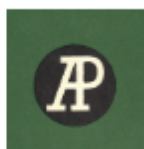


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Connecting April 22, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 22nd day of April 2021,

We lead today's issue with an update on the AP's pension plans that our colleague **Jessica Bruce**, AP senior vice president, provides to readers of Connecting annually. Funding of the plans has strengthened over the past year, she noted.

"Retirees should feel secure with their AP pension benefits," she said in the report.

The **Walter Mears** ([Email](#)) byline appeared on the AP wires yesterday – as our colleague, one of the best-ever political reporters in journalism history, collaborated with **Kathleen Hennessey**, regional politics editor based in Minneapolis, for a remembrance of former Vice President Walter Mondale.

Friends and colleagues of Nick Jesdanun: The Nick Jesdanun Virtual Memorial will take place this Friday, April 23, at 8 pm EST. Nick, deputy technology editor for

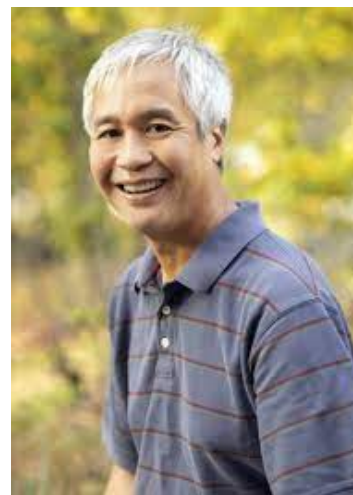
the AP, died a year ago of coronavirus-related complications at the age of 51.

His brother Gary said a formal program will last approximately one hour (8-9pm, EST). Immediately following, there will be an informal “Happy Hour” after-party (also over Zoom), where anyone who wishes to speak will be invited to share their Nick memories. The “Happy Hour” is completely optional, though if you plan on attending, you may want to bring your favorite drink for a toast to Nick!

Click [here](#) for information on joining the Zoom memorial.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul



AP Pension funding status update

Jessica Bruce ([Email](#)) - *AP senior vice president* - The funding position of AP’s pension plans has strengthened over the past year. As of April 15, 2021, the plans are 91.5% funded compared to 87% funded in May 2020 and 61% funded in 2012. That improved funding position is due in no small part to significant contributions AP has made to the pension plans since 2012, well above the statutorily required amounts. AP expects to continue that course, making contributions each year to remain ahead of funding requirements and achieve fully funded status in the coming years.

Investment returns as well as interest rates affect pension funding levels. AP’s pension assets are invested in stocks and bonds through index funds. As the plans’ funded level increases, the proportion of plan assets in stocks declines and the proportion in bonds rises. Because of the improvement in funded status over the past 12 months, the investment allocation is now 40% to stocks and 60% to bonds compared to a 50%-50% mix last May.

In January 2020, AP’s three pension plans (Administrative, Editorial and Communications) were merged. No change to anyone’s pension benefit occurred, but the merger allowed the company to reduce outside fees paid by the plans, which ultimately helps the plans’ funding. As a result of the plans’ merger, the Annual Funding Notice sent out to retirees showed a significant increase in the plan assets, which now reflects total assets from all three plans combined.

As a reminder, AP’s pension plans are frozen, which means no additional benefits are being accrued but benefits earned up until the freeze date are protected. AP’s financial flexibility will be enhanced by achieving full funding of our pension plans and the company is on track to make that happen. Retirees should feel secure with their AP pension benefits.

If you have questions about your pension benefit with the AP, please reach out to Sue Gilkey, AP's Global Director of Employee Benefits at sgilkey@ap.org or at (212) 621-1727.

Axios Exclusive: AP building local news collaborative

By Sara Fischer, author of [Media Trends](#)
Axios

The AP is doubling down on its local news experiment called StoryShare, which helped newsrooms quickly share information around COVID, AP deputy managing editor for U.S. News Noreen Gillespie tells Axios.

The big picture: There are now more than 130 newsrooms participating in the program across geographic networks in Colorado, Upstate New York, Oregon, New England, West Virginia, Illinois, and more.

The AP hopes to have 20 of these "networks up and running by the end of 2021," Gillespie says.

In coming months, the network will expand from geographic networks to topical ones.

Newsrooms will be able to create networks where they can share stories, photos, videos, etc. around topics as specific as a single storm or as broad as something like gun control or climate change.

The program, initially funded via a grant from the Google News Initiative, is facilitated by the AP, but the participating newsrooms in the networks decide how much they want to share.

What's next: The networks are available for free for local newsrooms that are AP clients or non-profits. Non-AP customers can access the networks through grants or a fee.

"Down the road, we could address monetization, but right now this is about giving customers the capability to launch networks and improve coverage."

The bottom line: "There are moments when we need to prioritize collaboration over competition," Gillespie says.

Go deeper: [Local news moves to the inbox](#)

In death, long after loss, Mondale's liberal legacy stands



FILE - In this Wednesday, Sept. 5, 1984, file photo, Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale and his running mate, Geraldine Ferraro, wave as they leave an afternoon rally in Portland, Ore.

By WALTER MEARS and KATHLEEN HENNESSEY

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — In the last days of his life, former Vice President Walter Mondale received a steady stream of phone calls of appreciation. Former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris all called to say goodbye and thank you.

It was a sign of respect for a man many Americans remember largely for his near-shutout defeat for the White House in 1984. But well after his bruising loss, Mondale remained a revered liberal elder — with a list of accomplishments that are still relevant today.

As a young senator, he co-wrote the Fair Housing Act of 1968, a pillar of federal civil rights legislation. He later engineered a 1975 bipartisan deal that ended the two-thirds rule for stopping filibusters, so that 60 senators instead of 67 could cut off debate.

Under President Jimmy Carter, he became the first vice president with a day job, as adviser to the president, not just a bystander. He called it the “executivization” of the vice presidency.

And as a Democratic presidential nominee, he chose the first female nominee for vice president from a major party.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Connecting series – On the move

Stork seemed to know when a move was afoot



This picture from 2016 shows the Geranios family outside a restaurant in Spokane, Washington. All four kids were born in different cities. From left, Eli (born in Spokane), Ann, Nick, Miranda (born in Springfield, Illinois), Tom (born in Sacramento) and Konstantine (born in Yakima, Washington).

Nick Geranios ([Email](#)) - *Spokane correspondent* - For years it seemed that every time the stork visited our household, it signaled a job transfer.

I have moved five times while working for AP, and in three of those cases my wife Ann moved while pregnant.

Ann, a former director of the AP's Spokane Data Center, was not amused.

The first time occurred in 1986 when we lived in Chicago and Ann became pregnant with our first child. When she was eight months pregnant, I accepted a job transfer to the state capital of Springfield without exactly consulting her. We had to scramble to find a doctor in Springfield who would accept a 9-month pregnant woman as a new patient. I informed the doctor that the baby must not arrive on election day under any circumstances, as I had to work. He was not sympathetic.

It all worked out and my daughter Miranda was born in Springfield on Nov. 5, 1996. FYI, because I was a newly minted statehouse reporter, my wife was deluged with flowers from elected officials we did not know from Adam. But because we were brand new in town she received no visitors at the hospital.

The next incidence of stork-transfer symmetry occurred in 1994 when I was correspondent in Yakima, Washington, and accepted a promotion to correspondent in Sacramento. Ann was pregnant again, but we sold our newly remodeled house and moved to Sacramento. Once again we had to find a new doctor, but it all worked out as my son Tom was born.

Ann got pregnant again in 1995, and like Pavlov's dog I started salivating for a new job. I accepted a transfer to Spokane, Washington, during Christmas and our son Eli was born in April of 1996. That move was famous within our family because Ann wrote a poignant Christmas letter titled Homeless for the Holidays.

Our only child who was conceived and born in the same town was my oldest son Konstantine, in Yakima in 1989.

Connecting mailbox

Thank You to Gene Herrick

Sylvia Wingfield ([Email](#)) - "Thank You" to Gene Herrick for sharing his perspectives on the arc of history (in Wednesday's Connecting). How lucky we are to have an AP colleague who can bring his own coverage of the murders of Emmett Till and Martin Luther King Jr. to add meaning to the present.

-0-

A fond memory of photographer Spartaco Bodini

Jeff Williams ([Email](#)) – AP photographer Spartaco Bodini is the only person I have seen take a sip of wine that he ordered and then reject the bottle. I was impressed.

In the mid-1960s, Southeast Asia bureau chief Don Huth sent me from Bangkok to Singapore to cover on-going riots connected to Singapore opting out of Malaysia.(no need to go into history here).

Bodini was sent out from Paris to cover the riots with me. He was a cool operator. At one point we broke off from the rioting (which had gone on for more than a week) and treated ourselves to dinner at an elegant hotel.

Bodini ordered the wine. The waiter brought the bottle wrapped in a towel and poured a taste for Bodini. He took one sip and shouted "Algerian!" He shoved the glass away and demanded to see the bottle. The sheepish waiter removed the towel and gave it to him. Indeed, it was a cheap Algerian substitute for what Spartaco had ordered.

To this day I remain impressed. What a guy: great photographer and wine connoisseur!

(And Jeff asks, if anyone knows how he might get in touch with Spartaco, please drop him a note.)

-0-

Shooting digital – it was an AP team event





AP Photos/John Gaps (top photo) and David Longstreath (bottom photo)

John Gaps (Email) - Back in 1996 the NC-2000 digital camera cost \$15,000, made a 1.3MP file and you got one photo every three seconds. It really showed its value when Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh was arrested on 4.19.96 in Perry, OK, about an hour's drive north of Oklahoma City. Fellow AP staffer David Longstreath and I used our NC-2000's to capture the perp walk and, transmitting from a law office across the street, were having a steak dinner at a cafe down the street while the competing wire services were drying their film back in OKC. It was a big day for digital news photography. David went to the right and I went to the left.

It was the "paleo-digital age." But we were the first, and I believe, the best. We were in the business of making things work. I believe AP staff accelerated the digital photography revolution to a point it became global much faster than if it had not had such professional commitment. You're welcome world!

Addendum: When I say AP staff, I mean the technicians who dreamed up all the ways to make, improve and adapt the technology. The photographers who just said, "OK, let's make this work," and the editors who delivered what the techs and photogs produced. It was a halcyon time of the team being more important than the individual.

-0-

More of your captions for this newspaper-reading canine



Bruce Lowitt - Dogged consumer of cur-ent events

Doug Pizac - Bad News is a Bitch (assuming dog is female)

Malcolm Ritter - Given the creases in the paper, I'd suggest Foldin' Retriever.

-0-

Blue Heron sighting



Hank Ackerman ([Email](#)) – A blue heron in the surf on Longboat Key, Florida.

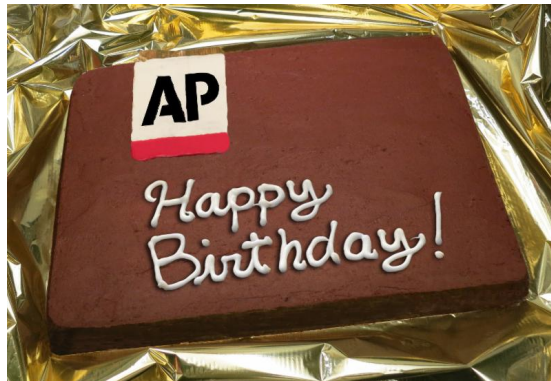
-0-

Literally accurate



From Steve Graham ([Email](#))

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Peter Mattiace - pmattiace@aol.com

Bob Reid - rreid47@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Susan Gilkey - sgilkey@ap.org

Zeina Karam - zkaram@ap.org

Dennis Kois - dkois81@gmail.com

Tamara Lush - tamaralush@gmail.com

Front pages after Derek Chauvin's trial: Guilty (Poynter)

WEDNESDAY
April 21, 2021

StarTribune

43° 32°
Cloudy and cool;
warmer Thursday B6

CONVICTED

JURY FINDS DEREK CHAUVIN GUILTY OF MURDER

Minnesota and world react to verdict: 'George Floyd mattered'



ELIZABETH FLORES • eflores@startribune.com

The guilty verdicts in Derek Chauvin's trial, read aloud at 4:07 p.m. and streamed live around the world, prompted immediate celebrations in the plaza outside the courthouse in downtown Minneapolis.

A momentous day in a history of injustice

By REID FORGRAVE and MAYA RAO • Star Tribune staff

A mass cheer rose up from the south lawn of the Hennepin County courthouse the moments the verdicts were read inside: guilty, guilty, guilty. At a downtown hotel not far away, Spike Moss watched alongside George Floyd's family as Derek Chauvin was convicted of murder. The 74-year-old Minneapolis civil rights activist sat down and teared up. "We finally won one," he said, thanking God that he had lived long enough to see a victory for which he had fought his whole life. It was far from a unanimous moment of elation in this divided country, but many

"It is such a surprise, and a sense of relief, that I have lived long enough to see this happen," she said. "That this may help us see justice as a society — that's my prayer. I've lived long enough to see this happen, and I've lived long enough to see a Black man elected president. I've seen a country that reacted in such a way of hurt in seeing what happened to George Floyd. That gave me a sense of hope." But she emphasized that the hope Chauvin's conviction symbolized can become a historical touchstone only if the lessons learned from the trial help change not just policing but a society where



Derek Chauvin was placed in custody after his guilty verdict on all charges in an image from Court TV.

THE VERDICT

Second-degree unintentional murder

Did Chauvin cause George Floyd's death, without intending to cause death, while committing or attempting to commit assault?

Guilty

Third-degree murder

Fired Mpls. officer led away in handcuffs

By CHAO XIONG and PAUL WALSH • Star Tribune staff

A sheriff's deputy led former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin away in handcuffs Tuesday after jurors convicted him of murdering George Floyd, a dramatic ending to a case that captivated the world and became the latest flash point in a raging debate about police brutality against the Black community. The conviction, almost a year after a bystander video captured Chauvin kneeling on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes, was the first time in Minnesota history that a white police officer was convicted of killing a Black civilian on the job. Jurors deliberated for about

immediately handcuffed and escorted out of the courtroom by Hennepin County sheriff's deputies when his bail was revoked. Chauvin, who wore a blue surgical face mask as mandated by the court for COVID-19 safety, gave a nod to his attorney, Eric Nelson, as he was led out a back door. He was transferred to the Minnesota Department of Corrections and booked about 4:55 p.m. into the state prison at Oak Park Heights for his safety while he awaits sentencing. As news of the verdicts — guilty on all counts — spread, social media sites reported the Minneapolis Police Department's initial report that Floyd

racial equality advocates took a moment to soak in what they saw as a rare instance of justice for Black Americans.

Minnesota civil rights icon Josie Johnson, 90, said she was stunned when she heard that Chauvin had been convicted of all three counts, including second-degree murder.

Black Americans are treated unequally.

"I'm just fearful that unless we can talk about this and express our real fears and concerns, I don't know it will last long enough," she said. "I'm praying that it will. If we are successful, I think people will

See **IMPACT** on A13 ▶

Did Chauvin cause the death of Floyd by perpetrating an act eminently dangerous to others and evincing a depraved mind, without regard for human life?

Guilty

Second-degree manslaughter

Did Chauvin, by his culpable negligence, take an unreasonable risk and consciously take chances of causing death or great bodily harm to Floyd?

Guilty

nine hours and 45 minutes over two days before finding Chauvin guilty of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Chauvin, dressed in a shirt and tie and gray suit, glanced around the courtroom as the verdicts were read, and was

died of a medical incident at the scene, an assertion that might never have been contradicted so forcefully were it not for a teenage girl, Darnella Frazier, walking by and recording Floyd's death last May 25 on her cellphone and posting it for the world to see.

See **VERDICT** on A7 ▶

10 PAGES OF COVERAGE INSIDE

Analysis
Prosecution brought the crime to life for jurors. **A4**

'We must do more'
Biden, Harris, lawmakers react to trial's outcome. **A11**

In dark days, a time to hope
Keep fighting for change, Myron Medcalf writes. **A12**

From the stand
Key testimony from eight eyewitnesses, experts. **A6**

Floyd's family
Push for reform doesn't end with verdict, they say. **A10**

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By: Kristen Hare

Almost a year ago, newspapers around the country captured outrage after George Floyd's death.

"Time to speak up," read a sign from a photo in Rhode Island.

"Silence is violence," read a sign from another in North Carolina.

"America is choking on racism." read one in Massachusetts.

The protests spread.

"Both locally and nationwide, the George Floyd killing triggered some of the most widespread civic unrest in half a century," Minnesota's Sahan Journal reported Tuesday after former police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty on three counts in Floyd's death.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

'Project Mayhem': Reporters Race To Save Tribune Papers From 'Vulture' Fund (NPR)

By DAVID FOLKENFLIK

Journalists working for the storied newspapers of Tribune Publishing Company are racing against the most intense deadline of their careers to find new owners for their company before May 21.

That's when the hedge fund Alden Global Capital, infamous for stripping newsrooms to the bone, is poised to make good on its plans to buy the chain in a \$635 million deal. Alden already holds half of Tribune Publishing's publicly traded shares.

Under the leadership of a veteran education reporter for Tribune's Baltimore Sun, Liz Bowie, journalists have banded together to stop Alden. Bowie has galvanized colleagues and helped organize peers at the chain's other newsrooms, which include the Chicago Tribune, the New York Daily News and the Hartford Courant. These

journalists are determined to shape their own destiny. And they call the effort "Project Mayhem."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

-0-

Right-wing media erupts in incoherent rage after Derek Chauvin is found guilty (Salon)

By ZACHARY PETRIZZO

With nationwide emotions running high following the conviction of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for the murder George Floyd, right-wing media reacted in opposite fashion to the general public, attempting to infuriate followers and lash out at the verdict.

Many on the right, both in media and politics, invoked conservatives' word of the year, suggesting that the trial was "rigged" or impacted by "mob rule." Other, more "mainstream," conservative figures complained about the remarks made by President Biden and Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., who praised the verdict and called for a broader push for racial justice.

Some of the most shocking remarks came late on Tuesday night during Fox News host Laura Ingraham's program, where right-wing YouTuber Brandon Tatum made an incoherent case for a sinister conspiracy, suggesting that the media aims to have Black people confront police in order to be shot in exchange for a large payoff.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

Today in History - April 22, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 22, the 112th day of 2021. There are 253 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 22, 2005, Zacarias Moussaoui (zak-uh-REE'-uhs moo-SOW'-ee) pleaded guilty in a federal courtroom outside Washington, D.C. to conspiring with the Sept. 11 hijackers to kill Americans. (Moussaoui is serving a life prison sentence.)

On this date:

In 1864, Congress authorized the use of the phrase "In God We Trust" on U.S. coins.

In 1889, the Oklahoma Land Rush began at noon as thousands of homesteaders staked claims.

In 1898, with the United States and Spain on the verge of war, the U.S. Navy began blockading Cuban ports. Congress authorized creation of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, also known as the "Rough Riders."

In 1915, the first full-scale use of deadly chemicals in warfare took place as German forces unleashed chlorine gas against Allied troops at the start of the Second Battle of Ypres (EE'-preh) in Belgium during World War I; thousands of soldiers are believed to have died.

In 1937, thousands of college students in New York City staged a "peace strike" opposing American entry into another possible world conflict.

In 1952, an atomic test in Nevada became the first nuclear explosion shown on live network television as a 31-kiloton bomb was dropped from a B-50 Superfortress.

In 1954, the publicly televised sessions of the Senate Army-McCarthy hearings began.

In 1970, millions of Americans concerned about the environment observed the first "Earth Day."

In 1994, Richard M. Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, died at a New York hospital four days after suffering a stroke; he was 81.

In 2000, in a dramatic pre-dawn raid, armed immigration agents seized Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban boy at the center of a custody dispute, from his relatives' home in Miami; Elian was reunited with his father at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington.

In 2004, Army Ranger Pat Tillman, who'd traded in a multi-million-dollar NFL contract to serve in Afghanistan, was killed by friendly fire; he was 27.

In 2015, a federal judge in Philadelphia approved a settlement agreement expected to cost the NFL \$1 billion over 65 years to resolve thousands of concussion lawsuits. A federal appeals court in San Francisco overturned home run leader Barry Bonds' obstruction of justice conviction, ruling 10-1 that his meandering answer before a grand jury in 2003 was not material to the government's investigation into illegal steroids distribution.

Ten years ago: Syrian security forces fired at protesters, killing at least 75 people around the country. A tornado ripped through Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, causing significant damage to the C Concourse.

Five years ago: Leaders from 175 countries signed the Paris Agreement on climate change at the United Nations as the landmark deal took a key step toward entering into force years ahead of schedule.

One year ago: Tyson Foods suspended operations at a pork plant in Waterloo, Iowa, that was blamed for fueling a massive coronavirus outbreak in the region; the plant was critical to the nation's pork supply. (At least three workers at the plant died after contracting the virus, which infected more than 1,000 other workers there.) Federal officials said two pet cats in New York state had tested positive for the coronavirus, marking the first confirmed cases in companion animals in the United States; the cats had mild respiratory illnesses. The Boston Red Sox were stripped of their second-round pick in the 2020 amateur draft for sign-stealing in 2018; former Red Sox manager Alex Cora was suspended through the 2020 postseason for his role in the Astros' sign-stealing operation. Actor Shirley Knight, a two-time Oscar nominee, died in Texas at the age of 83.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Estelle Harris is 93. Actor Jack Nicholson is 84. Singer Mel Carter is 82. Author Janet Evanovich is 78. Country singer Cleve Francis is 76. Movie director John Waters is 75. Singer Peter Frampton is 71. Rock singer-musician Paul Carrack (Mike and the Mechanics; Squeeze) is 70. Actor Joseph Bottoms is 67. Actor Ryan Stiles is 62. Baseball manager Terry Francona is 62. Comedian and entertainment executive Byron Allen is 60. Actor Chris Makepeace is 57. Rock musician Fletcher Dragge (DRAH'-guh) is 55. Actor Jeffrey Dean Morgan is 55. Actor Sheryl Lee is 54. Actor-talk show host Sherri Shepherd is 54. Country singer-musician Heath Wright (Ricochet) is 54. Country singer Kellie Coffey is 50. Actor Eric Mabius is 50. Actor Ingo Rademacher (RAH'-deh-mah-ker) is 50. Rock musician Shavo Odadjian (System of a Down) is 47. Rock singer-musician Daniel Johns (Silverchair) is 42. Actor Malcolm Barrett is 41. Actor Cassidy Freeman is 39. Actor Michelle Ryan is 37. Actor Zack Gottsagen is 36. Actor Amber Heard is 35. Singer-songwriter BC Jean (Alexander Jean) is 34. Drummer Tripp Howell (LANCO) is 32. Rapper/singer Machine Gun Kelly is 31.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual place a story assignment took you.**

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

paulstevens46@gmail.com



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