



Training for copy editors

The idea that led to the creation of ACES was nurtured during a series of three conferences about copy editing sponsored by the American Society of Newspaper Editors in 1995 and 1996.

When ACES was chartered in the spring of 1997, the top priority of the society's founders was to conduct their own national gathering, organized by copy editors, for copy editors.

Four months later, the first ACES national conference was held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The participants, who numbered more than 340, felt the euphoria of shared experience, shared problems, shared goals and shared hopes.

We left Chapel Hill feeling an enormous drive and energy, and that enthusiasm has propelled us through year after year of larger and more successful conferences. Nearly 3,000 participants have taken advantage of the educational and networking opportunities offered by these sessions.

Our national conference is our major event each year. Workshops and panel discussions form the backbone of the gathering, but each year we have added and reconfigured sessions in an effort to thoroughly cover topics of interest to all those who edit copy. The conference schedule now offers three full days of training.

Nuts-and-bolts workshops on editing and headline-writing are always emphasized, and feature a variety of approaches to benefit editors at various skill levels. Larger issues relevant to anyone in the news industry are featured, as well.

Most sessions are of interest to those who edit for any publication, in print and online. We also welcome students, reporters, managers and others who want to know more about editing issues.

We keep our registration fees low so that as many editors as possible can afford to attend. In fact, our fees are far lower than those for any training opportunity that is even remotely comparable.

ACES members receive discounts on registration costs, as do members of the Society for News Design.

Although the conference may be inexpensive, its lineup of presenters is first-rate. Our program has consistently featured many of journalism's leading educators and top-notch speakers from the industry and academia. All of them appear without charge to ACES. We think that our conferences are the best value in journalism education.

We encourage you to join us for these upbeat gatherings of editors, where the emphasis is on education to improve professional skills and on raising the voice of the copy desk.

Conference speakers

These journalists are among the hundreds of professionals who have donated their time to speak or lead sessions at ACES conferences:

Merv Aubespain, Louisville Courier-Journal
John Carroll, Los Angeles Times
William G. Connolly, The New York Times (retired)
Gene Foreman, Penn State University
Anne Glover, St. Petersburg Times
Joe Grimm, Detroit Free Press
Molly Ivins, Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Bill Kovach, Committee of Concerned Journalists
Paula LaRocque, Dallas Morning News
Walter Middlebrook, Newsday
Jim Naughton, Poynter Institute
Merrill Perlman, The New York Times
Sandra Rowe, The Oregonian
Mike Waller, Baltimore Sun (retired)
Barbara Wallraff, Copy Editor
Bill Walsh, The Washington Post
Yvette Walker, Kansas City Star
Warren Watson, American Press Institute
Jack E. White, TIME



Conference feedback

I've been to Chapel Hill, Long Beach, Louisville and Chicago, and each time when I have returned to work, my boss notices a change for the better! The conferences always get me jazzed about journalism again. Thanks!

Melissa Murdza, Stars and Stripes

■

What a worthwhile experience. As a first-time attendee, I came away with lots of great ideas and a drawer full of helpful advice. It was amazing and rejuvenating to be in the company of so many dedicated journalists, all with the same quality goal in mind.

Becky Garceau, Ottawa Citizen

■

The conference recharged my copy editing battery; I really needed that. My journalism career has been marked by "learn as you go." ACES gave me a framework to build my skills and become a better journalist.

John Burke, Bankrate.com

■

As a journalism professor, I must say that the ACES meeting is one of the most valuable conferences I have attended since I got into teaching. It's a great way to stay up to date on the latest issues in the newsroom, and it gave my teaching energies an extra boost. Congratulations to ACES for putting together such an informative – and fun – program.

Andy Bechtel,
Louisiana State University

ACES is a great resource for all of us who work at smaller and mid-sized newspapers. It gives copy editors and copy desk chiefs a chance to bounce ideas off their peers at other papers, and that's something copy deskers have missed out on too often through the years.

Barry Harrell, Shreveport Times

■

The convention in Long Beach was my first, and I wished I'd been to all of them. It's not every day you get to be among people who care so deeply about their work, have such high standards, and want to fix what's broken in the craft. They are ACES, and also Kings, Queens, Jacks and every high card in the deck.

Jim Naughton, Poynter Institute

■

If you believe, as I do, that copy editors are crucial to excellent newspapers, you'll come to appreciate the wonderful work ACES is doing to improve the work and the lives of copy editors – and therefore to improve newspapers. I had a wonderful time at the latest ACES convention, and I'm looking forward to the next one.

John Carroll, Los Angeles Times

■

I've attended dozens of journalism-related conventions over the years, and I can't think of any that were more beneficial or more focused than the ACES meeting. I'm sure everyone left the convention reinvigorated and better informed.

Richard S. Holden,
Dow Jones Newspaper Fund

I've been to a couple of other conventions, but never felt the commonality I encountered with all those other rimmers. After one day back at work, my deskmates are already starting to tire of my urging them to join. After this experience, I could easily see spending my own money to go next year, because of how valuable, and how fun, it was.

Mike Prager, Boston Globe

■

ACES' yearly conference is a three-day symposium for the consummate professional copy editor. It draws the best of the best in the profession who attend to perfect their craft as wordsmiths. The copy editor who attends this conference returns to his newspaper rejuvenated and knowing he or she is a part of a vast group of professionals who strive to inform their readers with accurate and precise language of the written word.

Bill Wampler, Houston Chronicle

■

ACES conferences are a wonderful chance to learn from the best in the business and to talk shop with more than 400 editors. I attended the Baltimore and Long Beach conferences and came away from both with renewed enthusiasm for this profession. You won't find a better training opportunity for copy editors.

Larry Sparks,
Omaha World-Herald