

**EIN IN YOUR SCIENCE**

**THE SCIENCE OF NEWSPAPER SUCCESS**

**NDNA 2026**

**NDNA | APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2026 | BISMARCK**

# 2026 NDNA CONVENTION

## THURSDAY, APRIL 30

- 2 P.M. NDNA Board of Directors Meeting
- 4 P.M. Registration opens
- 5 P.M. Pasta bar
- 5:30-6:30 P.M. **Atomic AI:** Artificial intelligence and your paper. How to make AI work for you and make your job easier
- 7 P.M. Newspaper show and tell
- 7-9 P.M. **Sips and science:** Explore the Gateway to Science after hours. Bring your family! \$30 for one additional guest or \$50 for the whole family

## FRIDAY, MAY 1

- 8 A.M. Breakfast at the hotel / Light snacks on site
- 8 A.M. Registration opens
- 8 A.M. Silent auction opens
- 8:30 A.M. **Hypothesis:** State agencies need newspapers. A Panel discussion with agency leaders.
- 9:30-10:15 A.M. **Annual meetings: NDNA & NDNAEF**
- 10:30-11:30 A.M. **Concurrent small-group sessions:**
- Answers to periodic problems: Bring your questions! (a)
  - Digital revenue solutions: Monetize what you're already doing (b)
  - Boiling over with ideas: Great idea exchange (c)
  - New guidance for reporting on sexual violence/abuse (d)
  - The formula: What does it take to own a newspaper? (e)
  - Forging bonds: A sit down with the ND News Co-op (f)
- Noon-12:30 P.M. **Better Newspaper Contest: Advertising**
- 12:30 P.M. **Lunch and featured speaker: Suiting up in protective gear:** Modern-day libel concerns and media vulnerabilities with Katie Winbauer
- 1:30-2:15 P.M. **Better Newspaper Contest (Dakota)**

**News & Editorial Awards**  
**Photography Awards**  
**Photos of the Year**

- 2:30-3:15 P.M. **Future of Local News Initiative final report** with Teri Finneman and Cecile Wehrmann
- 3:30 P.M.-4:15 P.M. **Concurrent small-group sessions**
- Crafting an audience: Customizing content for social media (a)
  - Reporter Huddle: Finding method in the madness (b)
  - New guidance for reporting on sexual violence/abuse (c)
  - The science of successful selling with NDNA programs (d)
  - Mapping the process: Succession planning for your paper (e)
  - Under the microscope: Challenges facing press protections (f)

- 4:15 P.M. **Social Hour: Meet and greet with advisers, students & media**
- 4:15 P.M. **Winners display**
- 5:15 P.M. **Silent auction closes**
- 5:30 P.M. **Special Awards and Grand Hors d'ouerves**  
**Annual group photo (seated)**  
**Introduction of new NDNA President**  
**50 Year Club recipients**  
**Live auction/Silent auction winners announced**  
**Better Newspaper Contest: Special Awards**  
**Rookie Reporter of the Year**  
**Public Notice Journalism Award**  
**Community Service Award**  
**First Amendment Award**  
**General Excellence Awards**  
**Sweepstakes Awards**  
**A-Mark prizes**

- 7:30 P.M. **Conclusion with option to regather at hotel lounge**

# Registration

## 2026 NDNA CONVENTION

APRIL 30-MAY 1

GATEWAY TO SCIENCE, BISMARCK

Newspaper/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete your online registration or fill in the form below and return to NDNA, 501 E Main Ave #75, Bismarck, ND 58503 or fax to 800-223-8185. For more information, Call NDNA at 701-223-6397 or email us at marketing@ndna.com.

**Register online: [ndna.com/convention](http://ndna.com/convention)**

# Cost and Information

Convention registration is one flat fee and includes admittance to all sessions, extra events and meals.

Cost per person: \$100

Complete the columns below for each attendee to help us get an accurate count for all meals and sessions. Please indicate in first column if this is the person's first time attending an NDNA convention.

A check payable to NDNA or billing information must be received with this form in order to be registered. VISA and MasterCard are accepted.

### Payment Options:

Check Enclosed (Make check payable to ND Newspaper Association)

Bill Me

Charge to Visa or MasterCard

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

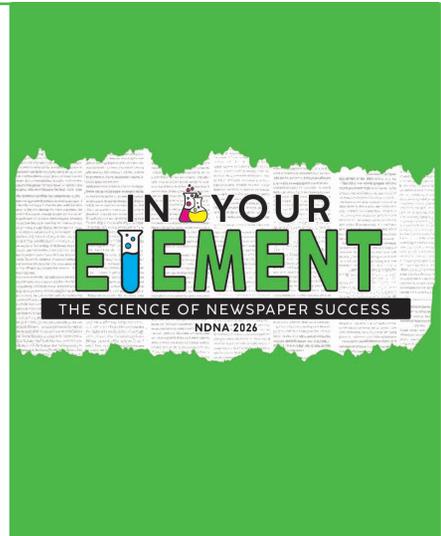
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Lodging

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inn, 2020 Schaeffer St., Bismarck. Choices are \$150 for DBL Queen/King or \$165 for King Suite. Request the "Newspaper Association Convention" block to receive this rate.

Book with Ramada by Wyndham by phone at 701-751-5656.

**Please book your room by April 9, 2026.**



## Pre-order your Convention shirt!

100% Cotton Unisex T-shirt, available through preorder only. \$25 per shirt.

Shirts will be available for pickup at the Registration desk during convention.

1st Timer	NAME OF ATTENDEE <i>please print clearly</i>	Registration	THURSDAY Pasta bar and evening events	THURSDAY Guest entry Single: \$30 Family: \$50	FRIDAY State reps panel	FRIDAY Concurrent Small-Group Sessions 1 (Circle one)	FRIDAY Concurrent Small-Group Sessions 2 (Circle one)	FRIDAY Lunch and Featured Speaker	FRIDAY Special Awards Banquet	2026 Convention Shirt (Circle Size)				Per-Person Cost
										XS	S	M	L	
		\$100				a b c d e f	a b c d e f			XS	S	M	L	\$25
		\$100				a b c d e f	a b c d e f			XL	2X	3X		\$25
		\$100				a b c d e f	a b c d e f			XS	S	M	L	\$25
		\$100				a b c d e f	a b c d e f			XL	2X	3X		\$25
		\$100				a b c d e f	a b c d e f			XS	S	M	L	\$25
		\$100				a b c d e f	a b c d e f			XL	2X	3X		\$25
		\$100				a b c d e f	a b c d e f			XS	S	M	L	\$25
		\$100				a b c d e f	a b c d e f			XL	2X	3X		\$25

SPECIAL NEEDS: Please specify any special dietary needs or other accommodations:

Total Amount Due:

# Program Notes

**Matt Waite** is a professor of practice in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of



Waite

Nebraska-Lincoln who teaches courses in AI, data analysis and visualization. He regularly speaks on

and consults media organizations about the legal, ethical and journalistic complexities of using drones, data and technology.

From 2007-2011, he was a programmer/journalist for the St. Petersburg Times where he developed the website PolitiFact, winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting. Before that, he was an award-winning investigative reporter and co-author of Paving Paradise: Florida's Vanishing Wetlands and the Failure of No Net Loss.

*Catch Matt: Thursday night in Atomic AI: Artificial intelligence and your paper.*

**Mary Beth Votava** is the ND SBDC Assistant State Director of Programs and Development. Mary Beth joined the SBDC in 2000 having served as the Minot Regional SBDC Center Director and Advisor for over 25 years.

Mary Beth earned a Bach-

elor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Minot State University. She is a Kent State



Votava

University Certified Business Advisor, ISBA licensed Business certified Appraiser, a NEBB Institute Certified Machinery

and Equipment Appraiser, a Business Certified Exit Planner, and an Accredited Business Broker Intermediary.

*Catch Mary Beth: In The Formula and Mapping the Process concurrent sessions on Friday or set up a 30-minute consult on how to position your newspaper for an ownership transition. Email director@ndna.com to book your individual visit.*

**Greg Kasowski** is the



Kasowski

Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota, where he leads statewide efforts to provide a

coordinated, multidisciplinary

response to child abuse.

A graduate of the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor's in Communications and Columbia International University with a Master's degree, Greg has dedicated his career to impactful communication and advocacy.

**Amie Britz** serves as the North Dakota Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition's Communica-



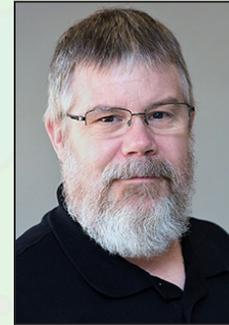
Britz

tions Coordinator. In her role, she wears many hats. She is a copywriter, graphic designer, marketer, and public relations specialist.

Amie is passionate about effective messages, creative ideas, and beautiful designs. She received a bachelor's degree in Advertising and Public Relations from Minnesota State University Moorhead and has been working for NDDSVS for over four years.

*Catch Greg and Amie: In New guidance for reporting on sexual violence/abuse during Friday concurrent sessions.*

**Blake Nicholson** has been executive editor of The Bismarck Tribune since September 2023, after serving as news editor the previous four years. The Sherwood native worked at the Devils Lake Journal and the Minot Daily News in the 1990s



Nicholson

and the Tribune, he had a 21-year career with The Associated Press.

*Catch Blake: In the Reporter huddle during concurrent sessions on Friday.*

**Sabrina Halvorson** is the CEO of the North Dakota News



Halvorson

Cooperative. Her 35-year journalism career has spanned from local newspapers and television to national radio programs, international magazines, and online platforms. She began her career at her family's small-town newspaper and has remained committed to strengthening local journalism in rural communities.

*Catch Sabrina: In Forging bonds and Under the microscope concurrent sessions on Friday.*

after earning his journalism degree from the University of North Dakota. In between his work at those papers

**Katie Winbauer** is an attorney with the Vogel Law Firm in Bismarck, ND. Katie is



Winbauer

a monthly op-ed contributor for the Bismarck Tribune and cherishes her time spent in student media through-

out high school and college. She is also NDNA's attorney and lobbyist!

*Catch Katie: As Friday's featured speaker during lunch.*

**Teri Finneman** is a journalism professor at the University of Kansas and publisher of The Eudora Times. She is co-author



Finneman

of the book Reviving Rural News and the forthcoming book News Desert U. She spent most of her reporting

career in North Dakota. She is the founder of the Journalism History podcast.

*Catch Teri: In Friday's Future of Local News Initiative final report.*