

Introducing Kim Burdick, 2016-2017 Communicator of Achievement  
by Mark Fowser, President Delaware Press Association  
December 3, 2016



The annual Communicator of Achievement Award is the highest honor DPA bestows on its members. First and foremost, the COA Award is given for a lifetime of achievement in the communications profession. And second, it recognizes exemplary service to the community and to humanity as well as to the profession, especially to Delaware Press Association and the National Federation of Press Women.

Delaware Press Association's COA competes annually in the NFPW COA contest for the honor of being chosen the National Communicator of Achievement. The committee that considers nominees is made up of previous COA's. Here are some clues to her identity:

Delaware's rich history is all around us, and it comes alive through the professional dedication and service to the community carried out by Delaware Press Association's Communicator of Achievement for 2017. She has shared her knowledge and passion through literature, as an educator, through presentations and panel discussions and outstanding work in government and in the non-profit sector. Our COA has a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Delaware and a master's degree in American Folk Culture through the Cooperstown Graduate Program.

She founded the Delaware Folklife Project, a statewide grassroots network to preserve, promote, and protect traditional arts, crafts and oral history of Delaware. Through her work as a Delaware General Assembly House-Senate Liaison, she also served on the Governor's International Trade Council, writing articles and speeches, helping to develop connections in trade and tourism. She has taught American History and Psychology at Delaware Technical and Community College in Wilmington both online and on campus since 2004.

Her efforts have been recognized regionally and nationally:

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October 7, 2016          Preservation 50 -State of Delaware in recognition for efforts to promote  
50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Laws

2011          NEH- SHEAR Summer Scholar: National Endowment for the Humanities, awarded to  
twenty-four Community College Instructors across the nation for excellence in teaching

2010          Good Citizen Medal. DESSAR -Sons of American Revolution for public service  
related to history of the American Revolution

2009          Les Palmes Academiques - French Gov't Awarded by French Ambassador Pierre  
Vimont & Consul General, Michel Schauffhauser for extending a hand of friendship during "the  
great French-Fry War" by getting the word out in 9-states, DC and France about French help  
during the American Revolution

2003-2009          National Chairman, 225th Anniversary AmRev/W3R. See above. Successfully  
lobbied Congress for passage of a bill to mark Yorktown Campaign Trail and create a 9-state, DC  
& France public-private partnership with the National Park Service.

2004          French Advocate of the Year. French Faculty, University of Delaware

2000-2001          Hagley-Winterthur Research Fellow. Research topic was Louise Crowninshield:  
Historic Preservation Pioneer.

2000-Project Director, Delaware Memorial at Gettysburg

1994          Council of State Governments' Toll Fellow.

1991-2001. Advisor to National Trust for Historic Preservation. Founding member, along with  
Eldon duP Homsey, of Preservation Delaware.

This year's Communicator of Achievement is a prolific author. She has written many articles,  
done research for a film, has a new book out, "Revolutionary Delaware: Independence in the  
First State," published on November 21, 2016 by History Press, and is also manager of the  
historic Hale Byrnes House in Stanton.

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In service to Delaware Press Association, our COA edited our newsletter for several years, is a frequent entrant and winner in our communications contest, and has, for several years, been a judge of entries for the National Federation of Press Women's competition.

Perhaps some of those who have worked with our COA can say it best.

This is from Philip Franz, President of the Board of Trustees, Preservation Delaware, Inc.

"I first met Kim Burdick early in 2016 at a Lewes Historical Society awards luncheon where she was the keynote speaker. After that, our paths crossed when I began to assemble new Trustees for Preservation Delaware Inc. I was new on the preservation scene in Delaware, but as a practicing architect I have completed approximately 32 preservation projects in the states of New York and Connecticut. Kim wanted to know who this guy was, assembling Trustees for Preservation Delaware Inc. She referred to me as "a new puppy in the area" and let me know I needed to "get rid of the new puppy smell."

"Well, keeping with the canine theme: Kim is like a dog with a bone when it comes to historic preservation in the state of Delaware. She just will not let go of historic architectural preservation. She fills my emails with many of hers - day after day - sometimes 5 or 6 a day, all historic preservation related. And she is among the new contributing Trustees of Preservation Delaware Inc."

From Marilyn Whittington, Executive Director of the Delaware Humanities Forum:

"Kim Burdick is the kind of professional every community needs and the volunteer every non-profit executive director hopes to meet. She brims with ideas, energy and drive, and because she loves history, her activities almost always leave lasting impressions, literally lasting. She's brought French diplomats, celebrated historians, national archivists to Delaware. She plans parades, seminars, and hosts celebrated scholars, or makes friends with people who know people-who-know. She entertains as she educates us. She's that special breed of historians. She envisions far into the future even as she celebrates the past. In Delaware, there are road signs, tombstones and historic markers which have their place in our consciousness because Kim has made it her avocation to bring to life history's heroes—the Frenchman Rochambeau, the freedom provider Harriett Tubman, and she finds the living descendants of Thomas Garrett right here in our region. If you want something memorable to happen, let it begin with Kim Burdick."

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She is a true treasure in Delaware. Please join me in congratulating Delaware Press Association  
2017 Communicator of Achievement, Kim Burdick.