**WNA Rookie of the Year nomination letter for Maddie Bergstrom**

Maddie Bergstrom is well qualified to be the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Rookie of the Year, and I am more than happy to nominate her as her editor.

Since she started in January after graduating in December from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Maddie has been a critical member of our four-newspaper chain at Wisconsin Media Group, which covers weekly newspapers in Verona, Stoughton and Oregon, as well as a monthly newspaper in Fitchburg.

Verona is our flagship newspaper of our three weeklies - a thriving, fast-growing Madison suburb - and due to staffing shortages, she immediately took on the lead role of covering government, schools, business and features (in my 11 years with the paper, we usually had three people cover Verona) and has produced consistent copy that would belie her “rookie” status.

Aside from regular courage duties, she’d also has taken over the oversight of Corre la Voz, which is our growing connection with Verona Area High School students who help edit and write several for our weekly paper in Verona and our monthly paper in Fitchburg, as we have a growing Spanish-speaking population in the area.

She is extremely dependable and conscientious in her news gathering and reporting, and has been a visible and personable ambassador for our company, and for journalism in general, for that matter. And as you’ll see from these few examples, the quality of her writing stands out for a reporter just starting out in the profession; a beginning to a successful and distinguished career, I have no doubt. We are very fortunate to have her on staff.

Thank you for your consideration.

Scott De Laruelle
Managing editor
Wisconsin Media Group - O’Rourke Media Group