



RICHARD STONE

WORDS HAVE MEANING | PLEASE USE THEM CORRECTLY

PROFILE

I am a semi-retired newspaper editor & publisher open to remote, short-to-mid term opportunities that involve editing, writing, documentary-style photography or any of the areas of expertise mentioned to the right.

I spent 30 years explaining complex issues to the general public while teaching young writers and reporters how to produce clear, concise prose.

Words matter and they should be used correctly. I cringe when I see a sign designating the grocery store express lane checkout as only for “10 items or less,” or see perfectly good verbs employed as adverbs.

Clips, references and portfolio are available upon request. Recent examples of commentary and photography may be found at wilcoblues.com and rtsconnect.org/photography

Richard Stone

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Editing
Proof Reading
News & Feature Writing
Commentary
Writing Coach
Photography
Videography
Podcasting
Project Management
Staff Development
AP Style
Public Relations
Press Relations

PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE

- Adobe Creative Suite
- Microsoft Word
- Excel
- Wordpress
- Slack, Teams, Zoom, etc.
- Experience with a variety of website content management systems and tools.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- I led two different newsrooms to three Sweepstakes awards from the Texas Press Association, and other newsrooms to five Regional Sweepstakes awards.
- Teams I led regularly won individual state and regional press awards for general excellence, news design, special sections, photography, news and feature writing and advertising design.
- During my career, my personal work regularly won regional, state and national awards for news writing, feature writing, commentary, photography and news design including from the South Texas Press Association, the Texas Press Association, the Texas Associated Press Managing Editor’s Association and the National Newspaper Association.

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY

Current: Former chair and current board member of the Taylor Public Arts Advisory Board; Vice-chair of the Advocacy Committee for the Greater Taylor Chamber of Commerce.

Past: Chair of the Milam County Democratic Party, Board member and President of Milam Community Theater; board member of the Texas Press Association.

ON WRITING ...

“Substitute ‘damn’ every time you’re inclined to write ‘very;’ your editor will delete it and the writing will be just as it should be.”

— Mark Twain

“I believe the road to hell is paved with adverbs, and I will shout it from the rooftops.”

— Stephen King

“You write to communicate to the hearts and minds of others what’s burning inside you, and we edit to let the fire show through the smoke.”

— Arthur Plotnik

“When you catch an adjective, kill it.”

— Mark Twain

“If you can’t explain it simply, you don’t understand it well enough.”

— Albert Einstein

“Four basic premises of writing: clarity, brevity, simplicity, and humanity.”

— William Zinsser

“The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do.”

— Thomas Jefferson

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WORK HISTORY

Pruess Newspapers — 2021-2023 (contract): I was tasked to help run a group of five newspapers during a period of uncertainty as the ownership faced a health crisis. Provided management, staff development and editorial support.

Hill Country News — 2019-2022 (contract): Original scope was to lead the newsroom and provide editorial oversight and support.

Lower Brushy Creek Water and Control & Improvement District 2019-present (contract): Guide a small, public sector organization to develop and maintain clear lines of communication to stake holders.

Taylor Press — 2014-2019: Editor and Publisher of twice-weekly newspaper.

Cappolino, Dodd and Krebs — 2007-2014 (contract): Developed and executed marketing and communications strategies for a small law firm.

Granite Publications and Moser Community Media — 2007-2014 (contract): Provided management, staff development and editorial support for two different newspaper groups as needed.

Hays Free Press — 2007-2009 (contract): Provided top down redesign of management systems for a weekly suburban newspaper.

Cameron Herald — 2001-2006: Editor and Publisher of three weekly rural newspapers.

Taylor Daily Press — 1999-2001: Associate Publisher of a daily newspaper. Position focused on newsroom leadership and editorial quality.

Marble Falls Highlander — 1997-1999: Editor of a twice-weekly newspaper.

Belton Journal — 1993-1997: Managing editor of a weekly suburban newspaper.