



2019

Wisconsin Newspaper

Hall of Fame

Banquet & Fundraiser

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Madison, Wis.

WNA
FOUNDATION



Welcome

Opening Remarks

WNA Executive Director Beth Bennett
WNA Board of Directors President Paul Seeling
WNA Foundation President Scott Peterson

Presentation of Hall of Fame Inductees

Kent Eymann, *Beloit Daily Times*

Introduction by Bill Barth, editor of the Beloit Daily News

Elliott Maraniss (posthumous), *The Capital Times*

Remarks by Jean Alexander, daughter of Elliott Maraniss

Susan Shemanske, *The (Racine) Journal Times*

Introduction by Larry Baldassaro, professor emeritus, UW-Milwaukee

About the Hall of Fame

The Wisconsin Newspaper Hall of Fame was created in 2001 to honor visionaries and innovators in the Wisconsin newspaper industry. Since then, 54 individuals have been recognized with the honor.

Nominations — accepted annually and approved by a nomination committee — are open to anyone, living or deceased, who has contributed above and beyond the call of duty to newspapers and newspapering in Wisconsin. This includes publishers, editors, reporters, photographers or any other newspaper personnel who've had a significant influence on the newspaper industry.

The primary criterion is exceptional service on behalf of Wisconsin newspapers. It is expected that nominees should have dedicated at least 15 years of service to newspapering, however, length of service by itself is not a major determinant.

Inductions may be extended to individuals working outside of newspapers, including educators, jurists, attorneys or legislators. Other criteria may be established or considered by the Hall of Fame selection committee or the WNA Foundation Board as deemed appropriate or necessary.

A list of past inductees and their stories can be accessed at www.wnanews.com.

Wisconsin Newspaper Hall of Fame



Robert L. Angus
*Daily Jefferson
County Union*



Scott Angus
*The Gazette,
Janesville*



Vern Arendt
Ozaukee Press



William R. Barth
Beloit Daily News



Alfred Bauer Jr.
Bloomer Advance



William D. Behling
Beloit Daily News



Robert Berglund
*Tribune Record
Gleaner*



Marie Berner
*Antigo Daily
Journal*



Sidney 'Skip' Bliss
*The Gazette,
Janesville*



William E. Branen
*Burlington
Standard Press*



Howard J. Brown
Kenosha News



C.W. Brown
*Oconomowoc
Enterprise*



Jim Burgess
*Wisconsin State
Journal*



Virginia Burtness
*The Daily Press,
Ashland*



John B. Chapple
*The Daily Press,
Ashland*



James Clifford
*Watertown Daily
Times*



John D. Clifford
*Watertown Daily
Times*



Scott Cutlip
*University of
Wisconsin*



Robert J. Dreps
*Godfrey & Kahn,
Madison*



Diane Everson
*The Edgerton
Reporter*



William T. Evjue
The Capital Times



Kent Eymann
Beloit Daily News



Bonnie Fechtner
*Wisconsin News-
paper Association*



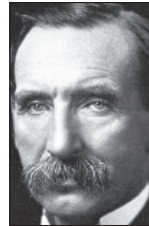
Ralph Goldsmith
Boscobel Dial



**Charles
Graaskamp**
*Leader-Telegram,
Eau Claire*



Lester Hawkes
*University of
Wisconsin*



W.D. Hoard
*Daily Jefferson
County Union,
Fort Atkinson*



Bill Howe
*Courier Press,
Prairie du Chien*



Andrew Johnson
*Dodge County
Pioneer, Mayville*



**Marshall W.
Johnston**
*The Janesville
Gazette*



Marty Kaiser
*Milwaukee Journal
Sentinel*



Bill Knutson
*The Post-
Crescent, Appleton*



Warren Leary Jr.
*Rice Lake
Chronotype*



Doug Lyke
*Ripon Common-
wealth Press*



Elliott Maraniss
The Capital Times



Jim McLoone
*Lake Country
Reporter, Hartland*



Nancy Mersereau
*Ozaukee Press,
Port Washington*



Willis Miller
*Hudson Star-
Observer*



V.I. Minihan
*Appleton
Post-Crescent*



Carol O'Leary
*Star News,
Medford*



J.A. O'Leary
*Tribune
Phonograph*



Leo Pesch Jr.
Peshigo Times



Charles Roethe
Fennimore Times



George Rogers
*Stevens Point
Journal*



**William F.
Schanen Jr.**
Ozaukee Press



Tom Schultz
*Watertown Daily
Times*



Susan Shemanske
*The Journal Times,
Racine*



Wally Smetana
*The Dunn County
News, Menomonie*



**Palmer H.
Sondreal**
Amery Free Press



Larry Tobin
*The Tomahawk
Leader*



John B. Torinus Sr.
*The Post-Crescent,
Appleton*



Donald P. Walker
*Lakeland Times,
Minocqua*



Robert H. Wills
*Milwaukee
Sentinel*



J. Martin Wolman
*Wisconsin State
Journal, Madison*



Frank Wood
*Green Bay
News-Chronicle*



Robert Wright
*Marquette County
Tribune, Montello*



David Zweifel
The Capital Times

Kent Eymann



Kent Eymann has been a longtime stalwart on behalf of Wisconsin newspapers and a devoted supporter of the industry.

After a stint with a group of community newspapers in his home state of Iowa, Eymann began his Wisconsin newspaper career in 1992 as advertising director for the Beloit Daily News. Two years later, he was promoted to publisher — a role he served in for 25 years before retiring in July 2019.

During his time at the Daily News, Eymann was instrumental in shepherding the newspaper through tremendous periods of change within the industry. He became a leader and pioneer in the world of digital publishing, and under his leadership, the Daily News was the first daily newspaper in Wisconsin to have a website with live local news updated every day.

Eymann also lent his leadership skills to the statewide newspaper industry. He was an active and devoted member of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, serving on the WNA Board of Directors from 2006 to 2015. During his term as president in 2013, Eymann spearheaded an effort to engage up-and-comers within the industry through the WNA Future Headliners program. Since his presidency, 15 young journalists have been recognized for their achievements.

Eymann's retirement in 2019 followed a career overflowing with accomplishments as a tireless innovator, courageous leader and a defender of the truth.

Beloit newspaper joins Internet

BELOIT (AP) — The Beloit Daily News is offering a new gateway to the Internet. The newspaper's electronic edition, The BDN Connection, accesses the Information Superhighway through BossNet, a dial-up service designed by Matt Busam, or other providers, such as national vendors Prodigy or America On-Line.

"We are very proud to be on the cutting edge and to be the first newspaper in Wisconsin on the Internet," publisher Kent Eymann said.

The BDN Connection's "home page" offers information on news, sports, features and opinion highlights from printed editions of the Beloit Daily News.

"To say we're excited about this development is an understatement," Eymann said. "This takes the Daily News to the frontier of modern information business."

The new service won't change the hometown paper readers have come to expect, editor Bill Barth said.

"The paper will be published daily, as it always has been, far into the future," he said.

State newspaper going on Internet

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BDN publisher elected as new WNA president

MADISON — Kent Eymann, publisher of the Beloit Daily News, was elected Friday as president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA) at the Madison Marriott West during the group's 156th annual convention.

WNA is among the oldest press associations in the world, dating back to 1855.

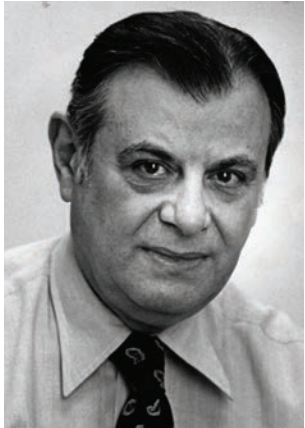
Eymann has served the WNA Board of Directors since February 2006 and has chaired the association's Sales Advisory Committee since early 2006. He publishes the daily newspaper, two shoppers (My StateLine Shopper) and a quarterly business journal (StateLineBusiness). He also oversees the newspaper and business journal's affiliated website. Eymann also serves as president of an Internet marketing venture called WSI Media One (wsimediaone.com) for The Hagadone Corporation.

Eymann joined the Beloit Daily News in 1992 as advertising director and was named publisher in 1994. Earlier, Eymann held several management positions with a shopper group in Iowa and Minnesota.

A native of Forest City, Iowa, he has been active in the community, including membership in Beloit 2020, Beloit Ambassadors, Beloit Noon Lions, is a past chair and current committee member for the Beloit Memorial Hospital Pro-Am and serves on the board of directors for the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation.

Eymann succeeds Steve Dzubay, publisher of the Hudson Star Observer, River Falls Journal, New Richmond News, and Pierce County Herald for 17 years. He also serves as assistant director of Riverfront News Group, a collection of 10 area newspapers owned by Forum Communications Co., of Fargo, N.D. Dzubay becomes immediate past president.

Elliott Maraniss



Elliott Maraniss was a crusading investigative journalist, a fierce defender of the First Amendment, and a mentor to generations of young journalists.

He joined The Capital Times in 1957 after one of his columns caught the eye of William T. Evjue, the newspaper's founder and editor. Just weeks after joining the paper, he exposed paper mill pollution in the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, which spurred legislation that continues to have a lasting environmental impact more than 60 years later.

In 1978, after working as the paper's city editor and executive editor, Maraniss became the third editor-in-chief in The Capital Times' history.

A trailblazer in the field, he also made The Capital Times one of the first newspapers in Wisconsin to diversify its news staff. He hired the paper's first black reporter and filled several reporting positions with women in an effort to make the staff more reflective of the community it covered.

As an editor, Maraniss served as a strong mentor for young reporters. He taught them to stand up for the First Amendment, instilling the importance of exposing wrongdoing.

Maraniss' fearless questioning of authority and relentless pursuit of the truth made him one of Wisconsin's finest journalists.



Thank you
Wisconsin Newspaper Association
from the family of Elliott and Mary Maraniss



Susan Shemanske



At a time when women sports reporters were practically unheard of, **Susan Shemanske** was a pioneer in the field.

After graduating from UW-Parkside in 1977, Shemanske joined The Journal Times in Racine as a sports writer and copy editor. She eventually moved up to assistant sports editor and, in 1990, was named to lead the department.

Among the first women in the state to hold the title of sports editor, Shemanske excelled in the role. She guided The Journal Times sports staff for more than 27 years, producing a sports section that

consistently ranked among the state's best.

Under her leadership, The Journal Times won numerous statewide newspaper awards, including first place honors for "Best Sports Pages" in 1998, 2004, 2006, 2015 and 2016.

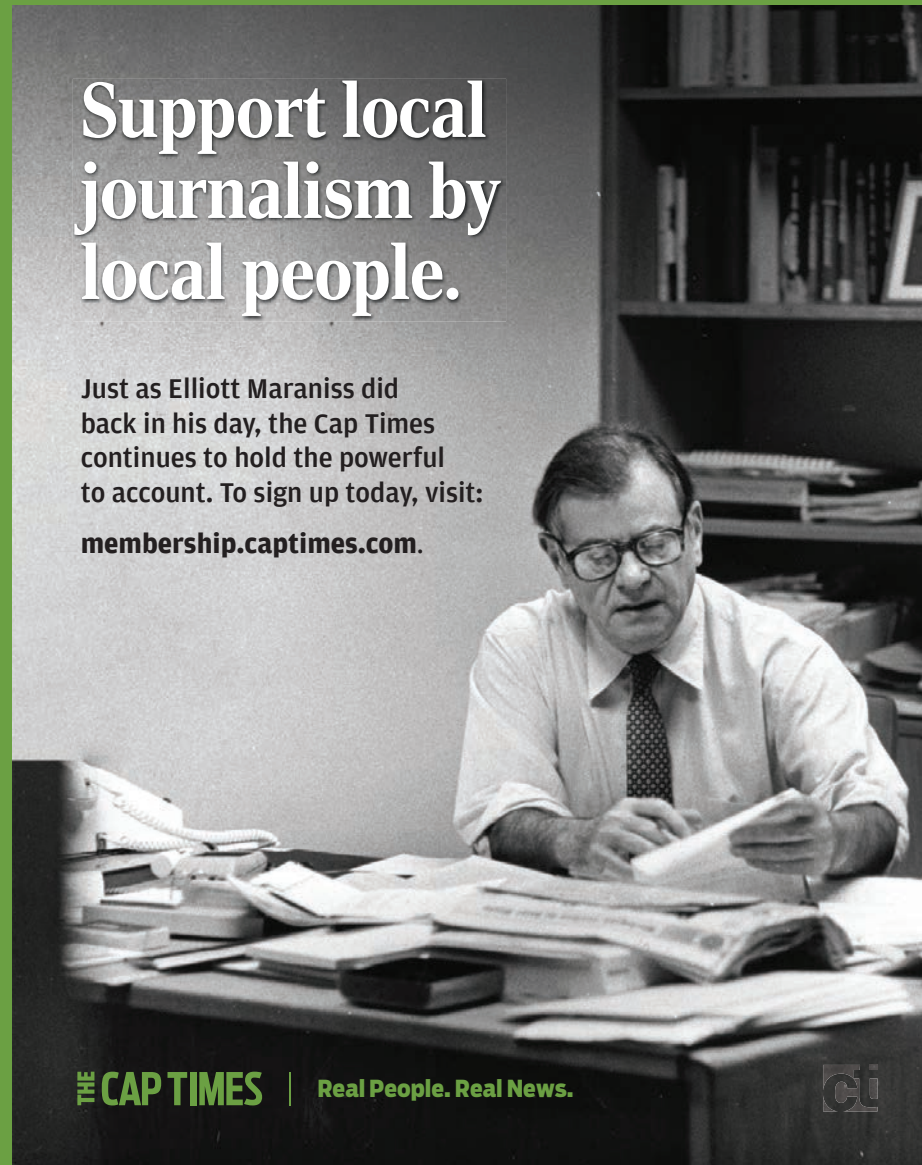
Shemanske constantly impressed her colleagues — not only with her leadership skills, but also with her thoroughly professional approach as a reporter. While covering the Milwaukee Brewers for many years, she always did her homework and earned the respect of players and coaches — not only from the home team, but also visitors.

With an uncanny knack for connecting with people, Shemanske developed a close rapport with those she covered and those who worked for her. She was known as a tough leader and, simultaneously, a close friend by all who knew her.



Support local journalism by local people.

Just as Elliott Maraniss did back in his day, the Cap Times continues to hold the powerful to account. To sign up today, visit: membership.captimes.com.



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