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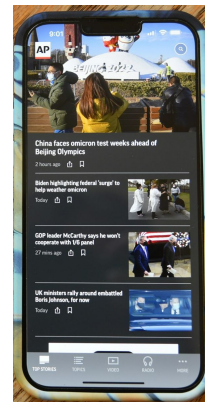
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## Connecting

Oct. 17, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Oct. 17, 2022,

Connecting congratulations are in order for our colleague **Roxana Hegeman** on news that she will soon retire from The Associated Press after 24 years as Wichita correspondent and 4 years in the New Orleans bureau.

The respect afforded her by Kansas members was evidenced a year ago when Hegeman was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame. As Kansas City bureau chief, I had the good fortune to hire her into the Wichita position – one near and dear to my heart, as I held the job for three years in the late 1970s.

If you would like to drop her a note, her email – [rhegeman@gmail.com](mailto:rhegeman@gmail.com)

In the 80-plus-year history of the one-person Wichita operation, she has served the longest of any correspondent. Connecting colleagues who once were Wichita correspondent are **Paul Stevens, Scott Kraft** and **Traci Carl**.

**LAST CALL TO CONNECTING AUTHORS:** This week is the deadline for submitting your entry to Connecting's annual presentation of books authored by its colleagues in the past 12 months. So if you have written a book that was published in the past year, send me the following: 300 to 400-word synopsis of the book, jpg image of the book cover and jpg closeup image of you the author.

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Connecting retirement profile

# Roxana Hegeman

*'It's the stories we tell that really matter'*

By PAUL STEVENS

[Roxana Hegeman](#) was a student at the University of Texas at El Paso decades ago when Walter Cronkite came to campus to speak to journalism classes.

"He said something that has stayed with me since," Hegeman said. "Cronkite was nearing the end of his career at the time and told us students that the one thing he enjoyed the most during his career was being out in the field reporting on stories. Cronkite said that what he missed the most as an anchorman was that he had gotten so famous that he could no longer go report out in the field because whenever he had tried to do so, his own celebrity overshadowed the people whose stories he was trying to report.



"I've never forgotten that it is the stories we tell that really matter. And I have been fortunate to be able to tell those stories the last 28-plus years at AP."

In her 24 years as the AP's correspondent in Wichita, the record length of service for anyone who has held that position which opened in the 1940s, Hegeman has told thousands of stories – with an emphasis on agriculture and aviation. Her byline is one of the most recognizable in the Sunflower State and in AP reports beyond.

That will end soon. She has announced plans to retire from the AP on Dec. 1, with her last day of work set for Nov. 22.

“I did not initially intend to stay in this position for so long,” she said, “but found I really enjoyed the job here and especially loved working with our great colleagues here.”

Hegeman, who was inducted into the 2021 class of the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame, “is a consummate journalist whose contributions have helped make The Iola Register a trusted source for state news,” said Susan Lynn, fourth-generation publisher of the southeast Kansas newspaper and one of the state’s most respected journalists.

“Roxana takes readers behind the obvious story of a bumper wheat harvest or record drought, showing the impact on families and their livelihoods. In her 24 years as an Associated Press correspondent, Roxana knows Kansas and how to tell its story. We will miss her.”

Roxana Perez was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1955 and immigrated to the United States as a young child with her parents, Orlando and Josefa Perez, in December 1960 following the Cuban revolution. While attending UTEP, she was named the “Outstanding Woman in College Journalism” by Texas Press Women before graduating in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. It was at UTEP where she met her future husband, Douglas Hegeman, then a graduate student pursuing music education coursework. They married during spring break.

After graduation, she began her career as a reporter for the Bozeman (Mont.) Daily Chronicle in 1979. She and her husband fulfilled their dream of publishing their own newspaper when later that year they founded the Belgrade Independent Press in Belgrade, Mont. He was the publisher and she the editor and reporter. The Hegemans handled every facet of the newspaper from typesetting and layout to advertising, circulation and bookkeeping. Exhausted, they sold the award-winning publication in 1982.

Hegeman moved to Odessa, Texas, to work as feature editor of the Odessa American and a year later returned to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle where for the next six years she covered local government and agriculture as well as handling the newspaper’s investigative reporting.

She left Montana to take a position as managing editor of the Shoshone News-Press, a daily newspaper in Kellogg, Idaho. It was there that she met Bill Beecham, the AP’s bureau chief in Salt Lake City at the time. She pressed him to help her land what had long been her most coveted job: as an AP reporter. Beecham told her there was an opening at the AP bureau in New Orleans. Hegeman jumped at the opportunity and the family moved in 1994 to Louisiana, where she began her AP career.

During her time there, she helped cover an array of stories from Mardi Gras to the New Orleans Saints, hurricanes to the courts. But the toughest story Roxana had to write was **the first-person account** of going back to Cuba with her mother and sister to reconnect with family and her native country.

In 1998, an AP job opening in Kansas for Wichita correspondent caught her attention. Perhaps it was because Wichita was renowned as an aviation hub, something she appreciated as a private pilot herself. Perhaps it was the agricultural coverage that the job entailed, something that rekindled warm memories of her Montana hobby farm with its milk cow, sheep and poultry.



When she didn't immediately hear back on her job application, she wrote a letter to then-Missouri/Kansas Bureau Chief Paul Stevens – telling him he would be hard-pressed to find another reporter for that job that could fly a plane and milk a cow. He hired her.

On Hegeman's first day on the job as the Wichita correspondent, the DeBruce grain elevator near Haysville exploded, killing seven people and injuring 10 others. In just her first few months in Kansas, her byline appeared on stories about a toddler rescued after falling down a narrow well in Mulvane, a tornado that devastated Haysville, and flooding that swamped hundreds of homes in Augusta.

The years that followed also brought national attention to Wichita with her stories about the BTK serial killer and the long-running abortion battles that culminated with the killing of Dr. George Tiller. She pursued stories about voting rights, covered the courts and agriculture and wrote some more about tornadoes in Greensburg and elsewhere.



Roxana and Doug Hegeman at the 2021 Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame induction. Photo by fellow AP inductee Tom Slaughter.

As AP's Wichita correspondent, Hegeman twice won the Fred W. Moen AP Staffer of the Year award. Her husband is now retired from teaching. The couple has three grown children: Aaron, Eric and Sarah. They have four grandchildren.

## AP journalists honored for courage in documenting Mariupol



**FILE - Associated Press photographer Evgeniy Maloletka stands amid rubble of an airstrike on Pryazovskyi State Technical University on March 10, 2022, in Mariupol, Ukraine. Maloletka and Mstyslav Chernov, two Ukrainians who documented the horrors of the Russian invasion and siege of Mariupol for The Associated Press, are being honored for their courage with Colby College's Lovejoy Award. (AP Photo/Mstyslav Chernov, File)**

WATERVILLE, Maine (AP) — Two Ukrainians who documented the horrors of the Russian invasion and siege of Mariupol for The Associated Press are being honored for their courage with Colby College's Lovejoy Award.

Mstyslav Chernov and Evgeniy Maloletka continued reporting on the Russian invasion after other international journalists left Mariupol, an industrial city on the Sea of Azov. They made a harrowing escape to share their images with the world.

The liberal arts college is honoring them with the award bearing the name of alumnus Elijah Parish Lovejoy, an abolitionist newspaper publisher who was killed by a mob for his anti-slavery editorials in 1837.

"Just as Elijah Lovejoy risked his life to expose atrocities, Mstyslav Chernov and Evgeniy Maloletka knew that showing the world what was happening in Mariupol was a cause worthy of the ultimate sacrifice," Colby College President David Greene said in a statement.

Martin Kaiser, Lovejoy selection committee chair, retired editor of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and current journalism faculty member at the University of Maryland, said the pair's sacrifices represented "the definition for courage for journalists."

"It's the fastest we've ever come to a decision," he said of his decade on the selection committee. "The courage these two photographers showed is what the Lovejoy

Award is all about.”

The award was being presented Friday at an event that included a discussion moderated by AP Global Investigations Editor Ron Nixon and Brian Carovillano from NBC News, who was vice president and managing editor of The Associated Press while Chernov and Maloletka reported from Mauripol.

Chernov and Maloletka, who were unable to attend the event in person, are the first visual journalists to receive the award Lovejoy award, which Colby College began bestowing in 1952.

Past recipients include a who's who of American journalism, including Watergate scandal reporter Bob Woodward from The Washington Post, former New York Times reporter James Risen and former Atlanta Journal-Constitution editorial page editor Cynthia Tucker.

(Shared by Adolphe Bernotas)

## Former AP Kansas City, Denver news editor named to Missouri Southern newspaper's Hall of Fame

[Jim Suhr](#) – I wanted to share some news about Chris Clark, former AP news editor in Kansas City and Denver, who on Oct. 8 was inducted into the hall of fame of Missouri Southern's student newspaper, The Chart.

Chris clearly is too humble to draw attention to himself, so I'll take it upon myself to do it for him. I've had a lot of news editors in my life, by Chris clearly was one of the best for so many reasons. I was fortunate to again be a colleague of his here at Black & Veatch for a time, and I miss working with and for him.

I know he's near and dear to your heart, given that I believe he was an AP hire of yours.

[Six selected for Chart Hall of Fame induction](#)  
– excerpts:



The Chart was founded in 1939 by student editor Kenneth McCaleb at Joplin Junior College. The inaugural Hall of Fame class was named in 2012, with a new class inducted every five years.

The 2022 class is headlined by Tony Feather, who served as the national political director for George W. Bush's 2000 presidential campaign. Sports editor and political

editor for The Chart in 1973-75, he is currently a partner at FLSCoconnect, a voter targeting and advocacy firm.

Chris Clark, who served two terms as Chart editor-in-chief (1989-91), spent the bulk of his journalistic career with the Associated Press. He eventually became news editor for the AP's bureaus in Salt Lake City and Kansas City and quickly earned a reputation as one of the AP's most well-traveled "parachute" news editors – a trusted newsroom leader called to edit and guide breaking-news coverage of page-one journalism across the United States.

## Photos from the former HerEx Annex home of LA bureau





[Peggy Walsh](#) - I knew I had this somewhere.

Shut the door. The infamous old LA bureau. Recorded for history.

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**Dan Hansen** - This is a 1981 photo in the AP LA Photo Office-taken by Reid, Red or Nick Ut, showing Jodie Steck and I at the regional photo control board- showing various photo transmitters and receivers, dial telephones, manual typewriter for captions. The LA Bureau at this time was over the LA Herald-Hearst newspaper paper storage facility, it had great windows with a view of the parking lot.

Also outside view of the LA Bureau-Herald Annex- photograph by me when truck hit fire hydrant outside building 1982

## ***BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER***

# **At the intersection of politics and religion, AP reports from Michael Flynn's Christian nationalist road show**



Michael Flynn's ReAwaken America cross-country tour has attracted lots of media attention, but journalists trying to cover it have had trouble getting in or found their access severely restricted once inside. Some that have attended have been ejected from the event, which whips up a hostile environment toward journalists.

So when correspondent Michelle Smith and photographer Carolyn Kaster started planning to attend its stop in upstate New York, they didn't bother getting credentialed. Smith simply bought tickets.

The decision to go as attendees made all the difference: The two were fully engaged in Flynn's world for two days, documenting an event that is at the heart of an ascendent movement.

Working with just an iPhone, Kaster captured exclusive images showing the event's political, religious and commercial overtones — including immersion baptisms. Meanwhile, investigative reporter Richard Lardner monitored the event's stage on a livestream and provided reporting support from Washington.

Read more [here](#).

## ***BEST OF THE WEEK - SECOND WINNER*** **AP out front with first word on death of country music queen Loretta Lynn**



When Nashville Entertainment video journalist Kristin Hall broke the stunning news of Naomi Judd's death earlier this year, a representative for Loretta Lynn saw how Hall and AP handled the Judd obituary. Lynn's rep then reached out to Hall, asking about AP's obituary process — and shared that Lynn was in poor health.

That early heads-up launched Hall into motion, pulling together text and video prep, and steadily working with editors to refine and polish it.

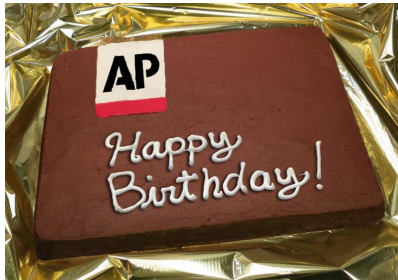
Word of the singer's death came Tuesday, and Hall was ready, working quickly to confirm details and get the news out. The result: AP's alert moved at 10:23 a.m. EDT, followed by a complete 1000-word obituary less than a minute later, long before other news outlets and giving the AP a lengthy beat on a high-profile celebrity death.

Hall's work didn't stop there. She worked throughout the day with colleagues to get visuals of memorials in both Los Angeles and Nashville. She also worked on a follow-

up that she long envisioned as a strong companion piece — a detailed look at Lynn’s “The Pill,” and how it had taken on greater resonance after Roe v. Wade was overturned.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Brian Bland](#)

[Marty Crutsinger](#)

[Amy Lignitz Harken](#)

## Stories of interest

### *Is Alex Jones verdict the death of disinformation?*

Unlikely (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — A Connecticut jury’s ruling this week ordering Alex Jones to pay \$965 million to parents of Sandy Hook shooting victims he maligned was heartening for people disgusted by the muck of disinformation.

Just don’t expect it to make conspiracy theories go away.

The appetite for such hokum and narrowness of the judgments against Jones, who falsely claimed that the 2012 elementary school shootings were a hoax and that grieving parents were actors, virtually ensure a ready supply, experts say.

“It’s easy to revel in Alex Jones being punished,” said Rebecca Adelman, a communications professor at the University of Maryland. “But there’s a certain shortsightedness in that celebration.”

There's a deep tradition of conspiracy theories across American history, from people not believing the official explanation of John F. Kennedy's assassination to various accusations of extraterrestrial-visit coverups to unfounded allegations of the 2020 presidential election being rigged. With the Salem witch trials in 1692, they even predated the country's formation.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***After increasing in 2020, layoffs at large U.S. newspapers and digital news sites declined in 2021***

(Pew Research Center)

**BY ELISA SHEARER AND EMILY TOMASIK**

The percentage of large newspapers and digital news sites that experienced layoffs fell considerably in 2021 when compared with the year prior, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis, which examined online news stories about layoffs at outlets in both of these categories.

In 2021, 11% of high-circulation newspapers – those with an average Sunday circulation of 50,000 or more – experienced layoffs, compared with three times that share the year before (33%), when the coronavirus pandemic upended the nation's economy. The 2021 figure is the lowest percentage of large newspapers experiencing layoffs since the Center began tracking this trend in 2017.

Similarly, only 3% of high-traffic digital-native news outlets – those with a monthly average of at least 10 million unique visitors – had layoffs in 2021, also marking the lowest figure since 2017.

Unlike in previous years, major newspapers did not experience multiple rounds of publicly reported layoffs in 2021. In 2020, for example, 11% of the high-circulation newspapers that experienced layoffs had more than one round of announced layoffs.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Newsroom Confidential review: Margaret Sullivan's timely tale of the Times and the Post*** (Guardian)

**By CHARLES KAISER**

Margaret Sullivan has written a beguiling memoir which shares many of the virtues of the work that brought her national attention as public editor of the New York Times and then as a media columnist for the Washington Post. The virtues of her columns, excellent news judgment and old-fashioned common sense, are again on display.

Especially in the early part of the book, Sullivan pats herself on the back quite a bit for breaking a glass ceiling by becoming one of the first woman editors of an important regional paper, the Buffalo News.

But she is capable of self-criticism, especially for a painful mistake when her paper decided to publish the criminal backgrounds of the victims of a mass shooting.

“The Black community was furious” because the paper had deepened “the pain of family and friends who were mourning their loved ones” – and “they were right”. Too often victims of police violence in Buffalo had been described as “no angel”.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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## ***If Trump Runs Again, Do Not Cover Him the Same Way: A Journalist's Manifesto*** (Washington Post Magazine)

Perspective by Margaret Sullivan

Despite my nearly four decades in journalism, I was unprepared for the moment of no return that came on a July day in 2016, as a blazing sun beat down on the streets of Cleveland. Walking around the grounds of the Republican National Convention, I was looking for a column idea. I was new at this, having started at The Washington Post only a few weeks earlier. Wandering and observing, I came upon a table of souvenirs, meant to appeal to the convention attendees who had arrived from all corners of the nation to cheer on the Republican Party's nomination of Donald Trump. I already had seen some gleefully misogynistic anti-Clinton paraphernalia — “Hillary sucks but not like Monica” — but nothing measured up to the horror I felt as I registered the meaning of a T-shirt featuring the image of a noose and these words: “Rope. Tree. Journalist. Some assembly required.”

Over the weeks and months ahead, as I started to write what I hoped were well-reasoned Post columns about Trump's relationship with the media, I felt an irrational anger coming at me like an unending blast from an industrial-strength hose. Trump hadn't invented this anger, of course, but he certainly emboldened it — and used it for his own purposes. On social media, in phone messages, in emails I received, the sheer hatred from Trump supporters shocked and even frightened me. One, unsigned but from a “lifetime member of the NRA,” asserted that people like me wouldn't be around much longer. Another, signed “A Real, True Patriot,” read:

Read more [here](#). Shared by Larry Blasko, Sonya Zalubowski.

## **The Final Word**

***GEN Z NEVER LEARNED TO READ CURSIVE*** (Atlantic)

# How will they interpret the past?

By Drew Gilpin Faust

It was a good book, the student told the 14 others in the undergraduate seminar I was teaching, and it included a number of excellent illustrations, such as photographs of relevant Civil War manuscripts. But, he continued, those weren't very helpful to him, because of course he couldn't read cursive.

Had I heard him correctly? Who else can't read cursive? I asked the class. The answer: about two-thirds. And who can't write it? Even more. What did they do about signatures? They had invented them by combining vestiges of whatever cursive instruction they may have had with creative squiggles and flourishes. Amused by my astonishment, the students offered reflections about the place—or absence—of handwriting in their lives. Instead of the Civil War past, we found ourselves exploring a different set of historical changes. In my ignorance, I became their pupil as well as a kind of historical artifact, a Rip van Winkle confronting a transformed world.

In 2010, cursive was omitted from the new national Common Core standards for K–12 education. The students in my class, and their peers, were then somewhere in elementary school. Handwriting instruction had already been declining as laptops and tablets and lessons in “keyboarding” assumed an ever more prominent place in the classroom. Most of my students remembered getting no more than a year or so of somewhat desultory cursive training, which was often pushed aside by a growing emphasis on “teaching to the test.” Now in college, they represent the vanguard of a cursiveless world.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Hal Spencer.

## Today in History – Oct. 17, 2022



Today is Monday, Oct. 17, the 290th day of 2022. There are 75 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:



On Oct. 17, 1933, Albert Einstein arrived in the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

**On this date:**

In 1610, French King Louis XIII, age nine, was crowned at Reims, five months after the assassination of his father, Henry IV.

In 1777, British forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered to American troops in Saratoga, New York, in a turning point of the Revolutionary War.

In 1807, Britain declared it would continue to reclaim British-born sailors from American ships and ports regardless of whether they held U.S. citizenship.

In 1910, social reformer and poet Julia Ward Howe, author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," died in Portsmouth, R.I. at age 91.

In 1931, mobster Al Capone was convicted in Chicago of income tax evasion. (Sentenced to 11 years in prison, Capone was released in 1939.)

In 1966, 12 New York City firefighters were killed while battling a blaze in lower Manhattan. The TV game show "The Hollywood Squares" premiered on NBC.

In 1967, Puyi (poo-ye), the last emperor of China, died in Beijing at age 61.

In 1973, Arab oil-producing nations announced they would begin cutting back oil exports to Western nations and Japan; the result was a total embargo that lasted until March 1974.

In 1978, President Carter signed a bill restoring U.S. citizenship to Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

In 1979, Mother Teresa of India was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1989, an earthquake measuring 6.9 in magnitude struck northern California, killing 63 people and causing \$6 billion worth of damage.

In 2018, residents of the Florida Panhandle community of Mexico Beach who had fled Hurricane Michael a week earlier returned home to find homes, businesses and campers ripped to shreds; the storm had killed at least 59 people and caused more than \$25 billion in damage in Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Ten years ago: Federal authorities in New York said a Bangladeshi student had been arrested in an FBI sting after he tried to detonate a phony 1,000-pound truck bomb outside the Federal Reserve building in Manhattan. (Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis was sentenced to 30 years in prison.)

Five years ago: Just hours before President Donald Trump's latest travel ban was due to take effect, a federal judge in Hawaii blocked most of the ban, saying it suffered from the same flaws as the previous version. U.S.-backed Syrian forces gained control

of the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, which was once the heart of the Islamic State group's self-styled caliphate.

One year ago: Police in Haiti said a notorious gang known for brazen kidnappings and killings was believed responsible for abducting 17 missionaries from a U.S.-based organization, including five children. (Two of the missionaries were released in November; the others would go free in December.) Russia reported its largest daily number of new coronavirus infections to date, more than 70% higher than the number a month earlier. Allie Quigley scored 26 points and Candace Parker added 16 points, 13 rebounds and five assists to help the Chicago Sky win its first WNBA championship with a 80-74 Game 4 victory over the Phoenix Mercury.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Gary Puckett is 80. Actor Michael McKean is 75. Actor George Wendt is 74. Actor-singer Bill Hudson is 73. Atlanta Braves manager Brian Snitker is 67. Astronaut Mae Jemison is 66. Country singer Alan Jackson is 64. Movie critic Richard Roeper is 63. Movie director Rob Marshall is 62. Actor Grant Shaud is 62. Animator Mike Judge is 60. Rock singer-musician Fred LeBlanc (Cowboy Mouth) is 59. Singer Rene' Dif is 55. Reggae singer Ziggy Marley is 54. Actor Wood Harris is 53. Singer Wyclef Jean (zhahn) is 53. World Golf Hall of Famer Ernie Els is 53. Singer Chris Kirkpatrick ('N Sync) is 51. Rapper Eminem is 50. Actor Sharon Leal is 50. Actor Matthew Macfadyen is 48. Actor Felicity Jones is 39. Actor Chris Lowell is 38.

## Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

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!

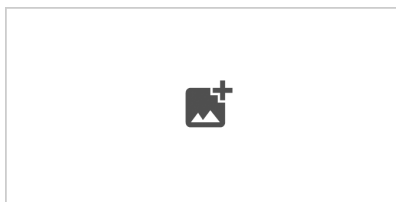


Here are some suggestions:

- **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.

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

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