

By Russ Pankonin, The Imperial Republican

Last week, Lori and I, along with her sister Brenda Brandt and husband Bob, attended the National Newspaper Association's annual convention.

The convention moves around the country and this year it was in Phoenix. Lori and I have been fortunate to see many other parts of the country traveling to NNA conventions.

There's nothing better than rubbing shoulders with our colleagues from other parts of the country. We renew old acquaintances, share ideas and exchange plenty of good stories. But most importantly, we all celebrate the role we play in making our community a better place to live.

We believe in newspapers. But of course, you'd expect us to. We know and understand the responsibility we have to be fair, accurate and truthful.

Your hometown newspaper stands at the frontline of transcribing the history of our community.

Newspapers also provide a low-cost, effective tool for local businesses to inform the buying public and generate sales. Our success depends on the success of the local community.

The Omaha Oracle, Warren Buffet, realizes the value of a good newspaper to a community. "In towns and cities where there is a strong sense of community, there is no more important institution than the local newspaper."

Our new NNA president Robert Williams reinforced the value of community newspapers:

"Who cares more about the success and prosperity and happiness of people in your community than you? NOBODY!

We believe people will always want to read about local sports.

We believe people will always want to know about their taxes and what their governments are doing.

We believe people will always want to see the triumphs and tributes relating to their childrens' names and faces publicized.

We believe we will always have a need for accountability from government!

We believe in the critical need for accuracy and fairness as demonstrated by professional journalists.

We believe in newspapers!"

We value the role the Imperial Republican plays throughout the community and county. We believe in Imperial and Chase County.

We believe in newspapers!