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CONTACT:

Chris Kazlauskas

Email: chrisk@pa-news.org

Phone: 717-703-3025

**Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation announces winners of the
A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism in Pennsylvania**

Spotlight PA sweeps the inaugural contest

HARRISBURG, Pa. (July 10, 2025) – Today the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation, in partnership with the A-Mark Foundation, announces the winners of the first A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism in Pennsylvania. Spotlight PA, an independent, nonpartisan and nonprofit newsroom based in Harrisburg, swept the awards, earning first-, second- and third-place prizes.

The award recognizes and rewards outstanding investigative journalism in the commonwealth.

The cash prizes total up to \$15,000. First place honors include \$5,000 for the journalist(s) and \$2,500 for the news organization; second place, \$3,000 for the journalist(s) and \$1,500 for the news organization; and third place, \$2,000 for the journalists(s) and \$1,000 for the news organization.

The inaugural A-Mark award recipients are:

- First Place: Spotlight PA/WESA (Pittsburgh's NPR news station) – Investigative series tracking where opioid settlement money went in Pennsylvania, by Ed Mahon.
- Second Place: Spotlight PA – "Unprotected," a series on elder abuse, by Angela Couloumbis
- Third Place: Spotlight PA – "Top Penn State Health surgeon warned leaders about transplant problems months before shutdown. Then he was let go," by Charlotte Keith and Wyatt Massey.

"There is no greater honor than providing the time, resources, and resolve necessary for our incredible journalists to do their job in service to the people of Pennsylvania, who are the true beneficiaries of our investigative reporting," Spotlight PA CEO and President Christopher Baxter said. "Freedom isn't free. It requires vigilance, accountability, and independent journalism. Our readers and supporters make all of that possible."

All entries were published between Jan. 1, 2024, and Dec. 31, 2024. The contest was open to all news media organizations based in Pennsylvania and their staff members, including newspapers, broadcast outlets and online news publications. Entries were judged by a committee of retired Pennsylvania newspaper journalists.

The winners will be honored at the Keystone Media Awards luncheon scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel in Harrisburg.

About PNA:

Founded in 1925, PNA is the nonprofit trade association for print and online news media in Pennsylvania. Its mission is to advance the business interests of Pennsylvania news media organizations and to promote the importance of a free and independent press.

About PNA Foundation:

The PNA Foundation is an independent, nonprofit corporation organized as a public foundation. Its mission is to support the sustainability of local news through philanthropy and fundraising, training and recognition of professional and student journalists.

About A-Mark Foundation:

A-Mark Foundation is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit incorporated in 1997. Initially, A-Mark made grants to various organizations, including ProCon.org, a website used by an estimated 20 million people annually. ProCon.org was acquired by Britannica.com in August 2020.

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