

A great year for training, and a revenue surplus as well...

Kathleen Graham
SABEW Executive Director

Welcome to the D.C. area. We hope you learn new skills, enhance your journalism, receive top-notch training, and make meaningful connections at the SABEWDC16 conference.



During my 18 months as executive director, I have met with SABEW members, news organizations, and journalists from around the country and asked how SABEW can best serve the changing needs of today's business journalists. The organization and I know you are being asked to do more with less in your newsrooms. Budgets are stretched, resources are tight, and your time is limited. We want to offer affordable training that helps you navigate the evolving digital landscape.

In this report, you'll find highlights since last year's conference and learn about what's coming up. SABEW's financials are also included. I am happy to say we were able to post a surplus of \$8,200 for 2015. We have now posted a surplus each of the past three years, allowing us to use those funds to undertake projects such as updating the website, changing the BIB to become platform agnostic, and updating the member database.

We depend on the generosity of our members to offer training and programming. Please remember SABEW when making your tax-deductible charitable donations. Your contribution is much appreciated! Here are specific highlights:

TeleTraining: Our monthly training calls continue to be extremely popular -- since last year's spring conference, we've held 11 calls

for 500 participants! Past and future calls can be accessed on the SABEW site. The focus has been to help members develop digital skills and navigate the changing media landscape. Thanks to Mary Jane Pardue and Kim Quillen for producing this fantastic, ongoing program.

Data-immersion workshop: Our third annual Goldschmidt fellowship week in Washington, D.C., made possible by a generous grant from the Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation, was a huge success. This was due in large part to the planning of former SABEW President Kevin Hall and Marty Steffens, SABEW professor of business journalism at the University of Missouri. Special thanks to Jim Goldschmidt for funding this important program. Here is what one fellow had to say: "The workshop gave me the opportunity to learn from behind-the-scenes experts, bond with colleagues from all around the country, and recharge my journalism batteries. You don't get this kind of in-depth training in a one-day seminar." The application process for the next workshop begins in November.

Health-care economic symposium: The fourth annual SABEW health-care symposium, sponsored by The Commonwealth Fund, focused on the Affordable Care Act. The symposium was held at the American Institute for Economic Research's Stone House in the Berkshires in November and was planned by Marty Steffens. Through the generosity of The Commonwealth Fund, we were able to invite 16 fellows. Here is what one participant had to say: "Fantastic conference with great speakers and in an amazing setting!" The next workshop will be this fall.

Fall conference: The October event in New York was a huge success, attracting some 200 people over the course of two days of programming. CUNY's McGraw Center for

UPCOMING

NYC Fall Workshop
 CUNY Graduate
 School of
 Journalism
 New York City
 Oct. 6-7, 2016

Business Journalism Executive Director Jane Sasseen produced the second annual symposium on the continuing transformation of business journalism in the digital era. SABEW's Kevin Hall did yeoman's work in planning the program. NEFE's Paul Golden produced a successful daylong personal-finance reporting workshop for 157 attendees. This year's workshop is Oct. 6-7 at CUNY.

Distinguished achievement award recipient Michael Bloomberg: In October, SABEW held a reception in New York where Michael Bloomberg was recognized for his outstanding contribution to business journalism. Attendees enjoyed networking and hearing remarks from the honoree.

College Connect: Check out SABEW's student blog (sabew.org/about/college-connect-2) about personal-finance topics ranging from family financial crises to how much outside employment a student should undertake during the academic year. The ongoing program is funded by NEFE and runs under the supervision of Marty Steffens at the University of Missouri, Andrew Leckey at Arizona State University, and Will Sutton at several historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

Meetups: SABEW's social committee, in its first full year of existence, organized weeknight happy hours abounding with networking opportunities in Seattle, Los Angeles, Chicago, D.C., and New York. Contact sabew@sabew.org if you want advice for organizing a meetup in your city.

Birger Award: Cezary Podkul, financial investigative reporter for ProPublica, won the 2015 Larry Birger Young Business Journalist Award, which honors journalists younger than 30. Thanks to rbb Communications for funding this award and Josh Merkin for his help shepherding the grant. Deadline for this year's applications is Aug. 1.

SABEW Canada: Much gratitude goes out to longtime SABEW member Ken Baldwin, whose generous gift helped launch SABEW Canada

in the fall of 2015. Since then, interest in the organization has continued to soar with training and networking events and the BIB Canada. We now have 153 Canadian members. Bryan Borzykowski has been instrumental in generating interest, producing programs, and leading the SABEW expansion.

Staffing: Crystal Beasley joined SABEW as the membership, marketing and event coordinator in August. Members have told me how helpful, accessible, and cheerful Crystal was during the BIB entry process.

Best in Business: The Best in Business contest remains popular, again attracting almost 1,000 entries. Congratulations to this year's winners and finalists, and thanks to BIB Chairs Joanna Ossinger and Brad Foss. SABEW is working to update the BIB by unveiling a platform-agnostic contest in the fall. We plan to continue to raise the BIB's prestige while ensuring the contest remains competitive for entities of all sizes and means. The contest opens on Dec. 1.

Website face-lift: This summer we will begin updating the content, look, and functionality of the website. The new site will provide an optimal user experience across all platforms.

Membership update: SABEW membership to date is 3,181. Here's how it breaks down: Individuals, 231; Institutional, 2,751; Associate, 15; Student, 113; and Academics, 71. SABEW Canada membership, as noted, is 153. This summer we will reach out to you so we can begin to update the member database. Please send your job changes, moves, and promotions to us so we can keep your information current.

2016 and 2017 spring conferences: We hope you are enjoying the 2016 spring conference. Many thanks to Conference Committee Chairs Mark Hamrick and Cory Schouten. You will have a chance to share your feedback in a post-conference survey. Those suggestions will guide our spring 2017 conference planning.