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Former PNA President Teri Henning to receive PNA Benjamin Franklin Award for Excellence

HARRISBURG, Pa. (August 8, 2019) — The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association (PNA) is proud to present the 2019 Benjamin Franklin Award for Excellence to Teri Henning, Executive Director at Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services, and former PNA President. The Benjamin Franklin Award was established in 1998 to recognize outstanding service that reflects positively on the news media industry in Pennsylvania.

Bill Lynett, John Kirkpatrick, Tom Northrop, Sara Glines and Mike Donnelly wrote in their nomination letter, “We can think of no one better to receive this year’s award,” citing her abilities as “a first-class leader, master of strategy and tactics, keeper of the organization’s best traditions and values, and a clear communicator who was also fun to work with.”

Henning was instrumental in keeping public notices in newspapers. “When it looked all but certain that the state legislative would remove Public Notices from newspaper – a critical source of revenue for members and a critical source of information for the public – she skillfully put together a defense. It included a strategic group of speakers at what was seen as a preordained public hearing. Instead, the attempt was derailed and lobbying efforts going forward kept public notices in newspapers.”

She also pushed for the former Pennsylvania Newspaper Association to become the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association to more accurately reflect the industry it serves with many other newspaper organizations throughout the country following PNA’s lead.

Teri continually instituted trade organization “best practices” to make sure PNA and its board operated at the highest operational and ethical standards. She worked to improve the staff, didn’t ask anyone to do anything she wouldn’t do herself, treated everyone with respect, and deflected credit to others.

She led with passion – a passion that was woven into everything she did from her first-class work on the legal hotline and pushing for the state’s overhaul of the open record law to her deep belief in what PNA and its members stood for.

Henning joined PNA as Media Law Counsel in 2002 and was then promoted to General Counsel and Vice President of Association Services before becoming President in 2011. She is a graduate of Bucknell University and Georgetown University Law Center.

The award will be presented at the PNA Annual Dinner on Thursday evening, October 24 at The Hilton Scranton & Conference Center.



About PNA:

The PNA, founded in 1925, 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. It has more than 300 newspaper and media-related members, including daily, weekly and collegiate newspapers and online news publications.

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