CANDIDATES ARE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

CHRIS KWIECINSKI

Columbia Daily Tribune

Background/APSE experience

APSE member since 2019, starting out as a member of the West Region at The Spectrum & Daily News. Created a southern Utah presence and another small-paper membership to bounce ideas off of. I brought that membership to Columbia, immediately reinstated the Tribune as an APSE member for the first time in years and won the Tribune two APSE nominations in less than a full year as sports editor.

Journalism background

I have worked both freelance and full-time jobs since 2016. My freelance bylines have appeared in ESPNW, The Athletic, Daily Herald, and in papers across northern Illinois. I was a staff writer and editor for the Oxford Eagle before moving to The Spectrum & Daily News in 2019 as a sports reporter for two and a half years. In Utah, I won APSE nominations, grew a digital sports subscription base, and contributed to USA Today's national brand. I became a full-time sports editor at the Columbia Daily Tribune in 2021. I lead the Tribune's sports department, directing freelancers, writing stories, and editing all sports copy in a county that covers an SEC program and eight high schools, while also being a part of the USA Today network's SEC cross-team.

APSE background

I joined APSE looking for a chance to network and improve as a sports journalist professional. That opportunity grew into a support system as I grew into a sports editor myself. I've gotten advice on how to approach editing, hiring reporters, and how to position my paper in the organization moving forward as a Class C paper.

Objective

My objective aligns with what APSE needs moving forward, which is to grow its membership totals among smaller papers that sports editors can use the same benefits I had in Utah to either grow their status within the organization, develop a support system or find ways to network as they eye next steps of their careers. I plan to establish a focus on small paper by actively reaching out and encouraging small-paper sports reporters, who may not have sports editors, to sign up for a membership. This is how I became involved, and it was a reason I have been able to establish my career in a myriad of ways. I also plan on growing membership numbers by recruiting sports photojournalists and photo editors nationwide. One of the biggest ways I've grown as a sports editor in Columbia is by having a greater understanding of how important visuals are to a sports section. This way, APSE can develop a resource pool of photojournalists and visual journalism to run parallel to the established pool of sports reporters and sports editors that make up the best sports journalism organization in the world.

ED REED

USA Today Network-Florida Deputy Sports Editor, based in Fort Myers

Background/APSE experience

I have been the APSE third vice president for about a year and have been a member of APSE for nearly 15 years. I have had the pleasure to judge the APSE contest on many occasions in Indianapolis, St. Pete, Orlando and online as well as attend four summer conventions.

Journalism background

I have worked at The News-Press in Fort Myers for 22 years. I started as a weekly sports editor (Lehigh Acres News Star) and after six months joined the daily staff. I was promoted to assistant sports editor in 2002 and to sports editor in 2007. I added Naples Daily News editor to my resume in 2017, and in 2019, I picked up directing an additional four Gannett Florida properties. In 2021, I became Gannett's Deputy Florida Sports Editor, helping oversee a statewide network with 18 properties. In my time with Gannett, I have shepherded the publications under my purview into increased digital and social media coverage as we transition from print-based to electronic platforms.

Before moving to Florida, I worked at my college's Independent newspaper at Boston University, spent a year at the weekly Holyoke (Mass.) Sun as sports editor and then three years at the MetroWest Daily News, where I juggled the production of three to four weeklies along with my daily duties.

Objective

With more media markets falling into the "small" category, it is essential APSE find new and innovative ways to serve them. I propose creating an advisory committee made up of editors from smaller C and D Division properties to discuss what APSE can provide in the way of mentoring, training, sharing ideas, or just listening. I hope that aligning editors' needs with APSE's offerings will offer better assistance to current members and spur journalists to join. I will also explore ways to bolster participation in the annual APSE contest for the D Division publications, which hopefully will also drive membership. I want to make sure categories are fair for publications that have limited resources. Many properties only sent in a few entries, and a dozen sent nothing at all for the 2021 contest. The contest is a great way for editors to share their work and provide networking opportunities for journalists looking to advance their careers and managers looking to recruit top performers.

I also want to recruit more judges from smaller properties. The pandemic proved that remote judging works and may be a viable option for markets that cannot afford to send staffers to in-person events. Judging in and of itself is a great learning experience, regardless of whether one does it live or remotely.

Having been appointed third vice president last spring, I now have the insight on what it takes to run the summer and winter conferences, and I finally feel I have my footing. I would like to use that knowledge to serve a full term and help the next two executive committees develop and retool APSE as it moves into the future. I will be a voice for our "smaller" members to make sure they are kept top of mind when any changes to the organization's bylaws, contest rules or conventions are suggested and will strive to make APSE accessible to all.