



NEWSWORTHY Online

THE MINNESOTA NEWS COUNCIL: *Promoting fair, vigorous, and trusted journalism*

April/May 2008

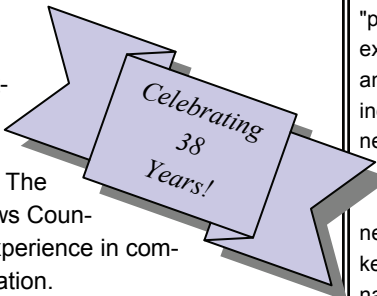
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- The News Council is proud to announce the addition of **10 new members** to its hearing board. **Learn more** about the "freshman class" below...
- **On April 3**, the News Council honored **Executive Director Emeritus Gary Gilson**, **2008 Accountability Award winner Bob Shaw** and **retiring News Council members** at its first annual **Recognition Reception**. View [photos](#) and read more below...
- **REGISTER TODAY!** There are still seats available at the June "Journalism that Matters" event in Minneapolis: [New Pamphleteers/New Reporters](#).

Executive Director [Sarah Bauer](#) can be reached at (612) 341-9357.

NEWS COUNCIL WELCOMES TEN NEW MEMBERS

The Minnesota News Council is pleased to announce the appointment of ten new hearing panel members. The new members will be joining the existing panel of journalists and laypersons who consider unresolved complaints from the public at hearings. The incoming members bring a wealth of new perspectives to the News Council, including online and weekly journalism expertise as well as experience in communications, financial services and access to government information.



Media member **Jeremy Iggers** directs the Twin Cities Media Alliance, an organization that promotes grassroots journalism through projects like the Twin Cities Daily Planet, an online citizen journalism initiative. Iggers wrote about restaurants, food and ethics for 22 years at the *Star Tribune* and has also written several books. Public member **Chris Shields** is the Editor & Deputy Communications Director for the local public policy think tank Minnesota 2020. Shields has also worked in broadcast news and holds a journalism degree from the University of Missouri.

Mike Dalton, Vice President and Reporter for the *Cannon Falls Beacon*, is a fifth-generation newspaper person and writes mainly sports and feature stories for the 130 year-old independent, family-owned newspaper. **Mike Creger**, a writer for the *Askov American* newspaper in northern Minnesota brings a passion for small-town journalism and years of experience in daily and weekly newspapers to the News Council. Since 2003, **Brett Stursa** has been editor of the *Lakeshore Weekly News*, a community newspaper covering the Lake Minnetonka area. Stursa graduated from New York University in 2000 and has also worked as a staff reporter for the *Olivia Time-Journal* and as an occasional contributor to *City Pages*.

Elizabeth Costello, who served on the hearing panel as a media member during her tenure at local FOX affiliate KMSP-TV, rejoins the News Council as a public member. Since 2005 she has led Costello Communications, specializing media relations, crisis communications, labor relations, consumer product marketing and internal communications. **Noelle Hawton**, Senior Vice President for Tunheim Partners, also brings public relations and communications expertise to the News Council. Hawton specializes in retail, consumer products, entertainment and corporate social responsibility and also serves on the Frank Premack Public Affairs Journalism Award board.

Public member **Heather Harden** brings a diverse array of experiences to the News Council. Harden, who began her career in broadcast news, currently works as a financial advisor in private practice; she has also served as a councilmember for the City of Bloomington from 2000-2005. Media member **Issa Mansaray** has traveled the world as a journalist, researcher and lecturer. Mansaray is a native of Sierra Leone and is has done extensive research on press freedom issues. **Continued on page 2.**

**A Passion for Place:
New Pamphleteers/New Reporters
June 4-6, 2008
University of Minnesota**

REGISTER TODAY!

Receive a 20% discount through 5/11

"New Pamphleteers/New Reporters: Convening Entrepreneurs who Combine Journalism, Democracy, Place and Blogs" is the first national gathering for local, online citizen journalists and entrepreneurs, sometimes called "placebloggers." It is designed for existing and prospective journalists and entrepreneurs. The program will include workshops on the legal, business, journalistic, marketing, advertising and social aspects of starting and running a local online news and commerce community. A key objective is to consider forming a national professional and business collaborative of such services.

Cost:

\$139 until 5/11/08

\$145 after 5/11/08

*Cost includes meals; stipends available.

[LEARN MORE/REGISTER NOW](#)

2008 Hearing Dates

The News Council meets every other month to consider complaints about news coverage. All public hearings begin at 12:15 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Check the [MNC Web site](#) for location information. Consider visiting us at a hearing in 2008!

Thursday June 19, 2008

Thursday, August 21, 2008

Thursday, October 16, 2008

Thursday, December 11, 2008

We depend on individual, media and corporate donations to pay for our work promoting fair and trusted journalism in Minnesota.

[Become a donor today!](#)

Continued from page 1. **Mary Treacy** is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Coalition on Government Information, a nonprofit organization that addresses access to government information issues, particularly at the state and local level. Treacy has extensive experience as a librarian and is a recipient of the John R. Finnegan Freedom of Information award.

Read more at our [Web site](#).

NEWS COUNCIL EVENT: 1ST ANNUAL RECOGNITION RECEPTION



On Thursday, April 3rd, the Minnesota News Council held its first annual Recognition Reception honoring the work of Executive Director Emeritus Gary Gilson, 2008 Accountability Award winner, Bob Shaw, and retiring News Council members.

Executive Director Sarah Bauer presented awards to retiring News Council members Luz Maria Frias and Patricia Berg. Chairman Ron Graham also recognized Bob Shaw, one of the organization's founding members, for his promotion of fair and trusted journalism in Minnesota.

Graham also honored Gary Gilson, who led the News Council from 1992-2006. Gilson praised the many volunteers and donors who contributed to the organization throughout the years. He recalled one

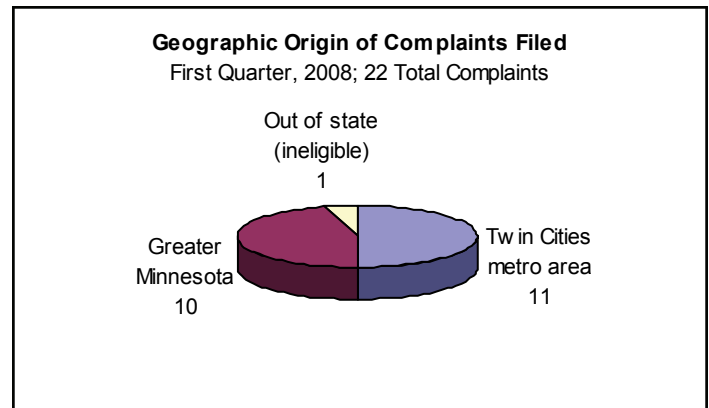
of his favorite memories: the News Council's 25th Anniversary Celebration in 1996 where 60 Minutes' Mike Wallace, a long-time supporter of news councils, spoke to a sold-out Orchestra Hall crowd.

View photos from the event [HERE](#).

COMPLAINTS UPDATE

In January, February, and March of 2008, the Minnesota News Council received a total of 22 complaints from the public about news coverage. Some complainants thought their quotes were taken out of context when used in news stories, others felt some news coverage included racial and cultural stereotypes. One complainant pointed out what he thought was biased language in the coverage of an upcoming legal proceeding, saying the story made the defendant look guilty before a trial took place.

Included is a chart outlining the regional distribution of incoming complaints.



FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



Erika Roland

The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* renewed their support of our work this month. The paper has contributed to the News Council regularly since its inception in the mid-eighties from the union of the *Saint Paul Dispatch* and *Minnesota Pioneer*. Over the years, though, the *Pioneer Press* has demonstrated more than just financial leadership; the paper has contributed valuable volunteers to our Board of Directors and Hearing Panel.

John Finnegan, a former editor of the *Pioneer Press*, has served on our Board of Directors for the past several years. Thom Fladung, the paper's current editor, joined the Hearing Panel in 2007 to participate in media ethics hearings about complaints from the public. Dave Beal, a semi-retired *Pioneer Press* business columnist, also contributes his insights to our Hearing Panel.

Through its regular, generous donations and the gift of volunteerism, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* maintains a legacy of helping make the nation's oldest news council remain a resource for all Minnesotans.

To see our sponsors and donate online, visit our [Web site](#). Development Director [Erika Roland](#) can be reached at 612-339-0030.

To stop receiving this monthly update of the Minnesota News Council, please [click here](#).
Questions or comments? E-mail us at info@news-council.org or call (612) 341-9357.

The Minnesota News Council

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