

The Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation is accepting nominations for the annual

# BEACHY MUSSELMAN AWARD

Deadline for nominations is  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012



## Norman Beachy Musselman

Since 1969, the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation has presented the Beachy Musselman Award from the interest on funds given to the foundation in his memory.

Musselman was born July 17, 1897, in Falls City, Neb., graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1918 and did graduate work at Kansas University in 1920 and 1921. From 1922-23, he was city editor of the Arkansas City Daily News in Kansas and, from 1924 to 1942, served as advertising manager of the Arkansas City Traveler.

He was editor and general manager of the Shawnee News-Star from 1945 until his death on Aug. 6, 1963.

A few months after his death, his widow, the late Ruth Musselman, asked the OPA to administer a Norman Beachy Musselman Memorial Fund. Although OPA members had talked about establishing a trust fund for several years, they had never done so. The memorial contribution proved to be the catalyst needed to establish the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation (ONF). The first contribution to the foundation was the Norman Beachy Musselman Memorial Fund. ONF was established to serve as a trust for donations of money, securities or other property.

Musselman was a consistent winner of editorial writing awards and his columns, "Beachnuts and Newsbeams," also won many awards.

He was a founding member of the American Legion, joining other veterans to form the new organization after serving as a signal corps aviator in World War I.

Musselman served as president of the Oklahoma Press Association in 1961, which coincided with building and moving into the OPA office building at 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd. in Oklahoma City.

After Musselman's death in 1963, Ben Blackstock wrote about the Shawnee newsman:

"Beachy made a high mark upon the tide of a man's worth by his infectious friendliness, his personality, his deeds and the fire of enthusiasm he could kindle in his associates.

"He was sought for his opinions and his straight-forward way of expressing them. As an editor, he met fully the deep dual responsibility of straight, unadulterated news coverage. He delegated his opinions or definite stand on a matter to his editorial columns.

"Beachy quickly grasped a problem. He respected and exhausted all viewpoints. He then molded a dynamic, progressive decision acceptable to the majority.

"His works went beyond his staff, his city and his association with other publishers. He was deeply devoted to his family. All of us who knew Beachy well, will miss him."

**Winner receives \$1,000,**  
a plaque & recognition as an outstanding journalist at  
the OPA Convention, June 7-9, 2012,  
at the Reed Center in Midwest City.

## Recognize a deserving journalist

The annual Beachy Musselman Award, presented by the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation, recognizes a journalist for his or her contribution to the field of journalism or its related field.

The award, which was established to recognize and encourage quality journalism in practice, education and research, is named after the late Norman Beachy Musselman, former editor and general manager of the Shawnee News-Star, who also served as president of the Oklahoma Press Association.

Any professional journalist is eligible for nomination. Extra consideration is given on the basis of service to the community, initiative in reporting, photographing or interpreting the news. Nominations for editors, reporters and other staff members are encouraged.

## Make your nomination by Feb. 27, 2012

Nominations, which may be made by anyone, must include biographical information showing work in the newspaper industry or related field and reasons you believe the person is deserving of the award. Additional information may be requested by the ONF Board of Trustees.

If you know a journalist who is deserving of this award, send your nomination and accompanying information to the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation, c/o Oklahoma Press Association, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-5499 or e-mail to [mthomas@okpress.com](mailto:mthomas@okpress.com) or fax to (405) 499-0048. This information is also available on the OPA web site at [www.okpress.com/beachy-musselman-award](http://www.okpress.com/beachy-musselman-award).

# PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS OF THE BEACHY MUSSELMAN AWARD

**2010 Nolan Clay, Reporter,  
The Oklahoman**

Clay has worked almost 26 years as a reporter for The Oklahoman, doing investigative exposés and covering courthouses. In addition to covering the Tim McVeigh and Terry Nichols' trials in Denver, Colo., in 1997, Clay also exposed the internal dispute at Oklahoma's Feed the Children in 2009.

**2009 Joe Worley, Executive Editor,  
Tulsa World**

Worley's high journalistic standards are well known statewide and serve as an example to his peers. Worley has been a leader in adapting to the changing face in journalism. He has befriended all the state's newspapers, big and small, and his down-to-earth approach to problems has proved invaluable.

**2008 Steve Booher, Publisher,  
Cherokee Messenger  
& Republican**

For more than a quarter of a century, Booher has been providing Alfalfa County with news and keeping public officials on their toes. Withstanding the criticism that often comes along with being the "watchdog" in a small community, Booher has kept fighting for taxpayers' rights by insisting that records remain open and that public meetings are run according to the state's Open Meeting Act.

**2007 Ray Lokey, Publisher,  
Johnston Co. Capital-Democrat**

Ray Lokey is a third generation publisher, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, E.R. Lokey, and his father John Lokey. Following a stint as editor of his high school newspaper his senior year, Lokey was awarded a McMahon Scholarship at the University of Oklahoma. He became publisher of the Johnston County Capital-Democrat in 1990. Through investigative news reporting and hard-hitting editorials, Lokey used the Capital-Democrat to make the public aware of the threats to the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer and helped mobilize a grassroots organization.

**2006 Louise Abercrombie, Business  
Editor, Ponca City News**

Louise Abercrombie joined The Ponca City News in 1968 as a beginning reporter. Since that time she has gone on to cover statewide and national politicians. At the newspaper, she creates and edits a weekly business page and covers events of all types. She has also created and authored several innovative historical series and writes a weekly humor column. Outside of her writing, Abercrombie has been involved in a number of activities and received numerous awards.

**2005 Barbara A. Walter, Publisher,  
Hennessey Clipper**

When the county assessor's office refused to release omitted property assessment records, Barb Walter argued that the information should be open to the public as provided in the state Open Records Act and Freedom of Information Act. State Attorney General Drew Edmondson settled the dispute when he issued an opinion siding with Walter. Barb Walter also covers the school board and weekly county commissioner meetings.

**2004 Dr. Terry M. Clark,  
Journalism Dept. Chairman  
University of Central Oklahoma**

Clark has taught hundreds of future journalists in his years of teaching. He also conducts workshops on writing, Open Meeting and Records Acts, and layout and design for member newspapers of the OPA. He constantly challenges journalists throughout the state to boldly challenge those in government who disregard the law. His passion for First Amendment issues, and the print media's role as watchdog for local government, is contagious.

**2003 J.B. Blosser Bittner,  
Mg. Ed., Woodward News**

Bittner reviewed Woodward Public Schools finance records line by line, which led to board of education members tightening their grip on the superintendent's spending. The series won first place for investigative reporting in the Associated Press contest as well as AP's sweepstakes award. Bittner is a quality investigative journalist.

**2002 Gary Reid, Publisher,  
Kingsfisher Times & Free Press**

Chosen for his dedication to serve his community and keep its citizens informed. Reid began an investigative campaign into the administration of the city that resulted in a new mayor being elected; recall petitions for all four incumbent city commissioners; the resignation of the city manager and launching of an investigative audit regarding activities of the city.

**2001 Jim & Becky Mayo, Publishers,  
Sequoyah County Times**

Served as mentors for many Oklahoma publishers and are willing to give advice and encouragement to those who ask. The Mayos believe that the ideals that will sustain journalists in the new century are the same ones that Beachy Musselman exemplified at the Shawnee News-Star more than a generation ago.

**2000 Wayne Trotter, Publisher,  
Shawnee Sun**

A journalist's journalist who has won many awards with his editorials and columns and was one of four finalists for the Scripps-Howard Stone Editorial Writing Awards in 1986. Trotter is dedicated to improving the personal and political life in the two communities in which he and his wife, Gloria, publish their weekly newspapers.

- 1999 Jack Lancaster, Adviser,  
OSU Daily O'Collegian
- 1998 David Fallis, Ass't. City Ed.,  
Tulsa World
- 1997 J. Leland Gourley, Publisher,  
OKC Friday
- 1996 Terry Hoggatt, Mg. Ed.,  
Cushing Daily Citizen
- 1995 Alex Adwan, Senior Editor,  
Tulsa World
- 1994 Dave Story, Publisher  
Claremore Progress
- 1993 John & Faith Wylie, Publishers,  
Oologah Lake Leader
- 1992 Bob Lobsinger, Publisher,  
Newkirk Herald-Journal
- 1991 Ed Montgomery, Editorial Editor,  
Norman Transcript
- 1990 Mary Goddard,  
Assistant City Editor,  
The Daily Oklahoman
- 1989 Carter Bradley,  
OPA Capitol News Bureau
- 1988 O.B. Campbell,  
Publisher, Vinita Journal
- 1987 Ralph Sewell,  
OPA Capitol News Bureau
- 1986 Sharon Wright,  
Political Reporter,  
Stillwater NewsPress
- 1985 Beth Macklin, Religion Editor,  
The Tulsa World
- 1984 Patricia Miller, High School  
Journalism Teacher,  
Putnam City West (OKC)
- 1983 Ed Burchfiel, Publisher,  
Cordell Beacon
- 1982 Joseph E. Howell, Reporter,  
The Tulsa Tribune
- 1981 Dr. Harry Heath,  
Director of School of Journalism,  
Oklahoma State University
- 1980 Dr. Ernest F. Larkin,  
Professor of Journalism,  
University of Oklahoma
- 1979 Callaway Buckley, Exec. Ed.,  
Duncan Banner
- 1978 John Young, Executive Editor,  
Sapulpa Herald
- 1977 Jane Glenn, Reporter,  
Norman Transcript
- 1976 Robby Trammell,  
Seminole Producer
- 1975 Pete Crow, Publisher,  
Grove Sun
- 1974 Jack A. Reese, Exec. Ed.,  
Norman Transcript
- 1973 Jack Stone, Mg. Editor,  
Anadarko News
- 1972 Jack Taylor,  
Investigative Reporter,  
Daily Oklahoman
- 1971 Travis Walsh, Mg. Editor,  
Tulsa World
- 1970 Harry Culver, Chief Reporter,  
United Press International
- 1969 Dr. Walt Ward,  
Associate Professor of Journalism,  
Oklahoma State University