

Appendix IV
Interscholastic League Press Conference

- (a) **PURPOSE.** The purpose of the Interscholastic League Press Conference (ILPC) is to assist advisers and staffs in the publication of journalistically sound Texas high school and junior high/middle school yearbooks and newspapers. The program is sponsored by the University Interscholastic League.
- (b) **MEMBERSHIP.** Any high school or junior high school is eligible for membership in ILPC. A general membership mailing is sent to all UIL member schools and others in late August. Deadline for enrollment in ILPC is November 1. All inquiries and requests for enrollment must be made to the Director of Journalism, UIL, Box 8028, Austin, Texas 78713; e-mail to: jeacton@mail.utexas.edu.
- (c) **DIRECTION.** ILPC is supervised by the UIL Director of Journalism who consults with the Texas Association of Journalism Educators, The University of Texas at Austin Department of Journalism and the Texas Education Agency.
- (d) **FEES.** Enrollment in ILPC requires a membership fee per publication to defray the expense of providing special services. The fee must be paid at the time of enrollment and not later than November 1. Fees paid after November 1 will be assessed a \$10 late fee. Payment of ILPC membership dues is separate from the school's UIL membership fees.
- (e) **SPECIAL SERVICES.** ILPC offers its members several services aimed at improving scholastic journalism in Texas. Specially prepared books, pamphlets and other materials providing suggestions, instruction and information on a variety of journalistic topics are available to ILPC members. A list of available pamphlets is provided to ILPC members each fall.
- (f) **RATINGS.** ILPC sponsors yearbook and newspaper critique/rating competition for its members. All publications are critiqued/rated by qualified scholastic journalists. ILPC champions represent the finest in American scholastic journalism.
 - (1) *Yearbook Ratings.* Staffs must be ILPC members in order to submit books for rating. Staffs must submit the book and other necessary paperwork to the ILPC office by November 1. Judges are under no obligation to critique/rate books received after the November 1 deadline. ILPC appreciates complimentary yearbooks for its library.
 - (2) *Newspaper Ratings.* Staffs desiring newspaper critique/ratings must submit two sets of three issues to the ILPC office no later than February 1. The two sets of three issues should be mailed separately and clearly marked "Newspapers for Ratings." A publication information form, completed and signed by the adviser, should accompany the two sets of three issues. The form will be mailed to member schools as part of the December membership mailing.
 - (3) *Procedure.* Staffs must be ILPC members in order to submit newspapers for rating. Only newspapers produced during the current school year will be rated.
 - (4) *Rating Categories.* Certificates of rating are issued in four degrees:
 - (A) Award of Distinguished Merit to the outstanding publications in each class.
 - (B) Award of Achievement to outstanding publications which fall short of the first degree of excellence.
 - (C) Award of Honor to publications of high caliber which have shown continued excellence throughout the year.

- (D) Award of Merit to publications which have made contributions to the school for which they were published by maintaining a basic level of journalistic quality.

Ratings or rating certificates will not be given to members failing to submit their publications for rating.

- (5) *Star Awards*. Judges are asked to nominate the most outstanding publications for either a Gold Star, Silver Star or Bronze Star Award, which represent approximately the top 10 percent of publications in the state. These awards are presented during the ILPC state convention.
- (g) INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (IAA) CONTEST. A contest is sponsored each spring for individual work published in ILPC member publications. Yearbook IAA's should be part of the previous year's book. Newspaper entries must be published during the current school year.
- (h) DIVISIONS. Students compete in seven divisions, according to school enrollment and conference. Individual gold (first), silver (second), and bronze (third) medals are awarded in each enrollment division. Division winners then compete for a "Tops in Texas" medal. Yearbook IAA entries must be received by the ILPC office no later than December 1. Newspaper IAA entries must be received by the ILPC office no later than February 1. Yearbook and newspaper IAA entries must be mailed separately in packages clearly marked "NEWSPAPER IAA" or "YEARBOOK IAA." Detailed contest information will be provided to ILPC members at least six weeks prior to the contest deadline. Entries submitted become the property of ILPC. They will not be returned and may be used for UIL or ILPC publications.
- (i) STATE CONVENTION. The annual ILPC state convention will be held in Austin on the campus of The University of Texas. The convention program is arranged to include workshops, seminars and instructional sessions dealing with all aspects of scholastic journalism and general publications improvement. Convention participation is open to ILPC members, as well as to other school newspaper and yearbook staffs and non-ILPC members. All delegates are responsible for their own transportation to Austin, lodging, meals and other expenses. ILPC ratings, IAA contest winners and other special awards are announced during the convention.
- (j) ILPC MAILINGS. General membership applications will be mailed to all UIL members and August. All mailings thereafter will go to ILPC members only. Persons not receiving membership information by September 15 should contact the ILPC office immediately. For further ILPC information, read the "Journalism" page of the *Leaguer* or access the journalism portion of the University Interscholastic League's website (www.uil.utexas.edu/academics/journalism/).
- (k) SUMMER WORKSHOP. The ILPC summer newspaper and yearbook workshops are held each June on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin. The purpose of the four-day workshop is to teach journalistic basics by which the publications will be judged the following year. A general workshop informational mailing will be sent to all ILPC member schools no less than two months prior to the workshop. Deadline for registration is June 1. For complete workshop information, contact the ILPC Director.
- (l) ILPC DEADLINES
- (1) *November 1*. Deadline for ILPC enrollment.
 - (2) *November 1*. Yearbooks for rating must be received by ILPC unless an extension request is filed with the ILPC office.
 - (3) *December 1*. Last day for receipt of ILPC individual achievement award (IAA) entries for yearbooks.

- (4) *February 1.* Last day for receipt of newspapers for rating.
- (5) *February 1.* Last day for receipt of ILPC individual achievement award (IAA) entries for newspapers.
- (6) *March 1.* Last day for receipt of Edith Fox King and Max Haddick adviser award nominations.
- (7) *April.* ILPC State Convention.
- (8) *June 1.* Deadline for receipt of publications workshop enrollment without penalty.
- (9) *June.* ILPC Summer Publications Workshop.