Mele**, executive editor, Pocono Record

■ **Colleen Prendergast**, page designer, Bucks County Courier Times

■ **Kristina Serafini**, reporter/photographer, Trib Total Media/Sewickley Herald

■ **Christina Tatu**, reporter, Pocono Record

### January 2013

■ **Elizabeth Baumeister**, staff writer, The Abington Journal

■ **Kristie Grier Ceruti**, editor, The Abington Journal

■ **Amy Gianficaro**, assistant managing editor, The Intelligencer

■ **Morgaine Ford**, designer, Bucks County Courier Times

■ **Joan Mead-Matsui**, correspondent/photographer, The Abington Journal/Times Leader

■ **Nicole Utter**, correspondent, Bucks County Courier Times

### OCTOBER 2012

■ **Tory Parrish**, reporter, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

“ You’ve probably picked up a theme to my reporting: It starts with curiosity. It hasn’t let me down yet. ”

— Jo Ciavaglia, 2013 journalist of the year

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in light of the Jerry Sandusky sex abuse case.

A similar story of curiosity is behind “Suspended but still driving,” a story idea inspired by a fatal hit-and-run case involving a man who had five previous citations for driving while suspended. His sixth driving while suspended charge also included one for homicide by vehicle while driving under the influence.

Not long after that DUI-related case, a 90-year-old driver — who had been cited five previous times for driving while suspended — got his sixth citation, but never went to court because he died in the accident that resulted. Then another driver with a suspended license was involved in a fatal hit and run.

I wondered, first, how could a person be cited so many times for driving while suspended and not face any serious penalties? And how seriously do police and the courts take driving while suspended citations?

What I found is a general reluctance to take away people’s driving privileges. In the case that inspired the story, I found that several times his driving while suspended charge was changed to a lesser one, or he was simply not charged with driving while suspended, but the lesser charge of failing to show his driver’s license.

One judge told me he had police follow driving-while-suspended suspects after court appearances and arrest them again if they see them drive away. Also Pennsylvania law allows drivers to be cited



Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association

#### Jo Ciavaglia accepts one of her awards during the PWPA Excellence in Journalism luncheon in Harrisburg in May.

up to six times before there is mandatory jail time for driving while suspended, though district judges have the discretion, under certain circumstances, to impose jail time after a second offense.

As part of the story, I did a data dump using Uniformed Crime Commission data for the two counties our paper covers to find the most flagrant offenders. I learned that in 2011 police issued more than 3,700 citations in Bucks County and more than 6,200 in Montgomery County for the offense, and a large number of those tickets were second or more offenses.

Among the more outrageous offenders were a Bucks man cited nine times in one year; and a 20-year-old cited 11 times in two years.

My second first-place honor from the PWPA for outdoor environment coverage (“Fracking law: gag or

guarantee”) was one of my forays back into my previous health enterprise beat.

Following the state Legislature’s adoption of the Act 13 Fracking law in April 2012, I read something about how the law gave doctors new access to super secret chemical mixtures used in hydraulic fracturing for diagnosis purposes ... BUT, it FIRST required they sign a legal agreement promising not to share the information with anyone, including the patient.

The contradiction of the law’s language caught my attention. Besides the ethical concerns, I wondered if refusing to sign the confidentiality agreement could delay a patient’s diagnosis, especially in an emergency.

A stipulation that health and medical professionals request in writing and state how the chemical information will be used to treat a patient particularly intrigued

me since I couldn’t figure out how doctors could determine a health problem was related to fracking fluid chemicals without first knowing what chemicals the person was exposed to.

Among the specific challenges that story presented was learning about the complex issue of natural gas drilling and fracking in a short period of time, as it is not an issue we deal with much in Bucks County.

I received a second-place in the religion category for a story I started in 2011 — before my reassignment. I wanted to take a look at all the hype surrounding the Dec. 21, 2012 Mayan prophecy. I initially planned the story for the first week of January 2012. But then my beat changed and I found myself overwhelmed. The story sat on a shelf — until November, when the editors realized Dec. 21 was around the corner and remembered I had started working on a story and wondered if I could finish it.

I did. In the process I also learned about the Maya, and how history, politics and society shapes and influences perceptions and cultures.

When it came to writing the story, I wanted to make it fun and accessible rather than some boring history lesson. I guess our readers agreed because they made it the most viewed online story the week that it ran.

So if you’ve persevered this far in this piece, you’ve probably picked up a theme to my reporting: It starts with curiosity. It hasn’t let me down yet.



Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association

**Sports writer Elizabeth Merrill spoke about her career and the challenges facing journalists at the PWPA's Excellence in Journalism awards luncheon in Harrisburg this May.**

# Merrill: A little fear is good

**By Theresa Hegel**  
PWPA TREASURER

Elizabeth Merrill doesn't buy into the conventional wisdom that the news bug should be nipped in the bud before it leads bright young writers into a dying — or already dead — industry.

"I disagree with people who say, 'Don't steer people to journalism,' " she said. "There are always going to be jobs for people who are passionate."

Merrill, a senior writer for ESPN.com, has passion in spades. She spoke at the PWPA awards luncheon in Harrisburg this May.

Prior to entering the dotcom world, Merrill worked at the Kansas City Star, covering the Chiefs of the National Football League. Before that, she covered Nebraska Huskers football and just about everything else for the Omaha World-Herald. She has a degree in journalism from the University of Nebraska in Omaha.

When she started out in newspapers in

the mid-90s, the landscape was much different than today, when it sometimes seems like it's easier for fresh college graduates to land jobs because they are cheaper and versed in new media, she said.

"It was flipped. ... Back then, there was a huge premium on experience," Merrill said.

She loved being in the newsroom among the "melting pot of different personalities," soaking up the collective wisdom there.

"I learned to be accurate and to be fast," she said.

That's been the key to Merrill's career, though: always learning something new and trying something outside her comfort zone.

"We operate under fear, anxiety and a lack of self-confidence. We put ourselves out there every day ... wondering if we're doing the right thing or who's behind us to take our job," she said. "I think it's good to operate under that fear."

Merrill's advice to help maintain pas-

sion in a shifting, and often uncertain, profession: "Find one story that inspires or interests you, and spend time on it. It will keep you going, and maybe it will lead to something else."

Merrill also spoke about being a woman in the traditionally male-dominated field of sports writing.

Though it's hardly unusual these days for women to be on the sports staff, there still are some who try to make the argument that women shouldn't cover things like football "because they never played the game," she said.

Her rebuttal? "We have food writers who never were chefs."

When she entered the field, Merrill didn't want her gender even to be a factor, but these days she's more comfortable with the idea that women may bring a different, and valuable, perspective to the world of sports.

"Sometimes athletes will open up to you and feel like they can talk to you about more than X's and O's," she said.



Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association

2013 PWPA scholarship winner Abbey Zelko stands with past President JoAnne Harrop (left) and ESPN.com senior writer Elizabeth Merrill (right).

# Lab-tested, Zelko ready for world

By Theresa Hegel  
PWPA TREASURER

Abbey Zelko remembers a moment during a high school chemistry class when she and her friends were talking about their future careers.

“I tried to picture myself in a lab working every day,” she said. “It just wasn’t me.”

Zelko wants the kind of job where she’s out in the world, always learning something new.

For the 2013 PWPA scholarship winner, that job is journalism.

The profession fulfills her desire to meet new people and try new things.

“And the best part is sharing that with people through my writing,” Zelko said.

Zelko spoke briefly during the awards luncheon in Harrisburg in May, thanking the organization for the \$1,500 check she was presented, and thanking her family for their support and encouragement.

Zelko is from Harrisburg and graduated from Bishop McDevitt High School. She will be a senior at Indiana (Pa.) University in the fall.

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**Q.** Why do you enjoy journalism?

**A.** We always had newspapers in the house, and I always loved newspapers, and I still love newspapers. I’m a prolific reader. I have a library here that would knock your socks off.

**Q.** You call your awards “the icing on the cake.” Why is that?

**A.** I enjoy the writing, and when someone gives you an award it’s like a bonus.

**Q.** What advice do you have for journalists beginning their careers?

**A.** You have to be interested in people and everything that goes on around you, and you have to care about your community and what’s going on. If a community gets a grant for \$100,000, the newspaper should make it a point to find out

where every cent of that \$100,000 goes.

I think people would be surprised at how much goes into administration. I was a member of the National Conference of Editorial Writers and the Investigative Reporters and Editors, and when I’d go to their meetings the big thing was, “Follow the dollar.” That’s advice for any reporter, is follow the dollars and see where they go. How much of it goes where it was intended and how much of it goes elsewhere? That’s where you’ll get your big stories.

# 2013-14 PWPA OFFICERS

This year's PWPA board has some new faces — and a few pretty familiar ones. Read on to find out who used to be the mascot for a Minor League Baseball team and who owns 60 pairs of shoes.

## PRESIDENT

### DAVEEN RAE KURUTZ

Murrysville Star  
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**Career history:** I'm a reporter for the Murrysville Star, a Trib Total Media weekly. Most weeks, you can find me juggling school board and municipal meetings with digging through data for enterprise features.

I've worked for TTM since 2006 as a weeklies and daily reporter, primarily covering education and the ins and outs of suburban life.

Before coming to Trib Total Media, I worked for the Post Gazette and Daily News in McKeesport as a freelancer. My undergrad degree in English writing-journalism is from the University of Pittsburgh, while my master's in journalism and mass communication is from Point Park University.

**Journalism tip:** Never stop digging — there's always another way to find the information you're seeking. Also, never forget that for some readers, your reporting is the only way they will know what their local government is — and isn't — doing.

**Personal information:** My life is a tornado. I've been married to Shawn, an IT and data manager, since the day 21 inches of snow blanketed Pittsburgh in 2010.

#### Three facts about me:

1. I worked my way through college as a pharmacy technician and maintain my certification to this day.
2. I can't go 24 hours without at least one cup of coffee.
3. I once lost my wallet in my car's engine.

## VICE PRESIDENT



### STEPHANIE LONGO

The Abington Suburban  
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#### Career history:

- Contributor, CampaniaSuWeb.it, 2002 to 2006
- Staff writer, The Abington Suburban, Scranton, Pa., 2006 to 2007
- Staff writer, The Triboro Banner, Scranton, Pa., 2006 to 2007
- Editor, The Villager, Moscow, Pa., 2007 to 2009
- Correspondent, Go Lackawanna, 2009 to 2011
- Editor, The Abington Suburban, 2011 to present

**Journalism tip:** Every article gives you the chance to tell someone's story. Remember, you may be the only chance someone has to get their voice heard.

**Personal info:** I am the editor of The Abington Suburban, a weekly newspaper focusing on the Abingtons region of Lackawanna County. We are a 7,000-circulation weekly that is part of the Community Newspaper Group

of Times-Shamrock Communications.

#### Three facts about me:

1. The Abington Suburban was actually my first job in journalism. I grew up in the region, so I can tell many quirky off-record stories about the people I write about.
2. I speak fluent Italian and French and hold dual citizenship with Italy.
3. I am completely, utterly and hopelessly addicted to all forms of coffee, especially if it is caramel-flavored.

## TREASURER



### THERESA HEGEL

The Intelligencer  
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#### Career history:

- Page designer/Books editor, The Vindicator, Youngstown, Ohio, 2000 to 2004
- Copy editor/A1 designer, The Intelligencer, Doylestown, Pa., 2005 to 2008
- Staff writer, The Intelligencer,

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Doylestown, Pa., 2008 to present

**Journalism tip:** Write something that YOU would want to read. It's easy to get caught up in the daily grind of dull meetings and routine stories, to get dragged down by increasing workloads and decreasing pay. You have to challenge yourself to try something new, to stay engaged and motivated. If your writing is putting you to sleep, think how dull it will be for the reader.

**Personal information:** I live in Emmaus with my husband, young daughter and energetic dog. When I'm not working, I'm probably chasing my daughter through the house, reading a novel or playing some stupid, but addictive game on my iPhone. Candy Crush Saga, anyone?

### Three facts about me:

1. I once dreamed that I was saving the world's potato chips from snackers across the world.
2. I collect flamingos. One of my favorites wears a Santa hat and dances and sings "Christmas Island."
3. Some of my colleagues know me as the "weird restaurant girl" because of my unusual order combinations. A classic example is the time I ordered just a vanilla milkshake and a side of coleslaw for lunch.

## SECRETARY

### JOAN MEAD-MATSUI

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### Career history:

■ Public relations director at GSGSB Architects/Engineers/Planners, Clarks Summit, PA, 1988 to 1990

■ Self-employed fine artist/Japanese paper craft instructor 1993 to present

■ Freelance journalist/Photo journalist, The Abington Journal, Clarks Summit, November 2009 to present

**Journalism tip:** Interviewing is more about having a conversation with someone than adhering to a list of questions. Allow the conversation to flow.

**Personal information:** To me, life is one huge feature story and for the most part, I'm rarely at a loss for new story ideas. There's almost always someone interesting to interview, and I prefer human interest/feature type stories. I write exclusively for The Abington Journal, though occasionally I'll contribute a story to one of our other newspapers. Outside of the newspaper business, I do freelance PR, which includes news releases, ad copy and marketing.

### Three facts about me:

1. My editor has told me I'm a storyteller.
2. "Tell me your story" reflects how I feel about writing feature stories and that sentence is printed on my business card.
3. I own at least 60 pairs of shoes.

## SOUTHWEST DIRECTOR



### ROSSILYNNE SKENA

Tribune-Review newsroom  
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724-989-4473

### Career history:

■ Tribune-Review reporter, January 2012 to present

■ Valley News Dispatch reporter, May 2010 to January 2012

■ The Daily Collegian (at Penn State) editor-in-chief, May 2009 to May 2010

■ Previously: Valley News Dispatch intern, Gateway Newspapers intern.

**Journalism tip:** Read your work aloud to remove awkward phrasing and bolster the cadence. (And keep an extra notebook and a pencil — important when covering stories in the rain — in your car's glove box.)

**Personal information:** I write news and features for the Tribune-Review in Greensburg, a Pittsburgh suburb. When time allows, I contribute enterprise projects, too.

### Three facts about me:

1. I'm who I am today — both in life and in journalism — because of my college newspaper, The Daily Collegian. I serve as board member for our alumni association, The Daily Collegian Alumni Interest Group.
2. I love Twitter. Follow me: @rossilynne.
3. When I'm not writing or reading, you can catch me at yoga or visiting downtown Pittsburgh's art galleries.

## CENTRAL DIRECTOR



### KAY STEPHENS

Altoona Mirror  
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**Career history:** News reporter at the Altoona since 1977. Currently cover county government and municipal governments. In the past, I've covered education, courts, cops, agriculture. I've also spent time on the copy desk, handled page design duties and prepared special sections.

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**Journalism tip:** Read your copy like you're the reader, not the writer.

**Personal information:** Served as PWPA president from 1990-92, Penn State alumnus, hold bachelor's degree and associate's degree.

**Three facts about me:**

1. I've never been able to keep a neat desk in the newsroom.
2. It took me five years of entering PWPA's contest before I won my first award — a first place in the general news story category with a story about censorship of a school newspaper. At that time, PWPA gave certificates to first-place winners. I had mine framed at a local framing shop.
3. I knew the late Josephine McMeen of Huntingdon. I believe she was PWPA's last living charter member from the 1937 meeting in Philadelphia.

## SOUTHEAST DIRECTOR



**CARIN M. SMILK**

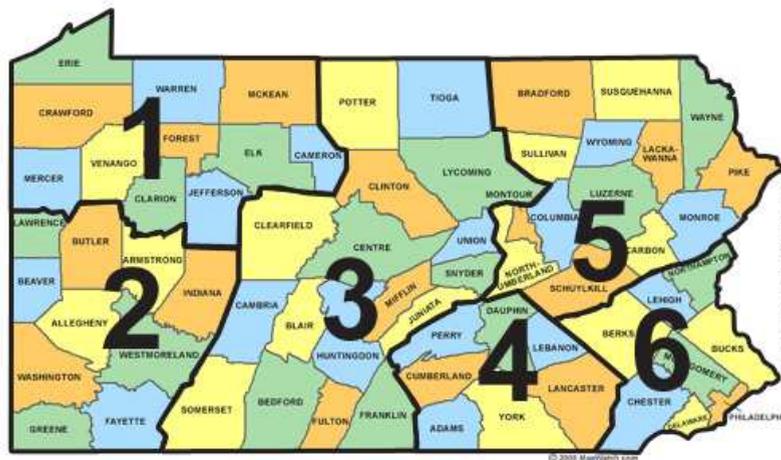
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**Career history:** Currently a freelance writer and editor; before that served as managing editor of the Jewish Exponent in Philadelphia, 13 years, 1998-2011; before that worked at newspapers in Boston and New York City; interned in New York City

**Journalism tip:** Details, details, details; accuracy, accuracy, accuracy (courtesy of NYU Professor Mike Norman)

**Personal information:** I write



- DISTRICTS**
1. Northwest
  2. Southwest
  3. Central
  4. South Central
  5. Northeast
  6. Southeast

about anything and everything; same goes for editing, but I have some extra experience with food copy.

**Three facts about me:**

1. I am the mother of FOUR boys!
2. I was a lacrosse goalie in high school and college.
3. I love everything about winter — the snow, the cold, the dark skies, the fresh air and the quiet. And the fact that there are no bugs outside.

## WEBSITE CHAIRMAN

**BOBBY CHERRY**

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**Career history:** Tangent magazine (Erie-Times News), freelance writer, Erie; reporter, digital guru, Sewickley Herald (Trib Total Media), Sewickley; twodaymag.com, columnist, Pittsburgh

**Journalism tip:** News is not sources. News is people.

**Personal information:** I am a reporter for the Sewickley Herald. With a traditional news sense in mind, I've recognized the importance of new media, focusing on bringing news and other information to readers through a variety of online tools ... and every now and then we have some fun! When I'm not reporting or tweeting for work, I spend much of my time volunteering for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life as a lead adviso-

ry team volunteer for the East Central Division (Ohio and Pennsylvania) and a local event organizer in the suburbs of Pittsburgh.

**Three facts about me:**

1. I have tweeted in my sleep.
2. I'm a huge Pittsburgh Steelers, Penguins and Pirates fan, and also a big Erie SeaWolves and Erie Otters fan.
3. I was the mascot for the Erie SeaWolves for a year. So, C. Wolf and I became really close friends!

## NORTHWEST DIRECTOR

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## SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

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## NORTHEAST DIRECTOR

**STEPHANIE LONGO**

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