



The Report

White House News Photographers Association • September 2015

Scott Applewhite, The Associated Press, makes a special presentation during the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 'Eyes of History'[®] 2015 Gala.

See page six.



Photo: Kevin Wolfe.

Alex Wong, Getty Images, at "The Beach"

See member news page three.



Photo: Kevin Dietsch.



Searching for Dream Street. A WHNPA member Project.

A boy walks along the foggy streets of the McDonald Heights neighborhood of Aliquippa, Pa.

See page fourteen.

Photo: Pete Marovich.

A Message from WHNPA President, Whitney Shefte

I hope you all have had a wonderful summer, and are ready for an autumn filled with new WHNPA programming. We are in the process of forming committees and making plans, so please be on the lookout for upcoming events. We also need your ideas and your help. We need folks to join our exhibitions and gala committees. We also need event spaces. These can range from studios to offices to individuals' homes. We will have events of different sizes, including speaker events, workshops, and happy hours, so we need a variety of spaces. If you are interested in helping by joining a committee, or if you have ideas or suggestions, please email me at whitney.shefte@whnpa.org. This is your organization, so we need you to make it thrive!



Photo: Marlon Herrera

Member News



Kate and Patrick Smith (and Pickles) welcomed Peyton Panos Smith on April 8, 2015. Patrick was 2013 photographer of the Year, freelance.

Molly Riley, WHNPA dinner co-chair, and her father, Howard Riley in front of a Spirit light aircraft. Molly's father, who turned 80 this year and his wife Sharon have spent two and a half years building the aircraft. Molly traveled to Alpena, Michigan to document the first flight.



Another Gibson in the Oval Office. Zach Gibson, the son of Gregg Gibson, former AP photographer, gets the feel of an Oval Office spray. Doug Mills says, "He's a great kid with a super eye....he's been one of our best interns."



Member News



Cuban translator/fixer Claudia M. shows off the sandals that USA Today Staff Photographer Jack Gruber repaired with his Leatherman tool and some gaffers tape while on assignment. Photo: Chip Somodevilla, Getty Images.

Pablo Martinez Monsivais, AP, and Chip Somodevilla, Getty Images, stand underneath the Stars and Stripes after the flag-raising ceremony at the newly re-opened U.S. Embassy August 14, 2015 in Havana, Cuba.



Doug Mills, The New York Times, and Kevin Lamarque, Reuters, wonder if they will get out of the cell block of the El Reno Federal prison. They were at the prison as members of the Air Force One pool to cover the visit of President Obama. President Obama is the first sitting president to visit a federal prison. Photo: Saul Loeb.



Pool photographer Pablo Martinez Monsivais, AP, in position to cover the raising of the United States flag at the United States embassy in Havana, Cuba, August 13, 2015. Photo: Senator Patrick Leahy.



Alex Wong takes a dip in an innovative summer exhibit at the National Building Museum titled "The Beach".

UPI Staff Photographer Kevin Dietsch works during Star Wars Day at the Nationals Park July 20, 2015 in Washington, DC. Photo: Chip Somodevilla.



Member News



Doug Mills shifts positions in the Oval Office while photographing Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and U.S. President Barack Obama at the White House.



'Eyes of History' 2015 awards book editors Laura Sikes, freelance, and Kevin Sheppard, Sky News, pose with WHNPA executive director Heidi Elswick at Old Ebbitt Grill. The lunch was a bittersweet goodbye as Kevin has been transferred to Beijing for Sky News after spending far too short a time in Washington.



Reuters Staff Photographer Kevin Larmarque and AP Staff Photographer Evan Vucci take shelter behind EPA Staff Photographer Shawn Thew as the Marine One helicopter lands on the South Lawn of the White House to be in position for President Obama to board. Photo: Chip Somodevilla.



Kevin Lamarque of Reuters waits while equipment and bus are being swept at The Thunderbird Resort where POTUS was staying in Rancho Mirage, California on June 21, 2015. AFP Photo: Mandel Ngan.

Roll Call Staff Photographer Tom Williams and Reuters Staff Photographer Gary Cameron wait to photograph FBI Director Comey testifying before the Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing.



Dan Tutman and Benson Ginsberg, CBS, have found a use for "the stairs to nowhere" in front of the press briefing room door. Great for taking a little sun on a nice summer day.



Louie Palu's *Kandahar Journals* Premieres at the National Gallery of Art, East Wing, November 7th, at 3PM



"Sobering look at an uncovered front in a war..."



Louie Palu working in the Arghandab District, West of Kandahar City in 2010 @Louie Palu

Kandahar Journals is a feature documentary film, which follows the story of photojournalist Louie Palu who reflects on the events behind his psychological transformation after covering frontline combat in Kandahar, Afghanistan from 2006 to 2010. After five years covering the frontlines in Afghanistan and four years of filmmaking, the 76 minute feature documentary will be having its Washington DC premiere at the National Gallery of Art, on November 7, 2015 at 3 pm at the East Building Auditorium, 4th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20565 as part of FotoWeekDC. It is expected to be a capacity crowd so please arrive early. More in-depth information on the film can be found here on the films' website www.kandaharjournals.com

The 'Eyes of History'® Gala 2015: An Evening to Remember



Gala photos: Kevin Wolf.



Washington evenings are full of formal dinners. The dinners usually have a headliner and it may be the President of the United States. The 'Eyes of History'® Gala is different. It would be wonderful if the President came to our dinner, but we come together each year to honor the men and women of the White House News Photographers Association who have done the very best work the past year. During the early WHNPA dinners, the winning photographers actually brought 16x20 prints so that other members and guests could view their winning photographs. Today the still, video, and multimedia winners work are presented on giant screens. The awards

presentation is extremely efficient, and only the very top winners have an opportunity to give an acceptance speech. This year members were impressed with Win McNamee's thanks for his Photographer of the Year Award.

The tribute to Michel duCille was an important part of this May evening. In a ballroom that is generally noisy with people who just have to talk, there was complete quiet as everyone viewed Michel's Ebola story on the giant screens and listened to Nikki Kahn's words about our friend Michel.

Many came to the dinner to see Larry Downing receive the Lifetime Achievement

Award.

Rick Booth of Tiffen/Domke yielded a little of his time to Scotty Applewhite for a special presentation to Larry: a video address by President George Herbert Walker Bush. Seeing Bush 41 and his two favorite photo dogs brought a warm feeling to everyone in the room.

The extended cocktail hour, held in the reception area before the doors to the Ritz Carlton ballroom, was packed with members and friends. The Oval Office backdrop was a favorite place for group selfies. Experienced gala attendees headed for the area that held the White House traveling exhibit. The exhib-

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The WHNPA traveling exhibit was available for a close view of the winning entries.



Chad McNelley, Nikon, and WHNPA Secretary A.J. Chavar, New York Times.



Ceren Ozar, Pierre Kattar, Multimedia contest chairman, and McKenna Ewen, The Washington Post, first place winner Multimedia contest, Sports category.

it, expertly printed by National Geographic Imaging, was a good way to study the prize-winning contest entries. A bonus: a bar that no one had found. No waiting.

The hard work of friends and members made the dinner a memorable evening. Ed Henry of Fox News did a magnificent job as the master of ceremonies, Molly Riley and Jon Elswick, dinner co-chairs, for a second year, tended to a myriad of details,

Winning is sweet! Take a look at the prizes given by Nikon to Photographer of the Year: D4S FX DSLR Camera Body, AF-S NIKKOR 24-70MM F/2.8G ED, SB-910 AF Speedlight.

The Video Photographer of the Year: D810 Digital SLR Camera Body, AF-S Nikkor, 24-120 MM F/4G ED VR, MB-D12 Multi



Ron Edmonds, former AP staff photographer and David Hume Kennerly freelance with President Ford.

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Chocolate Cigars and WHNPA luggage tags at the VIP reception.



Win McNamee, Getty Images, 2015 Photographer of the Year and Brendan Smialowski, AFP, winner 2015, Political Photograph of the year.



Patty Nast Canton, and Rick Booth of Tiffen/Domke with Pablo Martinez Monsivalis, AP. WHNPA Executive Board stills representative.



Carol Guzy, Indira Willaims Babic, The Newseum, and Susan Biddle, freelance.

Battery Power Pack, EN-EL15 Rechargeable Li-ion Battery, ME-1 Stereo Microphone. Video Editor of the Year: NIKON 1 V3 Digital Camera Kit. Student Video Photographer of the year: D750 FX-Format Digital SLR Camera Body, AF-S Nikkor 24-120 MM F/4G ED VR, SB-500 AF Speedlight, ME-1 Stereo Microphone. Student photographer of the year: D750 FX-Format Digital SLR Camera

Body, AF-S Nikkor 24-120MM F/4G ED VR, SB-700 AF Speedlight.

Nikon also gave two D750 FX-Format Digital SLR Camera Bodies for the WHNPA scholarship award program.

Not to be outdone, Tiffen/Domke gave a generous selection of bags and equipment to the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Guests also had the chance of winning

two first class tickets on United Airlines.

After the dinner and dancing for some, night caps for others, people head for home. No one leaves the Gala empty-handed. The treasures this year: Tiffen/Domke's backpack, a camp stool supplied by Nikon. Of course, the WHNPA dinner book which will be a reminder of a memorable 'Eyes of History'® Gala.

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Ed Henry, Fox News, the magnificent Master of Ceremonies.



Angelica Downing watches her husband Larry receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Howard Hull, National Geographic Imaging, presents the award for the best Political Picture to Brendan Smialowski, AFP.



Mark Suban of Nikon presents a Nikon D4s outfit to Win McNamee, Getty Images, the Photographer of the Year.



With dinner co-chair Molly Riley's help, Amelie Wilson-Bivera draws one of the winners for a round trip for two on United Airlines.

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Bethany Swain, journalism faculty at University of Maryland. Chair, Student Contest video, Oro DeKornfeld, Student Videographer of the Year, Al Drago, Student Photographer of the Year, former WHNPA President Ron Sachs, and Kevin Dietsch.UPI,Chairman of Student Contest, Stills.



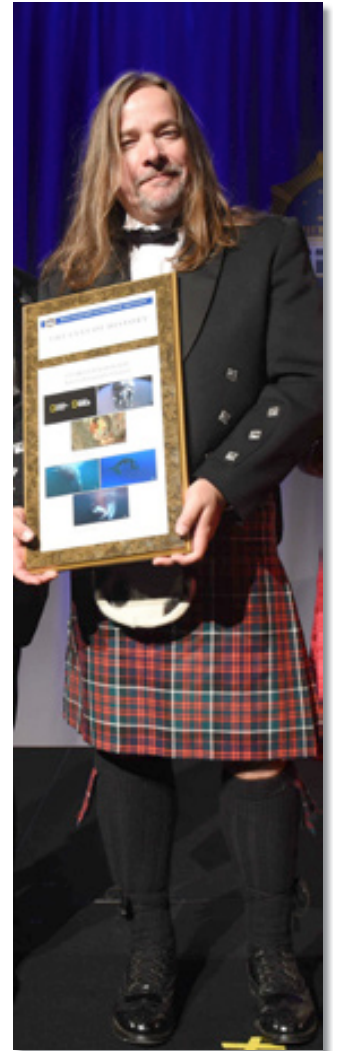
Master of Ceremonies Ed Henry with Sr. Airman Damon Kasberg, 2014 Military Graphic Artist of the Year, (United States Air Force). Sgt. Allison N. Beiswanger, 2014 Military Videographer of the Year, (United States Marine Corps) SSgt. Vernon Young, 2014 Military Photographer of the Year, (United States Air Force) and Ray Shepherd, Director of DINFOS.



Ron Sachs, A.J. Chavar, The New York Times, winner of the Video Contest Political/Campaign award and Pege Gilgannon, Video Contest Chair.



Ben Martin, ITN, winner of Photographer of the Year, Video Contest.



Charles MacDonald, National Geographic Channel, winner of the Promotional category of the Video Contest.



Doug Mills, The New York Times, winner of the Presidential category of the Still Contest.

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WHNPA president, Whitney Shefte.



Ron Sachs, Andrew Smith, CCTV-America, winner of the Day Feature category of the Video Contest, and Pege Gilgannon, Video Contest Chairman.



Chris Shlemon, ITN Video Editor of the Year, and Ben Martin ITN, Photographer of the Year, Video Contest, admire the gift of a NikonD810 Digital SLR camera body with an AF-S Nikkor 23-120mm F/4 lens, which was part of the prize from Nikon for the Video Photographer of the Year.



Whitney Shefte, The Washington Post, winner of the News Special Reports category of the Video Contest, with Pege Gilgannon.



Alex Wong, Getty Images, winner of the Feature category of the still contest, with Nikki Kahn, Still Contest Chairman.



Tom Williams enjoys a crowded dance floor with a mixture of enthusiastic dance partners.

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Rick Booth of Tiffen/Domke presents the Lifetime Achievement Award to Larry Downing.



Rick Booth then gave the floor for to Scotty Applewhite who introduced a special video tribute to Larry Downing by President Herbert Walker Bush. It was a warm talk from a President who took a special interest to his "Photodogs." Larry and Scotty were his favorites.

Scotty also presented Larry with a photograph that was made at the Bush family home in Kennebunkport twenty-five years ago. Under the photograph was a recent signature by Herbert Walker Bush.: A sincere effort for his friend, Larry.



A Reuters trio. Kevin Lamarque, Larry Downing, and Jason Reed. Jason had recently been transferred to Australia, but came back for the dinner and the tribute to Larry. Jason edited the video tribute from Australia.



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Ed Eaves, Sheila Smith and Carl Sears (the script writers for the 'Eyes of History' Gala), Heidi and Jon Elswick.



Pat Benic shows a particular talent in producing a dramatic photo.



At the end of the evening guests collected a goodie bag full of useful and fun gifts from WHNPA sponsors.

Thanks for making a memorable evening



Searching for Dream Street

By *Pete Marovich*

In 1955, when renowned photojournalist W. Eugene Smith was creating images of Pittsburgh that would eventually become a book called *Dream Street*, Pittsburgh was the quintessential Rust Belt city. According to the 1950 census, Pittsburgh was home to more than 676,000 residents and was the 12th largest city in the country. Steel was the city's main industry, and aluminum, glass, petroleum and shipbuilding were also part of its economy.

Today, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the population of Pittsburgh is about 305,840, less than half of what it was during the city's economic heyday. But the Steel City is said to be experiencing a rebirth, with a rapidly growing economy largely based on healthcare, education, technology and banking. This may be true for Pittsburgh proper, but the scene looks a lot more bleak for the towns along the three iconic rivers that converge at the city.

Ironically the steel industry that brought Pittsburgh international fame existed almost entirely outside the city on the banks of the famous Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers. These steelmaking complexes were located in towns such as Homestead, Rankin, Braddock, McKeesport, Clairton and Aliquippa.

Driven by an influx of foreign-born workers at the turn of the 20th century, these towns are the suburbs that helped make Pittsburgh an industrial powerhouse.

But as you drive through these towns today, it's clear they have been largely forgotten. Once bustling shopping corridors are all but empty. The company homes where workers raised their families are showing their age, and residents still reminisce about the "good old days" before the mills shuttered.

In recent years, the media has reported about the rebirth of Pittsburgh, but very little attention has been focused on the city's suburbs and the plight of the people living there — except, perhaps, during election season.

For me it is even more personal, since my mother and father were born and raised in Aliquippa, home to what was at the time the largest steel mill in the world, the Jones and Laughlin Aliquippa Works.

My paternal grandfather worked in the J&L mill for 38 years and my dad worked in



Homes can be seen in the background of an empty lot between two buildings on the main business street in Ambridge, Pa.



The open hearth stacks are all that remain of the US Steel's Homestead Works that was located in Homestead, near Pittsburgh, Pa. Homestead Steel Works was a large steel works located on the Monongahela River at Homestead.

Searching for Dream Street *continued*

The Carrie Furnaces were built in 1881 as part of U.S. Steel's Homestead Works, a sprawling 400-acre complex that spanned both sides of the Monongahela river. They produced up to 1,250 tons of steel a day until 1978 when they were closed.



A photograph of former Chicago Bears coach and Aliquippa High School alumni Mike Ditka hangs in the background in Mahoney's Bar as George "Blackie" Miller pauses for a moment while talking about the good old days in West Aliquippa. Miller, who changed his last name from Dokmanovich years ago, was born in West Aliquippa and lived there all of his life. He has seen the town go from boom to bust along with the steel industry. "This town is done," says Miller.



A once bustling community, empty storefronts now line Main Ave. in West Aliquippa, PA. In its heyday, West Aliquippa boasted grocery stores, gas stations, hotels, hardware stores, shoe repair shops and banks. Today all that remains is a bank that is open on only certain days of the week for a few hours.

the mill for a short time after returning from WWII before returning to the Marine Corps.

I have seen firsthand how Aliquippa has declined. My family tells stories about how wonderful and bustling the town was before the closing of the mill. It is because of these stories and memories that I feel drawn to tell the story of these towns and their people. The immigrants who came to Aliquippa came with dreams of a better life.

For a time it seemed as though those dreams would be found in the streets of their new home. Many of the people living there today are doubting that those dreams still exist.



Emio Tomeoni's WHNPA Member Project

Emio Tomeoni is a 33 year old film maker who has an interesting project. He was a photography major at St John's University, New York, and has worked at NBC. He has experience in video and film production. Recently Emio moved to Virginia because his wife has a job at ABC here. The staccato sounds of the motor drives and how they were linked with President Obama's hand movements and actions started him thinking about news photographers. A few questions and a little research brought him to the White House New Photographers Association.

Emio met with WHNPA members and leadership and came up with a plan to fund his project as a Kickstarter project.

Take a look at the Kickstarter proposal:

THE FILM: THE PRESIDENT CAPTURED

The film is about the elite group of photographers that have earned the right to capture images of the U.S. President, up close and personal. But these are not official White House photographers, these are the ones from the free press, the AP, Time, Reuters etc., the ones that may have to sweat and fight for the room, the access and the light to capture history as it happens. The film will cover the history and progress of this group, but we will really dig into the current in-the-moment grind. What I plan on doing with this film is really diving into the process and the mechan-

ics of the moment, when it's all happening. In this profession a single frame can elevate a career and illuminate a moment. So I want to pull that instant wide open and look around to see what is really at play. We'll explore how one photo can make an entire career and attach a photographer's name to an iconic moment forever, and how a missed frame can haunt someone until the day they die.

This is not a history lesson - I want to give some background on the profession and historical context but really I want to bring people into that White House press room, or in the scrum below the air force one steps, inside the battle to muscle your way to a vantage point in the blue room, in ear shot of the negotiations with the secret service, just to try something new. I want you to feel the choices and pressure that comes with this profession and I want people to understand the fleeting privilege these people have to stand

near and capture monumental iconic history.. only if they can spot it, frame it and snap it out of thin air. I want them to tell us all about the highs, lows, joys and absolute frustrations of photographing the most powerful people in the free world while wrestling and navigating the barriers and wranglers. I want to show this



- so I have to make the film.

Emio Tomeoni's project could be a good way to tell White House News Photographers Association stories. He is selecting members to interview. For more information about the project: www.emiocreatedmedia.com

A Word About This Digital Edition.

Members will see this newsletter in its digital form. It would be wonderful if WHNPA could send it to members as a printed newsletter, but the tight budget just doesn't allow it. I do have several printed versions of this newsletter made. When there are enough newsletters to make a bound book, I take them to a book-binder. These bound newsletters will go into our files, to the library of the National Press Club. Hopefully, historians and photographers will be able to learn about our members of 2015.

If you know of a company that wants to buy an ad in the newsletter, please let me know. With revenue, we could have printed editions. Dennis Brack, Newsletter Editor.



A red-tailed hawk has taken a liking to the area around Pebble Beach, (now Stone Hedge), and is acquiring a substantial following in social media. The Lincoln School, a K-8 school in Hampton Falls, NH, named the Hawk "Lincoln." Lincoln, or someone, created a twitter account and now has 2,112 followers. Follow Lincoln at @LincolnTheHawk.

Denmark: A Photographer's Odyssey

Marshall H. Cohen, a WHNPA long time member has joined a growing list of association members in authoring a new book, "Denmark: A Photographer's Odyssey." The hardcover book was printed in Denmark by the noted Narayana Press, and is available both from the author and Politics and Prose Book Store.

The book is more than just a travelogue with photographs, but contains a chronological jog through Danish history from the Viking period to the present, told through captions and sidebar texts associated with the 150 photographs. According to Marshall, the photographs were chosen from thousands taken on 15-20 trips to Denmark, both on official assignment when he was a Nordic Economic Officer for the International Division of USDA, and during the last 25 years in professional photography.

"Book publishing," Cohen says, "is a daunting task. Scanning archival chromes and negatives must be done at relatively high resolutions to get proper color balance, and a professional designer and proofreader is essential—both of course, adding to the fixed costs before one even finds a publisher or printer.

It also has to be a labor of love, and added



to a photographer's so called "bucket list," at any age. Linking history and photographs also pulled together a major motivation in preparing this book. The book is available either

from www.politics-prose.com/denmark or directly from Marshall at a discounted price.

For more information contact Marshall at bigmarsh@verizon.net



The White House pool in the prime position on the photo truck to cover President Obama joining the march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge to mark the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March. Photo: Erik S. Lesser.

Mathew Brady's Birthday Party

By Dennis Brack

One of the most important halls of the United States Capitol is on the second floor directly outside of the Senate Chambers. Senators rush down the hall to get to the chambers to speak or vote. Reporters and photographers use the hall for the senate stakeout position. Visitors usually stop by the Ohio Clock, an icon of Washington history. If these visitors would turn around or look to their left, they would see portraits of Senators Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, and John C. Calhoun. This was the work of Mathew Brady. Brady created the portrait using the daguerreotype process and then hired artists to create oil paintings. The portraits of Senators Clay and Calhoun were painted by Henry Darby in New York.

Like almost everyone I had walked past

these portraits for decades. I have stopped at and admired the portrait of Senator John C. Calhoun. I thought it was an excellent work, but never realized that it was the work of Mathew Brady. I invited Wayne Ritchie, an Mathew Brady historian and impersonator to celebrate the 193rd birthday of Brady. Mr. Ritchie requested a visit to the Capitol to see Brady's portraits. Since these portraits are in a section of the U.S. Capitol which is generally not available to tourists, I asked Jeff Kent, the director of the Senate Press Photographers Gallery, for his assistance. Wayne Ritchie, his wife, and their two grandchildren arrived dressed as Mathew Brady would have looked if he were viewing his work. Everything worked perfectly and we all learned about a little known piece of American history.

After the Capitol we went to the Congressional Cemetery and to Mathew

Brady's grave. The Congressional Cemetery is a great story. For decades it had been in ruin. Besides the final resting place for members of congress and Washingtonians, it was used as an open air drug market and one of the most dangerous places in the city. With creative and innovative management the cemetery was restored to become an "in" place on Capitol Hill. Great history, and a great story.

The gathering was for a champagne toast to Mathew Brady by the members of the White House News Photographers Association. The guests were a who's who of famous journalists: Susan Biddle, Darr Beiser, John McDonnell, Bill O'Leary, Joshua Roberts, Aude Guerrucci, Marty Katz. While waiting for a brief rain to pass we got a call from Jonathan Ernst, one of the Air Force One pool, asking if we were still there—sure. The President had just landed at Joint Base



Mathew Brady *continued*



Andrews and the Air Force One crew, Martinez Monsivals AP, Jonathan Ernst, and Nicholas Kamm were on their way.

Other friends and my son, Dennis, joined for a group photograph. Some stunning paper negative images by Chris Usher which Mathew Brady would recognize and then a quick view with a digital camera by Martinez Monsivals which I am certain would baffle old Brady. It was a fun afternoon and a fine tribute to Mathew Brady who was truly the first news photographer in Washington.



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Dates to save for WHNPA events.

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