

Background on SNA's Dean S. Leshler Award

The Dean S. Leshler Award recognizes publishers, general managers or other executives and individuals who have enhanced the suburban newspaper industry in at least one of the following ways:

- Pioneered new concepts in suburban newspaper publishing.
- Exemplified the excellence of suburban newspapers by publishing outstanding newspapers.
- Provided civic leadership within the community or communities in which his or her newspapers are published.
- In some way has enhanced the suburban newspaper industry through leadership in areas related to suburban newspaper publishing.

The Leshler Award has recognized outstanding leaders in our industry since 1982, when the award was bestowed upon its namesake, Dean S. Leshler. The list of previous recipients reads like a Hall of Fame for SNA:

- 1982** Dean S. Leshler, Leshler Communications, Inc., California
1983 Bruce Sagan, Economist Newspaper, Illinois
1984 Ralph Markham, Antelope Valley Newspapers, California
1985 Paul Averill, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Michigan
1986 Frank Bick, St. Louis Suburban Newspapers, Missouri
James and Robert Donnelly, Donnelly Publications, Missouri
1987 Leo and Louis Lerner, Lerner Publishing Company, Illinois
1988 Oran Asa, Northeast Los Angeles Publishing Company, California
1989 Bill Dole, Dole Publishing Company, Massachusetts
1990 Bill Strasburg, Montgomery Publishing Company, Pennsylvania
1991 Ros Bosworth, East Bay Newspapers, Rhode Island
1992 Charlie Wrubel, Wrubel Communications, Inc., New Jersey
1993 Philip Power, Suburban Communications Corp., Michigan
1994 Peter Speck, North Shore News, Canada
1995 Nick Arundel, ARCOM Publishing, Virginia
Joe Ferstl, Lerner Publications, Illinois
1996 Harold G. (Hal) Townsend Jr., Townsend Communications, Missouri
1997 Gerald H. Gordon, Sun Newspapers, Ohio
Stan Rose, Sun Publications, Kansas
1998 David Simonson, Pioneer Press Newspapers, Illinois
1999 Gary Rust, Rust Communications, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
2000 Jack & Pat Winters, Downers Grove, IL
2001 Ron Lenyk, Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distribution, Toronto, ON
2002 Robert Shaw, Shaw Newspapers, Crystal Lake, IL
2003 Bill Shroeder, Lakeland Media. Grayslake, IL
2004 Tom Bradlee, Chesapeake Publishing Corporation, Elkton, MD
2005 Richard Aginian, HomeTown Communications Network, Livonia, MI
2006 Tom Noonan, The Community Press, Gannet Co., Inc. (retired)
2007 Dolph Simons, Jr., The Lawrence Journal-World, Lawrence, KS
2008 Murray Skinner, Metroland Media Group Ltd., Mississauga, ON
2009 Rick O'Connor, Black Press, Surrey, BC
2010 Harrison Cochran, Aurora Publishing Company
2011 William Brehm, Sr., Brehm Communications, Inc.