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Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association celebrates its 100th anniversary in style.

Pennsylvania news media leaders past and present will commemorate a century of service and unveil new initiatives to keep local journalism viable well into the future.

HARRISBURG, Pa., (Nov. 1, 2024) – The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a formal Gala on Thursday, Nov. 14 at the Hershey Country Club. Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception, followed by a dinner and awards ceremony at 7:00 p.m.

Current and former news industry leaders and PNA executives will gather to salute past achievements in support of a free, independent press and tout enterprising new initiatives media organizations can employ to sustain civic journalism for future generations.

The event's keynote speaker is Danielle Coffey, president and CEO of News/Media Alliance, a journalism advocacy group based in Arlington, VA representing 2,000 news and magazine outlets worldwide.

The ceremony will include the following award presentations:

- PNA Hall of Fame: 100 individuals will be inducted into the PNA Hall of Fame for their outstanding service and contributions on behalf of the Pennsylvania news media industry.
- 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award: Joseph A. Beegle, CEO of Sample News Group, will receive the award for his 40-year career dedicated to serving the public with the highest journalistic standards.
- 2024 Benjamin Franklin Award for Excellence: Paula Knudsen Burke, attorney at Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press will be recognized for her efforts to maintain and defend First Amendment rights across the commonwealth.
- PA Lab For Journalism Funding: Three news organizations, The Butler Eagle, SPIRIT Media News Group, Inc. and WITF & the Steinman Institute for Civic Engagement will each receive a \$20,000 grant from the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation as part of their philanthropic efforts in support of civic journalism projects.

PNA President and CEO William Cotter expressed enthusiasm ahead of the celebration. “We are excited at PNA to celebrate 100 years of supporting the news media industry, the importance of the First Amendment and the role of a free press,” he said. “We look forward to the future with new initiatives that will lead us into our next centennial.”

Established as the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers' Association, PNA has been an advocate for journalism and the First Amendment since its inception. In November 2012, the company changed its name to the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association to better represent its members that have progressed into multi-media news companies.

About PNA:

PNA, founded in 1925, is the nonprofit trade association for print and digital news media in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Its mission is to advance the business interests of Pennsylvania news media organizations and to promote a free and independent press. Membership includes newspapers and media-related companies, as well as college newspapers and online publications.

About PNA Foundation:

The PNA Foundation is an independent, nonprofit corporation organized as a public foundation. Its mission is to provide training and resources to PNA members, to develop the next generation of readers and journalists, and to educate the public on the importance of the First Amendment and the role of a free press.

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