

NPPA NEWS

National Press Photographers Association

Process open for officer nominations

All NPPA members are invited to participate in the nomination process for the association's leaders. The Nominations and Elections Committee invites nominations, including self-nominations, for the vice presidency and for open seats on our three elected standing committees, Teaching, Professional Freedom and Responsibility, and Research. Deadline for receipt of nominations, which must use the form included in this issue of newsletter, is Oct. 19, 2007.

The Committee will review nominations and select a final slate of candidates. Two candidates will be selected to run for the office of vice president in 2008-09, and then becoming president elect in 2009-10, and AE-JMC president in 2010-11.

Please pay attention to the information on the form about continuing committee members and current members eligible to run for a second term. Nominees from the same institution as any current members are not eligible to run. For that same committee nominees should be members with solid credentials in teaching, research or PF&R (which includes media criticism, media ethics, inclusivity, free expression and public service) with access to the time and resources required to perform committee functions and travel to the conventions and meetings.

We encourage all NPPA members to apply for this exciting and challenging position! Please complete and return the form on page 5 by Oct. 19, 2007. Contact the NPPA office at (919) 555-5555 if you have an questions or concerns.



Photo by: Allison Martin-Hughes

Jack Stewart, NPPA Convention keynote speaker, addressed the crowd on the power of photography in the information age.

Famed photographer Annie Leibovitz addresses NPPA

The weather was hot and steamy in Washington, DC, in August, as it was in most of the rest of the country. But delegates still came by the thousands, 2,657 strong, setting a record attendance for a NPPA Convention. The four-day meeting offered a record number of sessions, and a record number of papers.

More than 700 people crowded the room to hear keynote speaker Annie Leibovitz, an American photographer. Her moving commentary on the value of art in today's society, no matter what format it is delivered by, was filmed by the University of Maryland television station and was broadcast live nationwide by C-SPAN. The next day more than 350 people spilled out the door to hear Helen Thomas call her colleagues in the press corps to task for not playing a true watchdog role and asking the tough questions. Both speakers addressed packed conference rooms and closed to standing ovations.

The opening reception was held at the Canadian Embassy, courtesy of The Freedom Forum. The 700 attendees enjoyed the food, but it was the quick walk-through preview of The Newseum and the presentation of one of the video clips that caught their attention. Narrated by Martin Sheen, the clip detailed vividly the creation of the Bill of Rights and how the new United States government reacted to its declared freedoms. It was history come to life.

NPPA also had the pleasure of presenting its inaugural book award. *The African American Newspaper: Voice of Freedom* by Patrick S. Washburn of Ohio University received the 2007 Tankard Book Award on the convention's opening day. "For a book to win the Tankard Book Award, explained competition chair Paula Poindexter of Texas at Austin, "it had to be judged relevant to journalism and mass communication, break new ground, and be beautifully written."