

GROUP ONE

SMALL STATE AFFILIATES

PAID MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Award of Excellence:

[Because of an Educator billboard sample](#)

[Because of an Educator landing page](#)

[Because of an Educator programmatic ad sample](#)

[Because of an Educator video sample](#)

Idaho Education Association

DESIGN-GRAPHIC ELEMENTS

Award of Excellence:

[HSTA Unveils New Double-Hulled Canoe Logo](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

DIGITAL-ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Award of Excellence:

[Member Matters email newsletter - 1](#)

[Member Matters email newsletter - 2](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

DIGITAL-PODCAST

Award of Excellence:

[IEA Reporter Podcast](#)

Idaho Education Association

DIGITAL-SOCIAL MEDIA USE & STRATEGY

Award of Excellence:

[HSTA Instagram Page](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Award of Distinction:

[2025 Legislative Session](#)

Idaho Education Association

EXTERNAL VIDEO

Awards of Excellence:

[Together MEA](#)

Maine Education Association

[Maui Lawyer, Volunteer Photographer Wins HSTA's 2024 Friend of Youth Award](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Awards of Distinction:

[Meet HSTA's 2024 STACY Award Recipient Hope McKeen](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

[ND Voucher Campaign Ad](#)

North Dakota United

INTERDISCIPLINARY EXCELLENCE

Award of Excellence:

[Hanohano Hawai'i](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

INTERNAL VIDEO – LONG FORM

Award of Excellence:

[Phyllis Clough: The Pillar of Old Harbor School](#)

NEA-Alaska

Award of Distinction:

[Memories, Wisdom and Advice From HSTA's Early Leaders](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

INTERNAL VIDEO – SHORT FORM

Award of Excellence:

[Vote for Friends of Education This General Election](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Award of Distinction:

[HSTA's Recommendation Process Explained](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

PHOTOGRAPHY-PORTRAIT

Award of Excellence:

[Odetta, First HSTA President](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Award of Distinction:

[Hope Pualani McKeen, 2024 STACY award for Teaching Excellence Recipient](#)
Hawai'i State Teachers Association

PUBLICATIONS-MAGAZINE

Award of Excellence:

[Maine Educator – Summer](#)

[Maine Educator – Fall](#)

[Maine Educator – Winter](#)

Maine Education Association

PUBLICATIONS-MEMBER MATERIALS

Award of Excellence:

[Welcome to the Hawai'i State Teachers Association!](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

PUBLICATIONS-NEWSLETTER/NEWSPAPER

Award of Excellence:

[OEA Legislative Update 1](#)

[OEA Legislative Update 2](#)

[OEA Legislative Update 3](#)

Oklahoma Education Association

VIDEO-FEATURE STORY

Award of Excellence:

[Meet HSTA's 2024 STACY Award Recipient Hope McKeen](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Award of Distinction:

[Maui Lawyer, Volunteer Photographer Wins HSTA's 2024 Friend of Youth Award](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

VIDEO-NEWS STORY

Award of Distinction:

[HSTA Unveils New Double-Hulled Canoe Logo](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

WRITING-FEATURE STORY

Award of Excellence:

[Can an Administrator be a Member? This Moscow Principal Thinks So](#)

Idaho Education Association

WRITING-INVESTIGATIVE/ANALYTICAL REPORTING

Award of Excellence:

[We Must Defeat Voucher Amendment 2](#)

Kentucky Education Association

GROUP TWO

MEDIUM STATE AFFILIATES

DIGITAL ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

Awards of Excellence:

[Protect What Matters landing page](#)

[Protect What Matters email](#)

[Protect What Matters pledge](#)

[Protect What Matters short code opt-in](#)

[Hustle broadcast](#)

Colorado Education Association

[ISEA Recertification Surround Sound](#)

Iowa State Education Association

GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN

Award of Excellence:

[WEP/GPO Must Go landing page](#)

[CEA Advisor issue](#)

[Social media posts](#)

[Media coverage](#)

[Mailer](#)

Connecticut Education Association

Award of Distinction:

[No More Cuts landing page](#)

[Call to action](#)

[Social media toolkit](#)

[Photo gallery](#)

[Media coverage](#)

[No More Cuts graphic](#)

[No More Cuts Facebook event](#)

[No More Cuts posters](#)
[No More Cuts short code opt-in](#)
Colorado Education Association

PAID MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Award of Excellence:
[Teachers Go the Extra Mile for Their Students Every Day](#)
Connecticut Education Association

STEVE LEMKEN NEA-STATE AFFILIATE COLLABORATION

Award of Excellence:
[Train the Trainers](#)
Iowa State Education Association

DESIGN-EDITORIAL LAYOUT & TYPOGRAPHY

Award of Excellence:
[CEA Advisor: CEA Makes History](#)
Connecticut Education Association

DESIGN-GRAPHIC ELEMENTS

Awards of Excellence:
[Teacher Day 2024](#)
Missouri NEA
[Rowdy in Richmond](#)
Virginia Education Association

DIGITAL-ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Award of Excellence:
[CEA Today 1](#)
[CEA Today 2](#)
Colorado Education Association

DIGITAL-PODCAST

Award of Excellence:
[MNEA Connects – Episode 209](#)
[MNEA Connects – Episode 218](#)
[MNEA Connects – Episode 303](#)
Missouri NEA

DIGITAL-SOCIAL MEDIA USE & STRATEGY

Award of Excellence:

[State and Local Collaboration](#)

Colorado Education Association

DIGITAL-WEBSITE

Award of Excellence:

[nsea.org](#)

Nebraska State Education Association

Award of Distinction:

[mnea.org](#)

Missouri NEA

EXTERNAL VIDEO

Award of Distinction:

[My Passion. My Community. My TEA.](#)

Tennessee Education Association

PUBLICATIONS-NEWSLETTER/NEWSPAPER

Award of Excellence:

[TEACH 1](#)

[TEACH 2](#)

[TEACH 3](#)

Tennessee Education Association

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Award of Excellence:

[State of Education Report](#)

Colorado Education Association

PHOTOGRAPHY-PORTRAIT

Award of Excellence:

[Kevin Vick Headshot](#)

Colorado Education Association

Award of Distinction:

[Beyond the Panic Button](#)

Nebraska State Education Association

WRITING-FEATURE STORY

Award of Excellence:

[Representation Matters - Hispanic Women Leading the Charge](#)
Colorado Education Association

Awards of Distinction:

[The Power of a Nondescript Coffee Cup: Gerry Brooks' Most Important Lesson](#)
Nebraska State Education Association

[Episode II: Second Successful Petition Drive](#)
Nebraska State Education Association

WRITING-NEWS STORY

Award of Excellence:

[Personal Stories Highlight the Need for Updated Paid Family Leave](#)
Nebraska State Education Association

Award of Distinction:

[A Push for Paid FMLA](#)
Nebraska State Education Association

GROUP THREE

LARGE STATE AFFILIATES

DIGITAL ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

Award of Excellence:

Rally to Fund Our Future
[Rally email](#)
[Rally rescheduled email](#)
[Rally registration](#)
[Facebook event](#)
[Hustle texts](#)
[Rally call to action](#)
[Social media ads](#)
Education Minnesota

EARNED MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Award of Excellence:

[Red for Ed News Conference](#)

[Media coverage](#)

Illinois Education Association

Award of Distinction:

[Educators Rising](#)

Pennsylvania State Education Association

GOVERNMENT/POLITICAL AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN

Award of Excellence:

[Winning Question 2: High Standards, Not High Stakes](#)

Massachusetts Teachers Association

PAID MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Awards of Distinction:

Minnesota Takes Care of Its Public Schools

[Campaign website](#)

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

[Video 3](#)

[Video 4](#)

Education Minnesota

Public Education Matters

[Overview and talking points](#)

[Radio spot 1](#)

[Radio spot 2](#)

[Social media ad 1](#)

[Social media ad 2](#)

[TV spot 1](#)

[TV spot 2](#)

[TV spot 3](#)

[TV spot 4](#)

Ohio Education Association

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Award of Excellence:

[2024 NJEA Convention](#)

New Jersey Education Association

Awards of Distinction:

#EdMNVotes
[Campaign website](#)
[Social media graphics](#)
[Online Truth Advocates content](#)
[Early voting & polling finder texts](#)
[EdMNVotes e-newsletter](#)
Education Minnesota

[Extreme Heat in Schools](#)
New York State United Teachers

STEVE LEMKEN NEA-STATE AFFILIATE COLLABORATION

Award of Excellence:
[Protect Our Public Schools](#)
Ohio Education Association

COMMEMORATION/TRIBUTE

Award of Excellence:
[25th Anniversary Holocaust Education Trip](#)
New Jersey Education Association

Award of Distinction:
[Delta Professor Seeks Change Through History](#)
Michigan Education Association

DESIGN-EDITORIAL LAYOUT & TYPOGRAPHY

Award of Excellence:
[MTA Today](#)
Massachusetts Teachers Association

Award of Distinction:
[Raising Education Support Professionals' Pay](#)
Pennsylvania State Education Association

DESIGN-GRAPHIC ELEMENTS

Awards of Excellence:
[DOE Graphics](#)
Education Minnesota

[Voting Cover for Election Issue of Voice](#)
Pennsylvania State Education Association

Award of Distinction:
[Series of Fliers, Social Graphics & Postcards](#)
New Jersey Education Association

DESIGN-VISUAL STORYTELLING

Award of Excellence:

[Patriot Day 2024](#)

New Jersey Education Association

DIGITAL-ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Award of Excellence:

[NJEA Advocates Update 1](#)

[NJEA Advocates Update 2](#)

New Jersey Education Association

DIGITAL-PODCAST

Award of Excellence:

Public Education Matters - Season 5

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 13](#)

[Episode 17](#)

Ohio Education Association

DIGITAL-SOCIAL MEDIA USE & STRATEGY

Awards of Excellence:

[EdMN on TikTok](#)

Education Minnesota

[NYSUT on Instagram](#)

New York State United Teachers

Awards of Distinction:

[Celebrating Black History Month](#)

New Jersey Education Association

[WEA Facebook & Instagram](#)

Washington Education Association

DIGITAL-WEBSITE

Award of Excellence:

[njea.org](#)

New Jersey Education Association

Award of Distinction:

[educationminnesota.org](#)

Education Minnesota

EXTERNAL VIDEO

Award of Excellence:

[IEA Oak Park Migrant Story](#)

Illinois Education Association

Awards of Distinction:

[NJEA Pride Ad: Good News](#)

New Jersey Education Association

[RA 2024: We Are NYSUT!](#)

New York State United Teachers

[Public Education Matters TV Spot](#)

Ohio Education Association

[Black History Month](#)

Ohio Education Association

INTERDISCIPLINARY EXCELLENCE

Award of Excellence:

[Dana Fournier](#)

New York State United Teachers

INTERNAL VIDEO-LONG FORM

Award of Excellence:

[Meet Megan Johnson, Washington's 2024 ESA of the Year](#)

Washington Education Association

Awards of Distinction:

[Art Education Month Campaign Video](#)

Alabama Education Association

[NYSUT Mourns Farmingdale Educators](#)

New York State United Teachers

INTERNAL VIDEO-SHORT FORM

Award of Excellence:

[NJEA TikTok: Meet Ms. Hu](#)

New Jersey Education Association

Award of Distinction:

[Surprising Our 2025 Celebration of Women Honoree](#)

New Jersey Education Association

PUBLICATIONS-MAGAZINE

Award of Excellence:

[California Educator 1](#)

[California Educator 2](#)

[California Educator 3](#)

California Teachers Association

PUBLICATIONS-NEWSLETTER/NEWSPAPER

Award of Excellence:

[We2.0 1](#)

[We2.0 2](#)

[We2.0 3](#)

Washington Education Association

Awards of Distinction:

[NJREA Newsletter 1](#)

[NJREA Newsletter 2](#)

[NJREA Newsletter 3](#)

New Jersey Education Association

[Keeping Connected 1](#)

[Keeping Connected 2](#)

[Keeping Connected 3](#)

Pennsylvania State Education Association

PHOTOGRAPHY-PHOTOJOURNALISM

Awards of Excellence:

[Rally to Fund Our Future](#)

Education Minnesota

[Sean Campaign Kickoff at Convention](#)

New Jersey Education Association

Awards of Distinction:

[AEA Press Conference](#)

Alabama Education Association

[2024 NEA RA News: The Philabuster](#)

New Jersey Education Association

PHOTOGRAPHY-PORTRAIT

Award of Excellence:

[Meet NJEA ESP of the Year Mark Richards](#)

New Jersey Education Association

[Andy Kim Cover Shoot](#)

New Jersey Education Association

SPECIAL EVENTS

Award of Excellence:

[Summer Celebration of Diverse Readers - East Cleveland](#)

Ohio Education Association

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Award of Excellence:

[PSEA Executive Director's Annual Report](#)

Pennsylvania State Education Association

Award of Distinction:

[California Educator #UnionStrong](#)

California Teachers Association

VIDEO-FEATURE STORY

Awards of Distinction:

[Martha Strever, Red Hook EA](#)

New York State United Teachers

[Making Connections, Making Change: the ESP Action Coordinating Team](#)

Washington Education Association

VIDEO-NEWS STORY

Award of Distinction:

[Striking Paraeducators Rally at Port Angeles School District Office](#)

Washington Education Association

WRITING-FEATURE STORY

Award of Excellence:

[Mr. Smith's Dream Center](#)

Michigan Education Association

Awards of Distinction:

[Organizing for Safe Schools](#)

California Teachers Association

[Special Project Unites Mercer County Special Services and Hopewell Students](#)
New Jersey Education Association

[Setting Students Up for Success](#)
Ohio Education Association

WRITING-NEWS STORY

Award of Excellence:
[Paid Parental & Family Leave](#)
Massachusetts Teachers Association

Award of Distinction:
[In win, Flint Teachers ‘Breathe Easier’](#)
Michigan Education Association

WRITING-OPINION/EDITORIAL WRITING

Awards of Excellence:
[We Do Have Book Bans Here, Actually. What Are You Going to Do About It?](#)
Education Minnesota

[What Unites Us](#)
New Jersey Education Association

BEST IN SHOW

JOSEPH BLAND BEST IN SHOW-CAMPAIGNS

Connecticut Education Association

BEST IN SHOW-DIGITAL

Colorado Education Association

BEST IN SHOW-VIDEO

Hawaii State Teachers Association

BEST IN SHOW-VISUAL

New Jersey Education Association

COMMUNICATORS OF THE YEAR

KAREN REED AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN

[Jennifer Marsh](#)

New Jersey Education Association

GEORGE BADNER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDITING

[Patrick Rumaker](#)

New Jersey Education Association

BILL GUY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC RELATIONS

[Keoki Kerr](#)

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

SEACOMM HALL OF FAME

KAREN REED AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN WINNERS

2024 – *Not awarded*

2023 – *Not awarded*

2022 – Eric Widi, Minnesota

2019 – Shawn Berry, Maine

2018 – *Not awarded*

2017 – Mark Sharer, New York

2016 – *Not awarded*

2015 – Meg Krugel, Oregon

2014 – Dana Fournier, New York

2013 – Sue Clark, Wyoming

2012 – *Not awarded*

2011 – Penny Skubal, Arizona

2010 – Gail Botz, Ohio

2009 – Laura DeVries, Wisconsin

2008 – Lisa Sale, Virginia

2007 – Kristi Capek, Nebraska

2006 – David Arva, Pennsylvania

2005 – Joseph Lover, Minnesota
2004 – Karen Reed, Washington
2003 – Jonathan Goldman, Georgia
2002 – Jim Maccaroni, New Jersey

GEORGE BADNER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDITING WINNERS

2024 – Clarisse Butler Banks, New York
2023 – Brenda Ortega, Michigan
2022 – *Not awarded*
2019 – Kelly Hagen, North Dakota
2018 – Giovanna Bechard, Maine
2017 – Mary Fran Gleason, New York
2016 – *Not awarded*
2015 – Julie Newhall, Ohio
2014 – Lisa Galley, New Jersey
2013 – Pam Nichols, Delaware
2012 – Angie McCormick, Georgia
2011 – William “Bill” Johnson, Virginia
2010 – Sanna Porte, Montana
2009 – Al Koontz, Nebraska
2008 – Lana Oppenheim Schlapkohl, Iowa
2007 – Cynthia Menzel, Kansas
2006 – Linda Harsche, North Dakota
2005 – Debra Angstead, Missouri
2004 – Bill Guy, Tennessee
2003 – Keith Harvie, Maine
2002 – Ron Sniffin, Wyoming
2001 – Jeanne Beyer, Colorado
2000 – Jackie Vaughn, North Carolina
1999 – Karen Comiskey Jenkins, Rhode Island
1998 – Gayle Moore, Idaho
1997 – Andrew Linebaugh, Massachusetts
1996 – Michael “Mike” Lydick, Connecticut
1995 – Jeanne Johnson, Washington
1994 – Gene Bryant, Tennessee
1993 – Debbie Turner Mohondro, Texas

BILL GUY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC RELATIONS WINNERS

2024 – Nancy Andrews, Connecticut
2023 – Sandra Waltman, South Dakota
2022 – Darren Allen, Vermont
2019 – Christina Brey, Wisconsin

2018 – Doug Pratt, Michigan
2017 – Dawn Hiltner, New Jersey
2016 – Rich Wood, Washington
2015 – Wanda Swanson, New Jersey
2014 – Sanna Porte, Montana
2013 – Kym Randolph, West Virginia
2012 – Steve Wollmer, New Jersey
2011 – Karen Comiskey Jenkins, Rhode Island
2010 – David Stout, Alabama
2009 – Cynthia Menzel, Kansas
2008 – Karen Kilgarin, Nebraska
2007 – Jan Chambers, Oregon
2006 – Mark Mickelson, Utah
2005 – Lana Oppenheim Schlapkohl, Iowa
2004 – Jeanne Beyer, Colorado
2003 – Gayle Moore, Idaho
2002 – Karen Joseph, New Jersey
2001 – Pam Nichols, Delaware
2000 – Sandra Jackson, California
1999 – Annette Cootes, Texas
1998 – Kathy Wheeler, Tennessee
1997 – Ann Kurzius, NEA
1996 – Ed Gallagher, New Jersey
1995 – Jackie Goodwin, West Virginia
1994 – Deborah Fallin, Colorado
1993 – Kay Coles, Kansas
1992 – Mary Ann Blankenship, Kentucky
1991 – Tommye Hutto, California
1990 – Kathleen Lyons, Maryland
1989 – Charlie Kelly, Connecticut
1988 – Margo Fraser, Ohio
1987 – Keith Ericson, Tennessee
1986 – Dick Palmer, North Dakota
1985 – Barc Bayley, Nebraska
1984 – Laurie Huse, Vermont
1983 – Al Benjamin, Massachusetts
1982 – Bill Martin, Ohio
1981 – Joe Bland, Virginia
1980 – Bob Dexter, Maryland
1979 – Marv Reed, New Jersey
1978 – Fred Leuschner, Pennsylvania

Bill Guy

An Oklahoma native dedicated to both education and journalism, William “Bill” Guy was a longtime communications staffer with the Oklahoma Education Association, Massachusetts

Teacher Association, Tennessee Education Association and California Teachers Association. With a passion for special education, English, and journalism, Bill was an inspiring teacher for countless students and colleagues over the years. In his various roles in state affiliate communications, including as an officer of the State Education Editors, Bill had a unique ability to tell stories that inspired both educators and the public to take action for public education. Throughout his life, he was devoted to serving others and the cause of public education. Bill passed away in his home state of Oklahoma in 2023.

Karen Reed

For Karen Reed it was a battle from the beginning. As a graphic designer with the Washington Education Association, she had to work hard to convince WEA management that there was a place for her at State Education Editors. Karen wanted to see graphic designers, and other artists working in state affiliates, to get involved in professional growth.

Once at SEE, Karen fought to raise the profile of graphic designers in the organization and in state affiliate work. She immediately started volunteering at SEE, and she agitated for change. She ran for office and was elected member-at-large. Rising in the ranks, she became the first graphic designer to be president of SEE.

When Karen retired in 2004, she was honored as SEE's Graphic Designer of the Year. The award was later renamed the Karen Reed Award for Excellence in Design.

George Badner

George Badner, an editor with the Pennsylvania State Education Association, was president of SEE in 1979 when its conference was held in Detroit. He died unexpectedly in March 1993 as SEE was moving forward with its new annual award for an outstanding state association editor. The award came to be named the George Badner Award for Excellence in Editing. That year, SEE member Debbie Mohondro of the Texas State Teachers Association was its first recipient.

Lisa Galley

Lisa Galley's career in public education began in 1985 as a high school history teacher in Mount Olive, New Jersey. Her successes in her local association drew statewide attention. In January 2001, the New Jersey Education Association hired Lisa out of the classroom to become editor of the *NJEA Review*.

Before long, Lisa stepped into leadership positions in State Education Editors (SEE). As president, she took members to Nashville for SEE's 2010 conference. Shortly following the conference, Lisa was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Beloved by her SEE friends, many came to New York in July 2012 to hear her sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" prior to a Mets game on Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day. Lisa edited the *NJEA Review* up to just a few months before she died in April 2016. Again, many of her SEE friends traveled from across the country to bid her a final farewell.

Joe Bland

Those who knew Joe Bland, communications director for the Virginia Education Association, treasured his work, his advice, and his friendship. Throughout nearly four decades of participation in SEE, PRC and association communications, Joe used his vivid creativity and boundless energy in extraordinary ways. He advocated not only for public education and public school employees, but also for those who spend their careers in association communications.

Joe was president of PRC in 1988 and 1989. He was president of SEE in 1975.

The death of Joe Bland in 2005 left a massive void in the SEE organization.

Joe is missed—but hardly forgotten. In recognition of his outstanding contribution, SEE kept Joe's spirit alive by honoring those who followed in his footsteps with the Joe Bland Spirit of SEE Award. This award recognized SEE members whose association work and commitment to helping colleagues best typified Joe's many outstanding personal and professional characteristics. PRC conferred the Joseph W. Bland Jr. Pacesetter Award, which recognized affiliate communicator work that set a new, higher standard.

NEA Liaisons

Steve Lemken served as the NEA staff liaison to State Education Editors and the Public Relations Council of the States from 1999 until 2009 when he transferred to the NEA Education Support Professional Quality Department. Despite the transfer, Steve never forgot his roots in communications, and kept in close contact with SEE and PR Council. In his new role, he continued to attending the conferences so to assist affiliate communicators in promoting our ESP members and to continue learning through what SEE and PRC offered. At the first business meeting of SEAComm on June 4, 2016, a New Business Item created the Steve Lemken Award for State Affiliate-National Collaboration.

Steve began his career in education in 1979 in California as a library aide in the Parjaro Valley Unified School District. He earned his teaching certification and worked as a substitute teacher in California, later becoming a printer—and president of the ESP local in the district. In 1981, he moved on to work for the California School Employees Association, an AFL-CIO affiliate that represents ESP. In August 1988, he moved on to become the communications director for the NEA-New Mexico. In October 1995 he became the editor of NEA NOW, a publication targeted to local association leaders and ARs. He attended SEE and PRC council meeting from 1989 through 2012. He was secretary-treasurer for PRC for 1994-95.

Steve was not the first NEA liaison to SEE and PRC.

Lyle Hamilton filled the liaison role from 1967 to 1987. His term coincided with the founding of PRC and he contributed to the establishment of its identity and mission—and ensuring that it was accorded with respect in the NEA family. Lyle served not only as a liaison from NEA, but in the early part of his service, straddled the divide that then existed between editors and public relations managers. On PRC's 40th anniversary, Lyle recalled that in the early 1970s there had been little love between SEE and PRC. "Editors were the 'queens' and 'kings' in state associations. They quickly perceived PR types as threats," he said.

Ann Kurzius served as liaison from 1988 to 1999. Ann's writing and editing career began at National Geographic. She became an editor and writer at NEA in 1970, eventually moving into management as editor of the monthly *NEA Today* from 1980 to 1988. While serving as liaison to SEE and PRC, she also managed NEA's speech writers. In 1997, PRC honored her as the Public Relations Person of the Year.

On the 40th anniversary of PRC, Ann remarked on the true value of organizations like ours.

"When I think back on PRC and SEE conferences, it's rarely any official sessions that come to mind," she admitted. From a conference she attended before her time as liaison—1981 in Albuquerque—the only thing Ann remembered was an infamous 70-mile road trip into the sagebrush for a group dinner. Without seat belts and with a pack of folks sitting on the floor of Rich Nelson's van, they finally arrived, half-starved and badly in need of a bathroom, only to discover the famous destination restaurant was closed on Mondays. From the 1993 Tucson meeting, Ann's main memory was of colleagues happily welcoming her husband and their English setter, Sallydog, into the hospitality suite. These recollections point to what really draws us now to these annual conferences—the camaraderie that leads to collegiality.

The lifelong friendships formed at SEE, PRC and now SEAComm enrich the work we do and benefit the NEA members we serve.

THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S JUDGES

Jeanne Breyer
Megan Boldt
Doug Folks
Miriam Garcia
Steven Grant
Dawn Hiltner
Terri Inefuku
Karen Jenkins
Karen Kilgarin
Kyle Leyenberger
Mike Lydick
Shelley Meadowcroft
Cyndi Menzel
Andy Meyer
Pamela Nichols
Amy Novak
Jason Piscia
Robert Pope
Sanna Porte
Jon Reed
Sheenae Shannon
Lindy Sowmick
Kieren Steinhoff
Wanda Swanson