

# Florida Society of Newspaper Editors

February 19, 1979

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Officers

President  
PAUL HOGAN  
Managing Editor  
*Tampa Tribune*

Vice President  
PETE WEITZEL  
Assistant Managing Editor/News  
*Miami Herald*

Secretary-Treasurer  
ANDREW BARNES  
Managing Editor  
*St. Petersburg Times*

Directors

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Editorial Director  
*Sarasota Herald-Tribune  
and Journal*

SAM PEPPER  
Managing Editor  
*Palm Beach Post*

FRED SEELY  
Managing Editor  
*Jacksonville Florida  
Times-Union*

DON MEIKLEJOHN  
Managing Editor  
*Ocala Star-Banner*

Dear Editors:

You recently received a letter from Andy Barnes, Secretary of FSNE, asking for your 1979 dues.

Since so many of us are new, let me take these few minutes of your time to explain what the organization is and what we're trying to do.

FSNE is celebrating its 10th Anniversary this year. John McMullan of the Miami Herald took the lead in 1969 in organizing the Society. It was set up to include both news and editorial executives of daily newspapers in the state. It was patterned after the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

One of the major reasons for the organization of FSNE was to create an active group within the state independent of the Associated Press Association of Florida and the United Press International organization that had been started only a year or two before. Daily newspapermen around the state found themselves going to semi-annual meetings of the Florida Press Association, the AP Association and the UPI Association. In addition, there was the Florida Society of Editors that had been organized by editorial writers in 1955.

Traditionally, FSNE conducts its first meeting of the year in conjunction with the Florida Press Association's first meeting. We meet separately in late Fall. This year the joint "Spring" meeting will be held at the Bahia Mar Hotel on Ft. Lauderdale Beach May 31 through June 2. The Fall meeting will be held in Tampa at a time and place to be announced later.



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EPA will be observing its 100th Anniversary and FSNE will have its 10th Anniversary.

The AP and the UPI conduct their meetings at the same time as the FSNE membership meetings.

The stated purpose of FSNE is "to advance the cause of responsible journalism." We conduct the annual contests for the state, the rules of which were mailed to you recently. We also present, in the Fall, the FSNE Distinguished Achievement Award which carries a \$500 cash award. In addition, FSNE has been involved as a friend of the court in several freedom of information cases at the Appeal Court level. Attorney Gary Williams of Tallahassee represents FSNE. FSNE was the catalyst for the Florida Freedom of Information Newsletter published by the University of Florida Foundation.

This year we plan to create several new committees to enable us to take a more active role in the state. These committees will involve monitoring state wire reports and picture services, working with college level journalism schools and developing programs at our meetings designed especially for editorial writers. In addition, we will divide the state into sections and create territorial committees to keep the organization in closer touch with its members.

Recent actions of the membership have removed any limits on the number of memberships allowed any individual paper.

As you can see in the enclosed copy of the FSNE Constitution, we feel FSNE can be of service to and can benefit from the participation of a number of newsroom leaders on our various newspaper staffs.

You will note that the constitution also calls for the election of officers at our Fall meeting. A nominating committee is appointed by our President before that meeting and, traditionally, officers are moved up one notch each year. Unlike APME, however, the membership, and not just the directors, elects the officers.

Past presidents, as best we have been able to remember, have included McMullan, Earl Bowden of the Pensacola News-Journal, James Clendinen of The Tampa Tribune, John Walters of The Florida Times Union, Ed Johnson of the Gainesville Sun, Larry Jenks of the Miami Herald, Bob Stiff of the St. Petersburg Independent, Stan Roberts of the Orlando Sentinel, Steve Pappas of the Daytona Beach News-Journal and Waldo Proffitt of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune.

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I encourage you to see that your staff is fully represented in FSNE's 1979 membership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Hogan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul Hogan  
President

PH/bn  
Enclosure

# FLORIDA SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I

#### Name

1. This society shall be known as the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors.

### ARTICLE II

#### Purpose

1. The object of this society is to advance the cause of responsible journalism.

### ARTICLE III

#### Membership

1. Persons of suitable qualifications who have primary charge of news or editorial policies of daily newspapers in the State of Florida and any such other news or editorial executives as the society's board of directors may decide to accept shall be eligible for membership.
2. Anyone who shall have distinguished himself by notable contributions to the profession of journalism may be elected to full membership in the society by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors.
3. The board of directors, by a majority vote, shall have authority to set the annual dues.
4. All candidates for membership shall make written application to the secretary.
5. The names of applicants for membership shall be presented to the board of directors for election or rejection. Election of an applicant to membership shall require an affirmative vote of the majority of the directors present.
6. At each regular meeting of the society, the secretary shall read the names of all candidates elected by the board of directors.

## ARTICLE IV

### Officers and Directors

1. Officers of the society shall be a president, vice president and secretary-treasurer, who shall perform the duties of their offices for one-year terms.
2. The government of the society shall be vested in the board of directors, which shall have full direction of its affairs.
3. The board of directors shall be composed of seven members, including the three officers, president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, the immediate past president and three other members. These other members shall be elected, one for one year, one for two years, and one for three years, and as each of their respective terms expires a successor director shall be elected for three years. No director shall be eligible to succeed himself after two successive terms of three years each.
4. The directors shall have full power to fill all vacancies on the board or among officers until the next regular meeting of the society, at which time a successor or successors shall be elected.
5. The board of directors may adopt rules and regulations for the government and proper business conduct of the society, and shall have the power to amend the same.
6. The board of directors shall submit at the annual fall meeting a full report of the condition and finances of the society, together with a review of its acts for the preceding year.

## ARTICLE V

### Committees

1. The president shall appoint such standing and special committees as shall be determined by the society or by the board of directors.
2. The president and secretary-treasurer may act as members of any committee, unless otherwise ordered.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

1. The semi-annual meeting of the society shall be held at a place and time decided upon by the board of directors.
2. Special meetings of the society shall be held on call of the president, confirmed by the board of directors, or on written request of 10 members.
3. Business of the society may properly be transacted by a majority of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the society.
4. The board of directors may, at any time, order a change in time of holding regular or special meetings of the society or board of directors.

ARTICLE VII

Elections

1. The election of officers and directors shall be a part of the order of business at the regular fall meeting of the society.
2. The new officers and directors shall be installed at the close of the regular fall meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

1. This constitution may be amended or altered by a two-thirds vote of those present at any regular or special meeting.

(Adopted October 31, 1969, at organizational meeting in Gainesville, Florida. Revised 1970, 1973, 1978.)