



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association announces the recipients of five prestigious statewide awards**

*Lifetime Achievement, Benjamin Franklin Award for Excellence, News Media Industry Executive of the Year, News Media Industry Innovator of the Year, and News Media Industry Emerging Leader of the Year Awards will be presented at the PNA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.*

HARRISBURG, Pa. - The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association honored five distinguished news industry professionals with the Lifetime Achievement, Benjamin Franklin Award for Excellence, News Media Industry Executive of the Year, News Media Industry Innovator of the Year, and News Media Industry Emerging Leader of the Year Awards.

The recognitions celebrate the achievements of individuals who have made a lasting and vital impact on the Pennsylvania news media industry.

All award winners were selected by the PNA Board of Directors Executive Committee.

The 2025 award recipients are:

**Lifetime Achievement Award – G. Ogden Nutting**, who has performed an outstanding service and accomplishment spanning his career in journalism. Nutting, who died in 2023, served nearly three decades as president and publisher of The Intelligencer/Wheeling News-Register in West Virginia. Nutting was a prominent business and community leader in Wheeling, receiving numerous awards for his service.

In 2005, Nutting was recognized by Gov. Bob Wise with the "Distinguished West Virginian" award. His family continues his printing legacy with Ogden Newspapers, owner of several Pa. dailies and numerous publications across the country.

**Benjamin Franklin Award for Excellence – Sharon Sorg**, for outstanding service that reflects positively on the Pennsylvania news industry, the community at-large or to the mission of PNA. Sorg holds the titles of executive vice president/newspaper operations for CNHI and publisher for The Herald (Sharon) and New Castle News.

"While I am honored to be chosen as the 2025 Benjamin Franklin award recipient, this recognition would not be possible without those I have had the honor of working beside throughout the years," she said. "They have shared my passion for local journalism, joined me in many community endeavors

and accepted the many challenges our industry has faced with a fierce confidence that makes me incredibly proud."

**News Media Industry Emerging Leader of the Year Award – Tammy Schuey**, for her meaningful impact in Pennsylvania's news media landscape while exhibiting strong promise as a future leader in the industry. Schuey is the publisher of the Butler Eagle.

"I am very honored and surprised to be recognized as the inaugural Emerging Leader of the Year. 2024 was full of many challenges as well as opportunities which I was happy to be a part of in my new role as publisher of the Eagle," she said. "I truly enjoy working with all our departments and will continue to build on the passion and dedication of our staff. I look forward to supporting our industry and serving our community in the years to come."

**News Media Industry Executive of the Year Award – Christopher Baxter**, who is honored for his distinguished leadership in an executive role, leaving a profound and lasting impact on the news media industry. Baxter serves as the president and CEO of Spotlight PA.

"I am deeply honored to receive this recognition, but it truly belongs to our exceptional team of reporters, editors, and business staff who work tirelessly every day to serve our communities with integrity and dedication," he said. "Their selfless commitment to uncovering the truth, telling important stories, and keeping the public informed is the engine that drives Spotlight PA. Together with the thousands of people who support our work, we are collectively building a lasting legacy of free and fearless reporting in Pennsylvania."

**News Media Industry Innovator of the Year Award – Brendan Ricciardi**, for demonstrating a forward-thinking mindset and producing groundbreaking ideas, helping to make tremendous strides in the future of journalism in Pennsylvania. Ricciardi is president of Delco Baseball Now, a digital media outlet created to cover baseball in Delaware County, Pa.

"The News Media Industry Innovator of the Year Award means a lot to me and to our company because we pride ourselves in the way that we try to think outside the box while covering local baseball," he said. "The world of journalism is evolving every day, and I believe what has made us successful in our first few years is our ability to adapt and learn different ways that people consume their news and entertainment so that we can share stories to as many people as possible as efficiently as possible."

PNA President and CEO William Cotter shared his thoughts on the outstanding achievements of this year's award recipients. "We are honored to recognize these five outstanding individuals for their incredible contributions to the Pennsylvania news media industry."

The awards will be presented at PNA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on Thursday, Nov. 13 at the Hershey Country Club.

*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 a free and independent press.*

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