

NHPA Executive Committee Meeting Dec. 11, 2025
AI Meeting summary, with minor corrections

Quick recap

The New Hampshire Press Association Executive Committee met to discuss various organizational matters including membership updates, financial reports, and upcoming events. The group reviewed legislative affairs and award program changes, including potential updates to membership criteria and contest entry requirements. They also addressed concerns about email retention policies and discussed potential new members, while exploring ways to enhance professional development opportunities and increase organizational support.

Next steps

- Matt (Business): Send final version of meeting (NOV) minutes to NHPA
- Brendan: Try to access Secretary of State's filing site and inform team of required information for the report
- NHPA (Judi): Follow up with new contact at St. A's to confirm banquet date by end of day
- Kristen and Rose: Meet to discuss and plan content/presentation ideas for the April student banquet/event, in coordination with Judi who will touch base with Tom Haynes about UNH as a possible location for the April student banquet/event
- Michael and Judi: Develop and finalize recommendations to raise small organization membership dues (to \$100 or \$125) and review PR firm membership/award concepts
- Michael: Freshen up the sponsorship pitch with Judi and reach out to Chance and others for PR firm input; later, request sponsorship leads from committee members
- NHPA (Judi): Write back to Scanner Alerts Media Group requesting more information before approving membership
- NHPA (Judi): Check membership records and send dues notice to Greg Matheson
- Greg Matheson: Provide email address to NHPA for membership/dues communication
- Melanie: Forward information about Keene school district email deletion policy to Brendan and committee for review and possible follow-up
- Contest Committee: Schedule a meeting to review contest entry data and discuss alignment of membership and contest entry criteria/language (including FTEs, bylines, etc.)
- Brendan/NHPA: Monitor upcoming legislation regarding public meeting notice requirements and prepare for January hearing

NHPA Executive Committee December Meeting

The December meeting of the New Hampshire Press Association Executive Committee was called to order by Brendan McQuaid, Matt Mowry, Michael Graham, Melanie Plenda, Tony Schinella, Rose Kundainis, Greg Mathieson, Chance Viles, Judi Currie

Susan noted that the meeting minutes distributed earlier did not include the list of attendees, and Brendan acknowledged that the AI-generated draft did not include this information. Business explained that he would provide the final version of the minutes, which would include the attendee list, as he manually records this information.

Treasurer's Account and Banquet Updates

Melanie reported on the Treasurer's account, noting technical difficulties accessing online banking, which NHPA helped resolve. Brendan mentioned needing to submit a report to the Secretary of State and would inform the group of required information. Judi informed the group that their contact

at St. A's, Mr. Foreman, had left, and a new person was now handling their banquet arrangements, with a confirmation expected by the end of the day.

Legislative Affairs Watch List Review

Brendan discussed the need to review and update the legislative affairs watch list, particularly focusing on right-to-know requests for out-of-state applicants, which Susan had highlighted as a potential concern. Tony shared that a similar report was produced a decade ago, and the current report's budget-cut recommendations were sealed under executive privilege, which led to a lawsuit by NHPR. The group agreed to monitor these developments carefully.

Planning Next Professional Development Event

The group discussed a recent professional development event organized by Judi, which featured Phil Sletten from the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute and included students from Oyster River. Kristen mentioned connections with Sean Kelly regarding an alum, Paige Moody, from Big Local News in Cambridge. The team is planning the next event, considering locations such as Oyster River, UNH, or the Mub, with Judi exploring options. Rose and Kristen agreed to collaborate on planning the April student banquet, considering ideas for data-based presentations, and will consult with Judi and others involved.

Membership Dues and Opportunities

The membership committee discussed raising dues for small organizations from \$75 to \$100-\$125, while also exploring new membership opportunities for PR firms and the possibility of creating a PR Professional of the Year award. Judy shared insights from a previous event where they successfully attracted PR firms as sponsors by including event tickets and recognition opportunities. The committee agreed to further develop these ideas and make specific recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Awards Program Restructuring Discussion

The group discussed potential changes to their awards program, including two new award concepts: one for PR firms that help newspapers and another for firms that had a particularly challenging year. They also explored the need to review criteria for defining large versus small news outlets, as some organizations with 4 or fewer full-time employees were winning multiple awards. Tony noted that the membership criteria and contest entry requirements need to be aligned, and suggested raising the fee to \$100, though this was not definitively decided.

Employee Category Definition Review

The committee discussed inconsistencies in the language used to define employee categories for award entries, with Tony highlighting the need for clarity between full-time and part-time employees. Brendan suggested reviewing past entries to assess category activity, while NHPA and others debated the use of full-time equivalents (FTEs) versus bylines as a measure for entry categories. Michael mentioned plans to refresh sponsorship pitches and seek input from PR firms and community organizations for future support.

Committee Denies Scanner Alerts Membership

The committee discussed a potential new member, Scanner Alerts Media Group, but decided not to approve them due to lack of clear ownership and original reporting. They also addressed upcoming legislation regarding the removal of public meeting notice requirements, which will be discussed in January. Greg introduced himself as a long-time journalist covering the White House and Capitol

Hill, and expressed interest in teaching a photojournalism class and participating in right to know 91A segments.

Photojournalism and Email Policy Discussion

Greg discussed his experience in photojournalism and expressed interest in conducting a seminar and joining the organization. He also mentioned his involvement in copyright infringement cases, including a successful lawsuit against Donald Trump. The group discussed a policy in Keene requiring school district employees to delete emails after 30 days, which Melanie raised concerns about, noting it was specifically mentioned as a response to 91A requests. The group agreed to follow up on this issue, with Melanie offering to share more information.