

Reports of meetings

American Copy Editors' Society, 20th national conference

March 31 - April 2, Portland, Oregon, USA

Portland, Oregon, was the focus for 653 copy editors from all types of venues between March 31 and April 2, as the American Copy Editors Society held its 20th national conference.

The conference offered an opportunity for learning — with nearly 60 sessions that covered both core and specialised editing skills — and networking.

One focus of the conference was respectful language, with high attendance for sessions such as “Sexist Creeps: How to Catch and Fix Sexist Language,” “Covering Mental Illness with Care,” “What’s the Word? Inclusive Language for Gender, Race and Disabilities,” “Responsible Writing and Editing and Sexual Violence,” and “Poverty in the Press.”

In the hallways and at the ACES banquet, discussion about the use of the “singular they” continued — a rollover theme from the 19th national conference in 2015 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Attendees again voted for core skills sessions by making them some of the most-attended. Bill Walsh’s session “Rookie Mistakes Even Veterans Make,” drew more than 200 people, while Lisa McLendon’s “Sweat This, Not That: Real Rules vs. Grammar Myths” also drew a large crowd.



Heather Chambers participates in the ACES Education Fund spelling bee on March 31. The spelling bee raised about \$1,800 for the Education Fund, which provides scholarships for copy editors students. (Mark Allen photo)

Conference attendees also got to hear from the editors of *The Associated Press Stylebook* and from Carol Saller, editor of *The Chicago Manual of Style*'s online Q&A and author of “The Subversive Copy Editor.”

Editing tools sessions, which included using Word more effectively and new tools such as PerfectIt and Lingofy, were also popular.

But the conference also offered several special sessions with less wide ranging appeal to serve all of its members, who edit as freelancers, and who work for news organisations,

corporations, social agencies, the government, book publishing houses, or as academics.

ACES presented several awards during the conference. The Robinson Prize, which honors one copy editor whose work demonstrates exceptional effectiveness this year went to freelance editor Sarah Grey. The Glamann Award, which recognises people and organisations that have contributed to the society and the craft of copy editing, went to Vicki Krueger of Poynter Institute's News University. The society also recognised winners in its annual headline contest.

ACES will hold its 21st national conference on March 23-25, 2017, in St. Petersburg, Florida.



Robinson Prize winner Sarah Grey, left, is congratulated by Pam Robinson, co-founder of ACES and the society's first president, and Robinson Prize head judge Jamaal D. Pittman. The prize honors an exceptional copy editor who helps further the craft in an era of increased competition. Grey edits for a diverse range of clients, including academics, periodicals, translation agencies and nonprofit organisations. (Mark Allen photo)



Plenty of opportunities for networking