

History of KPC Media Group Inc., founded in August 1911

KPC Media Group Inc., based in Kendallville, Indiana, was founded in August 1911 as the Kendallville Publishing Co.

At the time of its founding, the two daily newspaper publishers in Kendallville, O. E. Michaelis and George W. Baxter, merged their publications into the Kendallville News-Sun on Aug. 7, 1911.

The company was sold to C. O. Merica in 1913. He died in 1918 and his wife, Alice Merica, became the principal owner of the company for the next half century. At the time of her death on Jan. 25, 1969, at the age of 103, she was the oldest newspaper publisher in the United States.

George O. Witwer, who came to Kendallville as editor and general manager of The News Sun in 1962, became the principal owner and publisher in 1969. Witwer family members continue as the owners and operators of the company.

Terry G. Housholder, who first went to work for the company while in high school in 1969, has been president and publisher since 2001. The company's name changed to KPC Media Group Inc. in 2005, to reflect its expanded geographic market and additional products and services.

The company's main office is at 102 N. Main St., Kendallville, in the same building where the publishing firm was founded a century ago. The company's other offices are in Auburn, Angola and Fort Wayne.

KPC Media Group Inc. produces a variety of publications and hosts websites. Its three daily newspapers in northeast Indiana are: The News Sun, serving Noble and LaGrange counties; The Star, serving DeKalb County; and The Herald Republican, serving Steuben County. The company also publishes weekly community newspapers, the Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly, and phone books. In addition, the company has a commercial printing and direct-mail division.