NO MATTER WHERE YOU CALL HOME, CHANCES ARE, SO DO WE.

WE ARE THE COCA-COLA CO. USA — A BUSINESS THAT IS DEDICATED TO DOING GOOD IN THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE AND A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE 2019 NLGJA CONFERENCE.
Welcome from NLGJA’s President
Welcome from NLGJA’s Executive Director
From the Convention Co-Chairs
NLGJA Board of Directors & Chapters
NLGJA Lifetime Members
NLGJA LGBTQ Journalists Hall of Fame
NLGJA Excellence in Journalism Awards
Jeanne Córdova Award & NLGJA Leadership Award
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2019 Convention Speakers
We’re working to ensure our political system can withstand new challenges and deliver on its promise to the American people.
“Of course I am a storyteller and therefore an optimist, a firm believer in the ethical bend of the human heart, a believer in the mind’s appetite for truth and its disgust with fraud.”

— Toni Morrison

Welcome to New Orleans. I hope you’re all excited about our chance this week to learn from each other, bolster careers and party with a purpose.

We’re in a city that knows how to celebrate and show its spirit, even when facing adversity. And we are here during Southern Decadence, when LGBTQ people from around the world will take to the surrounding streets and party until sunrise in celebration of elements of our culture.

It’s a time of notable adversity and tension in our country and our industry, but it’s worth noting that good can come from tension. It gives us focus as journalists, because we know we’re fighting to preserve — and in some cases to better realize — the values of our profession. It gives us the energy to fight for values of accuracy, fairness, accountability, inclusion, diversity and independence that are essential for us to make a meaningful contribution to our public discourse. And it reminds us that we need to celebrate our victories in making sure that an array of voices are heard at this time.

Here are some of those victories: Mainstream news organizations are paying more attention to voices that haven’t appeared in their publications and broadcasts, or haven’t been accurately portrayed. And when they fall short, we’re doing a better job of amplifying the voices of critics who point out when those organizations miss the mark and offering resources to do better.

We see that reflected in the work of the winners of our Excellence in Journalism Awards that we will be recognizing here. It is highlighted by the careers of our three new LGBTQ Journalists Hall of Fame inductees, Lilli Vincenz, Kara Swisher and Steve Rothaus.

We have the example of industry leaders like Arlyn Gajilan of Reuters, this year’s Leadership Award Recipient, and like HuffPost Editor-in-Chief Lydia Polgreen, whose work we celebrated in New York earlier this year. Both are steering major news organizations to be more inclusive and expansive in the stories they tell about our communities.

Another source of motivation: despite upheaval in the LGBTQ digital press, I’m impressed so many of those who gained a new audience in those venues are still finding ways to make us look at the stories they’ve been telling.

And I’m excited about the ways NLGJA is changing. We have a new strategic plan that has a push for bolstering diversity within the organization at its core. We’re working better with partner organizations like the Asian American Journalists Association, the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the Native American Journalists Association, the Online News Association, the Journalism and Women Symposium and others to make sure members of each group know when there are issues we should tackle together.

We need your help in calling us out when we misstep and in stepping up to make our organization better.

We know that NLGJA has made missteps on our road to transforming into a more inclusive organization. The organization’s leadership has focused on making the programming and the culture of our convention more welcoming to transgender and non-binary members, as well as people of color. And we’ve had key discussions with our partners in newsrooms about ways to make their coverage more sensitive and accurate when it comes to Comes to those communities. Stay tuned, keep us accountable, learn and have fun.
While too many Americans struggle to make ends meet, the big drug companies continue to rake in billions. It’s no wonder, considering that they make us pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world. If they can afford to spend nearly $175 million for lobbying, and more than $6 billion for advertising, then surely they can find some way to lower prices and stop gouging Americans. People shouldn’t have to choose between buying medication and buying food for our families. Congress, it’s time to act. Stop the greed. Cut drug prices now.

Learn more at aarp.org/rx
On behalf of NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists, I would like to extend to you a very warm welcome to our 2019 National Convention! I know I speak on behalf of all those who have had a hand in planning this convention when I say that we cannot wait to spend the next few days getting to know you, learning from one another and celebrating NLGJA’s mission.

Among those who have worked over the past year to prepare for this weekend are the NLGJA National Office staff: Elliot Ayers, Maya Blackmun, Sachelle Brooks and Dillon Lewis. They have worked since last summer to juggle all of the logistics and get the convention off the ground. It has been my pleasure to lead them in these efforts.

The success of the 2019 National Convention is also made possible by the tireless efforts of the Convention Planning Committee co-chairs Jen Christensen, Belinda Hernandez and Ken Miguel, as well as the volunteer committee members Michelle Hayes and Senta Scarborough. It is because of their efforts that we are able to proudly present this fantastic convention, with its diverse educational programming, to you.

I would be remiss if I didn’t recognize a key person who is producing his 10th successful convention for NLGJA: convention coordinator Derrick Jones. From designing the convention book and managing the food and beverage, to stuffing badges and overseeing onsite registration, Derrick has his finger on every aspect of the convention. He steps in to solve crises before I have the chance to worry, which is perhaps his greatest gift (in my opinion, at least). As he zigs and zags about the convention floor this week, please join me in thanking him for a decade of service to NLGJA.

Finally, please join me in extending our deepest thanks to our many sponsors, donors, exhibitors, advertisers and presenters for their role in making this convention a reality. Their ardent support and many contributions have made it possible for NLGJA to offer outstanding programming and invaluable networking opportunities, while keeping registration costs affordable. Their contributions extend far beyond this weekend and help to make NLGJA’s year-round work possible.

For the rest of this week, I encourage you to take advantage of all that the convention has to offer. With over 30 workshops to choose from, five plenary sessions, several receptions, a large Career & Community Expo, countless networking opportunities and many more things to do in New Orleans outside of the convention hotel walls, this weekend will be a busy, but exciting time to grow. We are certain that every attendee, from our most seasoned convention veterans to our first-timers, will find the opportunities afforded at our 2019 National Convention plentiful and invaluable.

As you enjoy all that this convention has to offer, we hope you’ll begin to look forward to our 2020 NLGJA National Convention in Chicago, to be held September 10-14, 2020.

Again, I offer you a very warm (and extremely humid) welcome to New Orleans. I eagerly anticipate meeting and visiting with as many of you as I can over the course of the next few days and look forward to seeing you once again in Chicago.

Engage and Enjoy!
The truth has never been easy.
The truth may try to hide in darkness.
The truth may be restricted by borders.
Without truth, families can be lost.
Without truth, children can be taken.
The truth may be buried layers deep,
Or trapped by political agenda.
And worst of all,
The truth may be twisted by power.

But the truth will be heard.
On behalf of the convention planning committee, welcome to New Orleans, a city of great diversity that knows how to celebrate! We have a great program in store for you this year and we promise, you will leave the city with more than just Mardi Gras beads and a taste for dressed oyster po-boys.

Start Thursday off catching up with old friends and meet a few new ones at the Morning Kick-Off Coffee Klatch — then dive into our programing that will help you build a better you and a better newsroom. IRE has brought back their fabulous investigative series of workshops to help you dive deeper into data and get to the real truth of a story, no matter what the obstacles. NBC University will help you brush up on your pitching skills and after lunch top leaders in newsrooms from around the country will talk about industry trends and hint at what’s coming next for our industry. Breakout sessions will tackle newer topics like “What Drag Queen Story Hour Tells Us about LGBTQ Reporting Today” and how LGBTQ Women are driving the Rainbow Wave in politics. And we’ve got a special New Orleans only treat for you at our Opening Reception, before we head out for a fun Night Out event.

On Friday, Mo Rocca and Rand Morrison from the beloved “CBS Sunday Morning” will tell us what’s in the secret sauce that keeps that show special after 40 years on the air. In addition to dozens of great professional development breakout sessions, you will definitely want to show off what you can do at the career expo. Newsroom recruiters will be there waiting for talent like you, so make sure your clips and résumé ready. Friday afternoon, financial guru Suze Orman will be on hand and will be more than happy to tell you what to do with that paycheck, offering an honest talk about how you can best tackle your financial future. The evening festivities will then kick off with our Diversity Reception, where you are sure to see much of NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists has to celebrate.

Go back in time on Saturday with a look back at Stonewall at 50, and how the media handled that important anniversary, or get hands on advice on working with Google News Tools. After lunch you can reflect on the fine New Orleans food with the Food Writers plenary that is bound to give you some story ideas to nibble on. Then check out the more great sessions “Having an Opinion,” or answer the question, “Are We Journalists of Activists?” Check out the music scene with “The Beat of Music in the Big Easy and Beyond,” or “Move Beyond the Basics of Covering Transgender Lives.”

Saturday Night will conclude with our annual closing reception. This one will leave you longing for more of the Crescent City with yet another New Orleans flavored treat to help you remember what a great time you had at NLGJA’s first New Orleans convention.

Laissez les bon temps rouler! — Let the good times roll!
We are proud to support diversity in journalism.

Lester Holt, Anchor, NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt and Dateline NBC

Rachel Maddow, Anchor, The Rachel Maddow Show

Savannah Guthrie and Hoda Kotb, Anchors, The Today Show

Brooke Sopelsa, Editorial Manager, NBC Out

NBC NEWS MSNBC
This is who we are.
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In Memoriam
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1933-2004

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Don’t see a chapter in your area? It only takes one person to get started!
Contact the national office today at (202) 588-9888 to see how you can get NLGJA going in your area!

August 29 - September 1, 2019 | New Orleans, Louisiana | 9
Everyone benefits from diversity and inclusion. By promoting a culture of support and collaboration, the best and most innovative ideas fuel our business.

A place to work, grow, and be your true self. We hire people with different identities and backgrounds, and encourage everyone to bring their authentic self to work.

When every voice is heard, we are all better for it. We come from different perspectives, but share the belief that diversity and inclusion make us stronger together.

Prudential is proud to support the 2019 NLGJA National Convention

Visit prudential.com
NLGJA’s Lifetime Membership program is designed to celebrate a dedication and commitment to fair and accurate coverage of LGBTQ issues by allowing NLGJA members to pledge their talents and support not just for today, but for a lifetime. For more information, stop by Convention Registration in the LaSalle Ballroom Prefunction during the convention or visit the Membership Section of NLGJA’s website at nlgja.org.

Randy Alfred, 1995
Kenn Altine, 2002
Karen Bailis, 1995
David Barre, 1999
Robert Bennett, 2013
Matthew Berger, 2002
Sarah Blazucki, 2007
Rod Blum, 2007
Sherry Boschert, 1995
Ray Bradford, 2000
Gary Bramnick, 2004
David Brousseau, 2001
David Brown, 2000
William L. Canacci Jr., 1996
Michael Caprio, 2005
Sam Champion, 2015
Jen Christensen, 1996
Holly Crenshaw, 1998
Luis Cruz, 2005
Tim Curran, 1995
Geoff Dankert, 1996
Jason DeRose, 2001
Scott Dill, 1997
Randy Dotinga, 2000
Barbara Dozetos, 1999
Sharif J. Durhams, 2000
Dawn Ennis, 2014
Chad Findlay, 2005
Calvin Fleming, 2007
Alan Flippen, 1996
Ina Fried, 2000
Mathew Friedman, 1995
Steve Friess, 1996
Stephen Gendel, 1994
Howard Goldberg, 1996
Trey Graham, 1995
LZ Granderson, 2003
Susan Green, 2006
Jonathan Greenberger, 2015
Oriol Gutierrez, 2002
Eric Hegedüs, 1993
Belinda Hernandez, 2013
Simon Hobbs, 2015
Bethany Howe, 2015
Kathleen Howley, 2003
Mike Huckman, 1994
April Hunt, 1996
Leonard P. Iaquinta, 1996
Derrick Jones, 2013
Wesley Juhl, 2013
Christina Kahrl, 2011
Jason Knight, 2007
Laurie Kozbelt, 2010
Eden Lane, 2008
Don Lemon, 2011
Sean Lewis, 2008
Randy D. Lovely, 1999
Mykel MacCarthy, 2000
Marc Malkin, 2017
John Marble, 2007
Christopher Martin, 2000
David McAlpine, 2010
Ian McCann, 2001
Reed McDowell, 2010
Margaret McElligott, 2002
Jim Michalowski, 2003
Ken Miguel, 2003
Akilah Monifa, 2000
Daniel Morales, 2003
Javier Morgado, 2003
Thomas Musbach, 1995
Bryan Norcross, 2014
Donald Parsons, 1999
Court Passant, 1996
Steven Petrow, 1994
Robin Phillips, 1999
Catherine Plato, 2009
David Plazas, 2002
David Poller, 1996
Richard Quest, 2014
Rick Reichmuth, 2015
Steve Rosen, 1991
Steve Rothenb, 1991
Senta Scarborough, 2002
Gregory Schmidt, 1997
Mark Segal, 2004
Kim Severson, 1996
Randy Slovacek, 2015
Chuck Small, 1990
Sandy Smith, 2011
Samantha Snyder, 2008
Curtis Sparrer, 2012
David Steinberg, 1998
Douglas Stewart, 1995
Rick Stuckey, 2005
Hassan Luis Sudler, 2001
Stacy Sullivan, 1998
Curtis Tate, 2004
Katie Thomason, 2015
Michael Tune, 2009
Lisa Van Arsdale, 2015
Kris Van Cleave, 2015
Meredith Vieira, 2015
Eric Walter, 2003
Zach Wichter, 2010
Robert V. Witeck, 1995
Judy Wolf, 1996
Matt Wurster, 1996
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Established in 2005, NLGJA's LGBTQ Journalists Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made exemplary contributions through their careers to NLGJA's mission of promoting fair and accurate coverage of issues affecting the LGBTQ community. The journalists honored here are true heroes. All of us hope that their stories will inspire you as they have inspired us.

LGBTQ JOURNALISTS HALL OF FAME

August 29 - September 1, 2019 | New Orleans, Louisiana

STEVE ROTHHAUS

Steve Rothaus worked at the Miami Herald for over 30 years, covering LGBTQ issues for more than two decades. During his time there, he was part of news teams awarded with the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service and the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting. In 2014, he co-produced the Emmy Award-winning documentary “The Day It Snowed in Miami: A Chronology of the LGBT Rights Movement.” Throughout his celebrated career, he also has been recognized for his body of work by GLAAD, Equality Florida, PRSA, the National LGBTQ Task Force, and inducted into the Miami Dade College Hall of Fame, among other honors. In April 2016, the Columbia Journalism Review published, “How the Miami Herald's Steve Rothaus became an LGBT Pioneer in Mainstream Journalism.” Rothaus served for five years as a national board member of NLGJA. He founded NLGJA's Newsroom Outreach Project and traveled the country visiting newspapers, television stations and universities to discuss LGBTQ news coverage and workplace issues. He currently lives in Miami with his husband, Ric Katz.

KARA SWISHER

Kara Swisher is an award-winning business journalist and recognized as one of the nation’s most respected writers on the business of technology. In a 2016 profile headlined “Kara Swisher is Silicon Valley’s Most Feared and Well-Liked Journalist. How Does That Work?,” New York Magazine said Swisher is one of the “major power brokers of tech reporting” whose “combination of access and toughness has made [her] a preeminent arbiter of status in a Silicon Valley.” She is co-founder and editor-at-large of the website Recode, co-executive producer of the Code Conference Series and a contributing writer to The New York Times opinion section. She previously co-produced and co-hosted “D: All Things Digital,” a major high-tech conference for The Wall Street Journal conducting interviews with Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and Larry Ellison. She was also co-executive editor of the tech and media website AllThingsD.com. While working at The Wall Street Journal, Swisher inaugurated the column “BoomTown” about the rise of Silicon Valley. Previously, she worked as a reporter for The Washington Post and as an editor at the City Paper of Washington, DC. She is the author of two books recounting the history of AOL.

LILLI VINCENZ

Lilli Vincenz is a path-breaking journalist and pioneer of the gay rights movement beginning in the early 1960s. Born in 1937 in Germany, she lived there throughout World War II before coming to the US with her family at the age of twelve. She joined the Mattachine Society of Washington in 1962 as one of their first lesbian members and served as editor of their monthly magazine, The Homosexual Citizen. She filmed the 1968 Annual Reminder in Philadelphia and the first Christopher Street Liberation Day march in 1970. Her films contributed to a priceless visual archive of the gay rights movement and were donated to the Library of Congress in 2013 along with documents, photographs and memorabilia covering 50 years of America’s LGBTQ civil rights movement. Vincenz wrote a bi-weekly column for the New York-based GAY magazine and was a frequent contributor to other community publications. In 1969 in Washington D.C., she co-founded The Gay Blade, an independent gay newspaper, later renamed The Washington Blade. In 1966, Vincenz became the first woman, with her face recognizable, to appear on the cover of The Ladder, a lesbian magazine. She currently lives in Arlington, Virginia.

2005
- Leroy F. Aarons
- Phyllis Lyon & Del Martin
- Thomas Morgan III
- Sarah Pettit
- Randy Shilts
- Don Slater

2006
- Marlon Riggs

2007
- Jim Kepner
- Jack Nichols
- Barbara Gittings & Kay Tobin Lahusen

2008
- Richard Goldstein
- Gail Shister

2009
- Garrett Glaser
- Ronald Gold
- Deb Price

2010
- “Lisa Ben”
- Hank Plante
- Richard Rouilard

2011
- Don Legg
- Don Michaels
- Michelangelo Signorile

2012
- Jill Johnston
- Randolfe Hayden Wicker

2013
- Bob Ross
- Mark Segal

2014
- Tracy Baim
- Donna Cartwright
- Lisa Keen

2015
- Randy Alfred
- Alison Bechdel
- Alan Bell
- Lou Chibbaro Jr.
- Charles Kaiser
- Armistead Maupin

2016
- Ina Fried
- LZ Granderson

2017
- Jinx Beers
- Dan Savage

2018
- Hilton Als
- Dudley Clendinen

2019
- Steve Rothaus
- Kara Swisher
- Lilli Vincenz

2020
- Al Satterfield

2021
- Randy Alfred
- Alison Bechdel
- Alan Bell
- Lou Chibbaro Jr.
- Charles Kaiser
- Armistead Maupin

2022
- Steve Rothaus
- Kara Swisher
- Lilli Vincenz
PRINT & ONLINE AWARDS

Excellence in Book Writing Award

Excellence in Feature Writing Award
Courtney Mabeus for “No Turning Back: The Story of a Transgender Man’s Experience as a Navy Sailor,” The Virginian-Pilot

Excellence in Feature Writing, Non-Daily Award
Eva Berlin Sylvestre for “The Thief of Self,” Georgia Voice

Excellence in Food Writing Award
Kyle Raymond Fitzpatrick for “Queer Food Is Hiding In Plain Sight,” Eater

Excellence in Long Form Journalism Award
Emily Starbuck Gerson for “How Four Latinx Lesbians Restarted Their Lives After Being Wrongfully Imprisoned,” INTO (IntoMore.com)

Excellence in Newswriting Award
Susan Miller for “Three Years After Same-Sex Marriage Ruling, Protections for LGBT Families Undermined,” USA TODAY

Excellence in Newswriting, Non-Daily Award
Adriana Fraser for “Philly’s First Out Trans Police Officer Buried as a Man,” Philadelphia Gay News

Excellence in Photojournalism Award

Excellence in Profile Writing Award
Liam Stack for “Christine Hallquist Would Like to Talk About the Power Grid,” The New York Times

Excellence in Sports Writing Award
Stefanie Loh for “Meet Seattle Sports’ Newest Power Couple: Sue Bird and Megan Rapinoe,” The Seattle Times

Excellence in Student Journalism Award
Abbey White for “The Real Story Of The YMCA That Inspired The Village People’s Gay Anthem,” Gothamist

Excellence in Travel Writing Award
Mark Chesnut for “The Best of Gay Bogota,” Passport Magazine

DIGITAL AWARDS

Excellence in Blogging Award
Melanie Nathan for “LGBT Refugee Peaceful Protest Turns Violent at UNHCR Compound in Kenya,” www.oblogdee.blog

Excellence in Digital Video Award
Zach Stafford, Pelin Keskin, McGraw Wolfman, Nyle Emerson, James Barry, Mike Horan, Daniel Geneen, Clifford Endo Guilbert and Maureen Giannone Fitzgerald for “Gentrification Takes Its Toll on Nightlife in America’s Oldest Gay Neighborhood,” Eater

Excellence in Multimedia Award
Desmond Meagley, Paulina Ortega, Peter Disney, Jen Tribbet, Shanya Williams, Asha Richardson, Radamés Ajna, Teresa Chin, Elena Botkin-Levy, Lissa Soep, Ellin O’Leary, Asha Richardson, Teresa Chin and Desmond Meagley for “In Their Own Words: Beyond The Binary,” YR Media

Excellence in Online Journalism Award
Mitchell Kuga for “Some Libraries Are Facing Backlash Against LGBT Programs — And Holding Their Ground,” BuzzFeed News

BROADCAST AWARDS

Excellence in Documentary Award
Gabriel Silverman, Fiona Dawson and Jamie Coughlin for “TransMilitary,” Logo TV

Excellence in Local Television Award
Michael Scotto for “Ballroom,” Spectrum News NY1

Excellence in Network Television Award
Sharon Matthews for “We The Fans – Dallas,” ESPN Features – ESPN

Excellence in Podcasts Award
Anna Almendrala, Simon Ganz, Nicholas Offenberg and Sara Patterson for “IVFML Becoming Family: We’re Both Going To Be Moms,” HuffPost

Excellence in Radio Award
Keya Roy for “How One Transgender Dancer Challenges the Bollywood Binary,” KUOW 94.9
EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARDS

NLGJA JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR
Robert W. Fieseler

SARAH PETTIT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR THE LGBTQ JOURNALIST OF YEAR
Lucas Grindley

EDITORIAL AWARDS
Excellence in Column Writing Award
Spencer Kornhaber for “The Shadow Over ‘Call Me by Your Name’,” The Atlantic

Excellence in Opinion/Editorial Writing Award
Mark S. King for “The Truth About the 7,000,” POZ

COVERAGE AWARDS
Excellence in Business Coverage Award
Julia Carpenter for “When Work Puts You Back in the Closet,” CNN Business

Excellence in Education Coverage Award
Caitlin Emma for “Transgender Students Under Trump,” POLITICO

Excellence in Health or Fitness Coverage Award
Emily Zak for “Out in the Woods,” Sierra Magazine

Excellence in HIV/AIDS Coverage Award
Jesse McQuarters and Edward Livingston, MD for “Working on the Precipice: On the Frontlines of the AIDS Epidemic at the CDC,” JAMA Network

Excellence in International Coverage Award
Oscar Lopez for “I Don’t Go Out During the Day: Inside Senegal’s LGBT Crackdown,” The Daily Beast

Excellence in Legal Coverage Award
Lauren McGaughy and Tommy Noel for “Homosexual Conduct Was Illegal 15 Years Ago. How Far Have LGBTQ Rights in Texas Come Since?,” The Dallas Morning News

Excellence in Political Coverage Award
Jeremy C. Fox for “‘Gays for Trump’: The President’s Small, Vocal — and Unlikely — Fan Club,” The Boston Globe

Excellence in QPOC Coverage Award

Excellence in Religion Coverage Award
Doug Moore for “Faced With Deportation, Man from Central America Takes Refuge in a Maplewood Church,” St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Excellence in Transgender Coverage Award
Tara Bahrampour for “Crossing the Divide,” The Washington Post

THE AL NEUHARTH AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM
Pete Madden, Brian Epstein, Cindy Galli and Alex Hosenball for “Prejudice and Pride,” ABC News

NLGJA’s Excellence in Journalism Awards were established in 1993 to foster, recognize and reward excellence in journalism on issues related to the LGBTQ community. In addition to Journalist of the Year and the Sarah Pettit Memorial Award for the LGBTQ Journalist of the Year (named for the late Newsweek journalist and founding editor of Out magazine), awards are presented for excellence in wide variety of disciplines spanning traditional and digital outlets, radio, television, publishing, film and social media. The awards are presented throughout the convention.

Applications for NLGJA’s Excellence in Journalism Awards open January 2020. Do you want to be a part of the process? Become a judge. Help us select the future Excellence in Journalism Award winners. For more information regarding Excellence in Journalism Awards, please visit www.nlgja.org/awards.
The NLGJA Jeanne Córdova Award recognizes the achievement of an LGBTQ woman for a current body of work in journalism and/or opinion, with an emphasis on, but not exclusively coverage of, issues of importance to the LGBTQ community, in any medium and on any platform. Named for the editor and publisher of Lesbian Tide, which chronicled the 1970s lesbian feminist movement, this award is possible because of the vision and generosity of Jeanne Córdova, who died in 2016. Córdova also organized a number of lesbian conferences and fought for lesbian and gay rights on a number of fronts. She founded the Community Yellow Pages, a directory of gay- and lesbian-owned Southern California businesses, and co-founded an organization that sponsored lesbian art and history exhibits.

Rachael Zimmerman
2019 Recipient

“Rachael’s talent for storytelling through photography is a rare gift,” said NLGJA President Sharif Durhams. “And it is a gift to us all that she chooses to use her talent to tell stories of our people and our community. NLGJA is proud to bestow the Jeanne Córdova Award upon her.”

Zimmerman is an emerging photographer, photojournalist and community creator who developed her passion for visual storytelling while working in the sports industry. In 2016, Zimmerman founded “Inside the Black Triangle,” a photojournalist series exploring queer people beyond societal stereotypes. The series has gone on to inspire diverse and authentic connections in the LGBTQ community. Zimmerman’s passion for storytelling is fueled by her desire to empower others to live their authentic truth.

The NLGJA Leadership Award, sponsored by Randy Lovely and the Gannett Foundation, recognizes individuals who have made a positive impact on their newsrooms by increasing diversity and improving coverage of the LGBTQ community. The recipients of the award may not necessarily be active journalists themselves, but have nonetheless used their work to improve the news industry and the journalism profession.

Arlyn Gajilan
2019 Recipient

“Arlyn has been a champion of LGBTQ journalists and coverage through her work at Reuters,” said NLGJA President Sharif Durhams. “Arlyn has actively worked with company executives to elevate LGBTQ voices and introduce resources to her newsroom. She has been a fierce promoter of NLGJA’s work in and out of the newsroom and has fostered our friendly relationship with Reuters. She embodies the spirit of this award.”

Gajilan helps manage the news agency’s bureaus from Toronto to Santiago and San Francisco to New York. She works across a range of newsroom priorities including recruiting new talent, diversity initiatives and special projects, as well as editorial security and safety. Prior to joining Reuters, she has worked as a senior editor at Newsweek, Forbes.com, Conde Nast, Time and Fortune. She is a graduate of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and Hampshire College.
In 2019, the board of directors of NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists created the NLGJA Legacy Award to recognize an outlet, publication or news organization that has exhibited innovative, high-quality and sustained news coverage of the LGBTQ community over an extended period of time. The outlets, publications or news organizations that will be recognized by the award have exemplified NLGJA’s mission to promote and foster fair and accurate LGBTQ news coverage. The NLGJA Legacy Award is the association’s only award that is presented to an outlet, publication or news organization to recognize the work of its entire staff, rather than an individual.

Washington Blade
2019 Inaugural Recipient

The Washington Blade was founded as “The Gay Blade” in 1969. Originally a black and white, one-sheet community newsletter, the paper was initially distributed in local D.C. bars. However, in the fifty years since its founding, the Blade has taken its place as Washington’s premier LGBTQ newspaper. Due to its location, the Blade has been uniquely situated to cover local, national and international events of relevance to the LGBTQ community. Even so, at times the Blade has struggled in the changing media landscape. However, the newspaper has survived because of the deep dedication of its leadership, staff and readers. From its founding staff, including pioneers Lilli Vincenz and Nancy Tucker, to its current leadership, including editor Kevin Naff and publisher Lynne Brown, and many notable reporters on the frontlines, including the 40-year veteran reporter Lou Chibbaro, Jr., the Blade has been a testament to dedication to LGBTQ news coverage. In honor of five decades of devotion to local, national and international coverage of LGBTQ people and issues, NLGJA proudly presents the inaugural NLGJA Legacy Award to The Washington Blade.
PROMOTING INCLUSIVE DIVERSITY TO ADVANCE EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM
Across the Toyota family and in communities around the world, we admire and applaud the differences that make us unique and celebrate the love that drives us all.

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DATELINE: DC
NOVEMBER 14, 2019

FEATURING PRESENTATION OF THE RANDY SHILTS AWARD

A National Benefit Event for NLGJA
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**Coffee Break Café**

Need a mid-afternoon boost? Visit the Toyota Coffee Break Café, located in the *Pelican Prefunction* on the Third Floor of the InterContinental. These complimentary coffee breaks are sponsored by Toyota.

**Join the Conversation**

Posting to social media from the convention? Be sure to use the official convention hashtag, #NLGJA2019 and tag NLGJA!

Facebook: facebook.com/nlgja | Twitter @nlgja | Instagram @NLGJAOfficial

**12-Step Meeting**

Three 12-Step meetings will be offered to attendees: Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 6pm in *Poydras.*
Stoli®, is proud to make it Loud and Clear in 2019, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising with the "Spirit of Stonewall" Limited Edition bottle.

Stoli® supports the Stonewall Inn Gives Back Initiative’s commitment to eliminating social intolerance and bringing positive visibility and support to LGBTQ communities at home and abroad in the spirit of Stonewall.

MADE IN THE USA
WE APPLAUD NLGJA

for their leadership in fostering diversity in newsrooms.

At TEGNA, our award-winning journalists are redefining journalism in the digital age through empowering stories, impactful investigations and trusted content that serves the greater good of our community.
Welcome to CONNECT: the 22nd
CONNECT: Student Journalism Training Project
We are in the middle of rapid changes in our industry. The word “reinvention” is heard early and often. To that end, NLGJA will continue to emphasize its mission: to foster fair and accurate coverage of LGBTQ issues. This year’s student media project consists of 11 students. Over the course of the convention week, they’ll have the opportunity to truly experience working in a converged media newsroom. Under a team of mentors — a select team of journalists from across media — each student will get the chance to write, edit and produce stories in all distribution platforms: print, TV, video, radio, online and social media. Students will live blog and tweet from selected sessions at the conference.

Mentors
Frances Fernandes, Freelance Writer and Editor (retired)
Karen Hawkins, Co-Editor in Chief, The Chicago Reader
John-Michael Murphy, Software Engineer, The New York Times
David Ok, Mews Desk Editor, The New York Times
Cai Thomas, Documentary Filmmaker
Zach Wichter, Aviation Reporter, The Points Guy

CONNECT Student Participants
Kayla Brown, California State University, Sacramento
Alesia Bani, Temple University
Mackenzie Farkus, Simmons University
Irena Fischer-Hwang, Stanford University
Ethan Knox, Binghamton University
Ryan Krause, New York University
Andre Menchavez, University of Washington
Meg Shutzer, University of California, Berkeley

Follow CONNECT throughout the convention!
news.nlgjaconnect.org | @nlgjaCONNECT

THANK YOU TO CONNECT 2019 SPONSORS!

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Breakout Sponsors
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Lead-In Sponsor
HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
CAREER & COMMUNITY EXPO

Friday, August 30 | 9:00am - 4:30pm
LaSalle BC

NLGJA’s Career & Community Expo is a prominent feature of the national convention experience. Connect with professionals and leaders from a wide representation of broadcast, print, online, new media and independent communication outlets along with companies and organizations committed to fair and accurate coverage of the LGBTQ community. For those seeking to hire, the expo is a prime opportunity to interview top-notch candidates for media, communications or public relations positions; for those looking for a new job, the expo is the best place to get your résumé in front of the right people. For everyone, the expo is a great way to learn about educational opportunities and story ideas from NLGJA’s partners.

Don’t forget our Critique Stations throughout the day for you to get help with your résumé, reel and social media profile. Our critics will help you put your best foot forward! Sign up for remaining time slots at registration!

Join us at 9:00am for coffee and pastries at the Expo Hall!

Confirmed Exhibitors
(as of August 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association of Food Journalists</th>
<th>Gray TV</th>
<th>Stoli USA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Axios</td>
<td>Hearst Television</td>
<td>Taboom Media</td>
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<td>CDC PACT New Ways</td>
<td>IGLTA</td>
<td>TEGNA</td>
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<td>CUNY Newmark Graduate School of Journalism</td>
<td>Insider</td>
<td>The Florida Keys &amp; Key West</td>
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<td>Coca-Cola</td>
<td>JetBlue</td>
<td>The Wall Street Journal</td>
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<td>Comcast NBCUniversal</td>
<td>Knight Foundation</td>
<td>UC Berkeley Graduate</td>
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<td>E.W. Scripps</td>
<td>McClatchy</td>
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<td>ESPN</td>
<td>MGM Resorts International</td>
<td>USA TODAY Network</td>
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<td>FINRA Office of Dispute Resolution</td>
<td>Prudential Financial</td>
<td>USC Annenberg School</td>
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<td>FOX News</td>
<td>Q Digital</td>
<td>Verizon Media</td>
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<td>SAG-AFTRA</td>
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AUTHOR’S CAFÉ

Saturday, August 31 | 3:45pm
Acadian

Come hear from NLGJA members in this year’s Author’s Café as they discuss their projects from books to podcasts. Come hear from LGBTQ authors as they share their latest and greatest, get a chance to purchase your favorite(s) and stay for the book signing!

The Author’s Café will be presented in one stand-alone session on Saturday at 3:45pm.

A complete list of participants will be posted at registration.
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019**

1:00pm - 6:30pm | Frenchman I: NLGJA Board of Directors Meeting
2:00pm - 6:00pm | LaSalle Ballroom Prefunction: Convention Registration

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019**

8:00am - 5:30pm | LaSalle Ballroom Prefunction: Convention Registration
8:30am - 9:30am | Le Salon: Womens+ Morning Meet-Up
9:00am - 5:15pm | Poydras: IRE Watchdog Workshop (pre-registration required)
9:30am - 10:30am | Pelican Prefunction: Morning Coffee Klatch
10:00am - 12:00pm | Frenchman I: Chapter Leadership Meeting
10:15am - 11:15am | Breakout Sessions
  • Pelican I: How to Increase Diversity in Your Coverage
  • Pelican II: The Write Stuff sponsored by
  • Acadian: Life After Journalism
11:00am - 12:00pm | Frenchman II: NBCUniversity: The Art of the Pitch (pre-registration required) NBC UNIVERSITY
11:15am - 12:00pm | Lunch on your own
12:00pm - 1:15pm | LaSalle A: Plenary — A View from the Top
1:30pm - 2:30pm | Breakout Sessions
  • Pelican I: What Drag Queen Story Hour Tells Us About LGBTQ Reporting Today
  • Pelican II: Facebook for Journalism sponsored by
  • Acadian: Fact-Checking in a Trumpian World
2:15pm - 3:00pm | Pelican Prefunction: Coffee Break Café sponsored by TOYOTA
2:45pm - 3:45pm | Breakout Sessions
  • Pelican I: Driving the Rainbow Wave: LGBTQ Women
  • Pelican II: Finding & Telling the Story with Social Media sponsored by
  • Acadian: Out or In: Why Some Sports Are Still in Between for LGBTQ Athletes sponsored by ESPN
3:45pm - 4:45pm | Frenchman II: NBCUniversity: Crafting Your Career Narrative (pre-registration required)
4:00pm - 5:00pm | Breakout Sessions
  • Pelican I: Leadership Hacks for Managers sponsored by SCRIPPS
  • Pelican II: Early Career Paths & Career Changes
  • Acadian: Going Solo: Owning the MMJ Life sponsored by TEGNA
5:30pm - 6:30pm | Frenchman I: CONNECTions Welcome Reception sponsored by Verizon Media
6:00pm - 7:00pm | Poydras: Open 12-Step Meeting
6:30pm - 8:30pm | Tremé/Marigny Atrium: NLGJA 2019 Opening Reception
8:00pm - 10:00pm | Travel Writers Caucus Reception (by invitation only) sponsored by
9:00pm - 11:00pm | Night Out New Orleans sponsored by

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2019**

8:00am - 6:00pm | LaSalle Ballroom Prefunction: Convention Registration
8:00am - 1:00pm | Frenchman II: CNN Institute (pre-registration required)
8:30am - 9:30am | Le Salon: QPOC Morning Meet-Up
9:00am - 4:30pm | LaSalle BC: Career & Community Expo
9:00am - 10:00am | LaSalle BC: Expo Kickoff & Café
9:00am - 1:00pm | Poydras: Free HIV Testing
9:30am - 10:45am | LaSalle A: Plenary — In Conversation With Mo Rocca & Rand Morrison
10:00am - 4:00pm | LaSalle BC: Résumé, Social Media and Reel Critique Sessions
11:00am - 12:00pm | Breakout Sessions
  • Pelican I: Bringing Your Best Self On Air
  • Pelican II: Investigating LGBTQ History
  • Acadian: Podcasts: Finding Your Own Voice
12:00pm - 1:00pm | Lunch on your own
1:00pm - 1:30pm | LaSalle BC: Visit the Expo!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session/Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm - 3:15pm</td>
<td>LaSalle A: Plenary — Straight Money Talk with Suze Orman sponsored by AARP</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Pelican Prefunction: Coffee Break Café sponsored by TOYOTA</td>
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<td>3:45pm - 4:45pm</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td>• Pelican I: New Ways: HIV Is More Than Black and White sponsored by 3M</td>
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<td>• Pelican II: Producing Documentaries and the Future of Long-Form Storytelling</td>
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<td>• Acadian: How I Survived as a Freelancer sponsored by Chubb</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td>• Pelican I: Keeping Journalists Safe sponsored by SAG-AFTRA</td>
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<td>• Pelican II: Reporting on Bi+ Identities sponsored by 3Polo</td>
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<td>• Acadian: The Importance of Visuals</td>
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<td>6:00pm - 7:00pm</td>
<td>Poydras: Open 12-Step Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm - 7:30pm</td>
<td>LeSalon: NLGJA 2019 Diversity Reception sponsored by Prudential</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm - 10:00pm</td>
<td>Womens+ Networking Dinner (ticket required)</td>
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**FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2019 (continued)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session/Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30am - 9:30am</td>
<td>Le Salon: Trans &amp; Nonbinary Morning Meet-Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am - 3:00pm</td>
<td>LaSalle Ballroom Prefunction: Convention Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am - 10:45pm</td>
<td>LaSalle A: Plenary — Stonewall 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td>• Pelican I: Coping with Trauma sponsored by SAG-AFTRA</td>
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<td>• Pelican II: Google Tools</td>
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<td>• Acadian: The Art of Telling LGBTQ Stories in Mainstream Media sponsored by ESPN</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00pm - 1:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch on your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00pm - 2:15pm</td>
<td>LaSalle A: Plenary Session — Food Journalism: A Recipe for Success sponsored by AFT</td>
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<td>2:30pm - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td>• Pelican I: Having an Opinion</td>
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<td>• Pelican II: Producing for the Future</td>
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<td>• Acadian: Queer Quota sponsored by ABC NEWS</td>
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<td>3:00pm - 3:45pm</td>
<td>Pelican Prefunction: Coffee Break Café sponsored by TOYOTA</td>
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<td>3:45pm - 4:45pm</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td>• Pelican I: Author’s Café</td>
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<td>• Pelican II: Are We Journalists or Activists?</td>
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<td>• Acadian: Business Journalism for Beginners</td>
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<td>5:00pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td>• Pelican I: Done With TG101: Moving Beyond the Basics of Covering Transgender Lives in the Media</td>
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<td>• Pelican II: The Beat of Music in the Big Easy...and Beyond</td>
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<td>• Acadian: Let’s Talk Politics</td>
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<td>6:00pm - 7:00pm</td>
<td>Poydras: Open 12-Step Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm - 7:00pm</td>
<td>Lifetime Members Reception (by invitation only) sponsored by SAG-AFTRA</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00pm - 9:00pm</td>
<td>LaSalle Ballroom: NLGJA 2019 Closing Reception</td>
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**SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2019**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session/Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Frenchman I: NLGJA Board of Directors Meeting</td>
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**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session/Event</th>
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Investigating Anti-LGBTQI+ Hate: A Reporting Guide for Journalists*

This new resource helps journalists investigate how U.S. groups fuel hatred against LGBTQI+ people here and abroad. Download it for free: taboommedia.com/investigating-hate/

Taboom Media’s training, mentoring, publishing and monitoring programs catalyze ethical journalism about taboo human rights topics. Taboom’s veteran journalists work to replace stereotypes and discrimination with fairness and accuracy.

*Learn more about the guide during NLGJA’s Author’s Café at 3:45 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 31. Check program for location.

PROUD SPONSOR OF NLGJA 2019

Everyday, our 30 newsrooms across the country deliver strong, independent local journalism that is essential to the communities we serve.

#READLOCAL

mcclatchy.com
Five distinct regions
127 miles of Overseas Highway
Hundreds of named islands
Thousands of stories
8:30am - 9:30am
Womens+ Morning Meet-Up
Le Salon

9:30am - 10:30am
Morning Coffee Klatch
Pelican Prefunction
We’re giving you a boost to get your NLGJA 2019 Convention experience started! We’ll have a little something to wake you up and get your day started right! Plus, we’ll have beignets!

10:00am - 12:00pm
Chapter Leadership Meeting
Frenchman I

BOOT CAMP
10:00am - 5:00pm
IRE Watchdog Workshop
Poydras
(Pre-registration required)
IRE will offer several of its core sessions, designed to help you use data and documents in your reporting, find information quickly and hold officials accountable. In addition, this workshop will give you tips on interviewing and digging deeper with social media, search engines and much more. You’ll learn practical tips to help you build meatier enterprise stories, even on deadline. These sessions are designed for reporters, editors, and producers from small, midsize and large publications, TV, radio stations, Web-only news sites and news blogs. Freelancers, students and journalism educators are also encouraged to attend. This program is made possible thanks to support from the Ethics & Excellence in Journalism Foundation.

10:15am - 11:15am
How to Increase Diversity In Your Coverage
Pelican I
Moderator: Simon Bouie
Panelists: Meredith Clark, Patrick Lee
The session will encourage attendees to seek and pitch stories about demographics that are underrepresented in mainstream news. Panelists will offer suggestions on how to cast more diverse characters for stories by thinking of where LGBTQ people could be the main character(s) of a piece that impacts all Americans equally regardless of their sexuality, as opposed to casting the traditional husband and wife. The panel will also encourage a discussion about casting a wider, more diverse net in LGBTQ coverage to encourage greater perspectives of women and people of color.

The Write Stuff
Pelican II
Moderator: Casey Stegall
Panelists: Richard Fowler, Steve Noviello, Neal Scarbrough, Lucia Suarez
The speed of the news cycle is getting faster and faster by the day — and with the prominence of multi-platform reporting taking center stage, it’s important to be fast and accurate. But how do you make yourself stand out when every network is on the same story? What makes people stop and retweet your tweet instead of others? How do you break through the noise? Our expert panel of writers will explain the little tips and tricks to get your pieces, and your digital presence to stand out in a crowd of your colleagues.

Sponsored by
Life After Journalism
Acadian
The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the number of working journalists will decline by 9% between 2016 and 2026 (*internal screaming*). Where are we going? As the industry evolves, many of us are moving to journalism-adjacent professions, including PR, communications and education. How does one transition smoothly and find a job that allows them to use their well-honed reporting skills? These panelists will talk about how they made that transition work for them and discuss what resources available for recovering reporters and editors.

11:00am - 12:00pm
Session 1: The Art of the Pitch
Frenchman II
Get your stories greenlit by learning from senior newsroom leaders about what makes for success with example critiques of submitted pitches.

3:45pm - 4:45pm
Session 2: Crafting Your Career Narrative to Move to the Next Level
Learn strategies for building upon your work as a seasoned journalist, positioning yourself to reach higher and developing a plan to take your career where you want to go.

8:30am - 9:30am
Womens+ Morning Meet-Up
Le Salon
11:15am - 12:00pm
Lunch on your own

12:00pm - 1:15pm
**The View From the Top**
Panelists: Jason Anders, Sally Buzbee, Chad Matthews, Sean McLaughlin, Rand Morrison

Journalists continue to be a target from this president. Newsrooms have been threatened by violence and shifting economics. Employment has dropped by quarter since 2008, with newspapers seeing the greatest decline. Yet Americans still say they still want a strong community connection through the media.

In our shifting and shrinking industry, we all have questions about the future of our newsrooms, and we find ourselves looking to our leaders for answers. But what's like to be the leader of a news organization navigating the changes at hand? What innovations do they think will work to help save us and what threats are coming? Hear from some of the news industry's top leaders about the state of our profession and the future of our craft and come ready to ask your most pressing questions.

1:30pm - 2:30pm
**What Drag Queen Story Hour Tells Us About LGBTQ Reporting Today**
Panelists: Vanessa Carr Kennedy, Ross Murray, Ben Myers, Seale Paterson

Public debates about LGBTQ people and the laws and policies that impact their lives can often be too reductive. Using the phenomenon of drag queen story hour, and the anti-LGBTQ backlash, we’ll unpack the narrative as it has unfolded in cities around the country. Is the narrative a cute human interest story, a controversy, an issue of “religious freedom” or a way to incorporate local performance artists in the civic life of the community?

**Facebook for Journalism**
Presenter: Adrienne Luis

From 360 and LIVE video to groups and search, learn how to best use Facebook as a journalist. The Facebook for Journalism is a partnership with the Facebook Journalism Project and the Society of Professional Journalists. The training covers best practices any content creator should know. We know the importance of using Facebook and know what we like to see as users, so let's implement those best practices.

Sponsored by

**Fact-Checking in a Trumpian World**
Panelists: Karen Bailis, Daniel Funke, Troy Thibodeaux

“Fake news,” doctored photos and incessant tweeting. Trump is a master of misinformation, but with the internet and leaders who like to take facts out for a good spin, how do we stay on track when the (tweet) storm never lets up? Learn from the experts about how to break through the misinformation and reach the truth when covering any news subject.

2:15pm - 3:00pm
**Coffee Break Café** Sponsored by TOYOTA

Looking Back...
**NLGJA 2010**
San Francisco, California
2:45pm - 3:45pm

**Driving the Rainbow Wave: LGBTQ Women**
Panelists: Christina Cauterucci, Lisa Turner

For years, LGBTQ women have led the way in breaking lavender ceilings to attain elected office. From Tammy Baldwin to Annise Parker to Kate Brown, the first LGBTQ U.S. senators and major city mayors, have all been women. LGBTQ women were again at the forefront in 2018’s “Rainbow Wave,” picking up a second U.S. Senate seat, three seats in the House, and a second state attorney general’s office. LPAC, the only organization dedicated to building the political power of LGBTQ women, has conducted new research into the political profile of LGBTQ women. What drives them to run for office, and what has enabled them to see so much success? Attendees will come away with a fresh, comprehensive understanding of this cohort, which is only growing in importance politically.

**Finding & Telling the Story with Social Media**
Panelists: Bob Bennett, John Colucci, Roman Feeser

Social media shouldn’t be thought of solely as a way to distribute stories, it should live in the journalism ecosystem from the start — to find the story. In particular, local news outlets aim to find untold stories and bring them to life on-air, in print, and online. Our panel of digital, broadcast and newspaper experts will discuss the ways stories are ideated, pitched and packaged, reported and distributed — all with the help of social media. Plus, how social media continues to grow and evolve with the latest, greatest, and upcoming tools of the trade.

**Out or In: Why Some Sports Are Still in Between for LGBTQ Athletes**
Moderator: Christina Kahrl
Panelist: Katie Barnes

Where are the major sports when it comes to LGBTQ visibility and participation? In the six years since Jason Collins came out and five since Michael Sam came out and was drafted, we have yet to see much progress from the major men’s sports, even as the pro men’s leagues make progress in their own policies. But that experience is very different from inclusion in women’s pro sports, or what we’ve seen in amateur athletics at the international, K-12 and collegiate levels. Is there an observer’s paradox, where media attention paid to some sports has an impact on athletes’ choices to come out publicly?

Sponsored by ESPN

4:00pm - 5:00pm

**Leadership Hacks for Managers**
Panelists: Bob Bicknell, Chad Matthews, Jesse Rodriguez, Stacy Sullivan

Looking to build your leadership skills? Looking to drive change in your organization? In this interactive session, you’ll learn tips on how to lead in a way that inspires and influences others. That’s a critical skill to have during this time of historic change in the media industry. This session’s panel will share the best leadership lessons they’ve learned throughout their careers. They’ll also help answer your leadership questions.

Sponsored by SCRIPPS

**Early Career Paths & Career Changes**
Panelists: Katie Barnes, Raillan Brooks, Kathleen Massara, Jesse Rodriguez

In this panel, we’ll cover how to move into the next stage of your career in journalism, including questions about the job search, how to network effectively, mentoring opportunities, and how to hone your craft when the people on top may be too busy to help. We’ll also address how to make a smart move into journalism after starting your career elsewhere.

**Going Solo: Owning the MMJ Life**
Moderator: Ryan Wood
Panelist: Ted Land, Erica Proffer

Do you live the do-it-yourself lifestyle? This interactive session is for you. Learn how to own the MMJ lifestyle — shooting, writing, editing — and how to do it in creative, innovative ways while still making deadline. Bring your smartphone. This is not your ordinary sit-back-and-listen session.

Sponsored by TEGNA

Looking Back...
NLGJA 2016
Miami, Florida
5:30pm - 6:30pm
CONNECTions Welcome Reception
Frenchman I
Hosted by Kris Van Cleave
For over 20 years, NLGJA’s CONNECT: Student Journalism Training Project has been training the next generation of journalists to cover the LGBTQ community. In celebration, come together with CONNECT alumni and the current class of students at the CONNECTions Welcome Reception to reconnect and make new friends. The reception will also include a chapter caucus, giving attendees an opportunity visit with members of their local chapter.
Sponsored by

6:30pm - 8:30pm
NLGJA 2019 Opening Reception
Tremé/Marigny
Your NLGJA 2019 Emcees: Bethany Grace Howe, Sean Lewis, Femi Redwood
Laissez les bons temps rouler! Kick off NLGJA with a New Orleans-inspired reception. Gather with old friends, make new connections and get yourself energized for a productive and educational weekend.

8:00pm - 10:00pm
Travel Writers Caucus Reception
(By invitation only. For information, email loann.halden@iglta.org.)
Sponsored by

9:00pm - 11:00pm
Night Out: New Orleans
801 Bourbon Street
New Orleans
Hosted by Stoli’s Patrik Gallineaux
Tweeting? Don’t forget to use #NLGJA2019!

Have a great night out with new and longtime NLGJA friends! Be sure to wear your NLGJA convention badge to get in and for a fun evening and some free special Stoli cocktails. It’s a great way to spend time together and meet some locals.

Sponsored by

Verizon Media
Ontario Canada Tourism
IGLTA
### QPOC Morning Meet-Up

**8:30am - 9:30am**

**QPOC Morning Meet-Up**

Le Salon

### Career & Community Expo

**9:00am - 4:30pm**

**Career & Community Expo**

LaSalle BC

<table>
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| 9:00am - 10:00am | **Expo Kickoff & Café**  
Start the morning with a cup of coffee and visit the exhibitors early! |
| 10:00am - 4:00pm | **Résumé, Reel & Social Media Profile Critique Stations**  
You’ll get instant feedback from professionals in the field to help you put your best foot forward! |

### Free HIV Testing

**9:00am - 1:00pm**

**Free HIV Testing**

Doing it — testing for HIV — can give you important information and help keep you — and others — safe. The Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies, a national non-profit health organization headquartered in New Orleans, will be providing complimentary HIV testing from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

### CNN Institute

**9:00am - 1:30pm**

**CNN Institute**  
(Pre-registration required)

Frenchman II

During this full-day, small group workshop, digital writers and editors will build skills and apply practical techniques. Topics include winning at breaking news, building a digital strategy, editorial decision making and CNN’s coverage of the LGBTQ community. Senior managers, on-air coaches and CNN correspondents will teach and challenge attendees on what it takes to make it to the network.

### In Conversation with Mo Rocca & Rand Morrison

**9:30am - 10:45am**

**In Conversation with Mo Rocca & Rand Morrison**

LaSalle A

While there are more platforms than ever before, broadcast television still has an important “big tent” role. It may be the closest thing left to a town square. While cable news serves specialized audiences (who have often already made up their minds), broadcast news has to talk to an audience with a wide range of backgrounds and opinions. “CBS Sunday Morning” Executive Producer Rand Morrison and Correspondent Mo Rocca talk about the exciting challenge of keeping a big and varied audience engaged during a time of more and more options.

### Bringing Your Best Self On Air

**11:00am - 12:00pm**

**Bringing Your Best Self On Air**

Pelican I

Moderator: Mekahlo Medina

Panelists: Andrés Brender, Joe Fryer, Femi Redwood, Jana Shortal

Broadcast journalists discuss the challenges and rewards of being out in the newsroom and in the community. Hear how they have maneuvered successfully in their careers, how they balance LGBTQ+ coverage and the rewards of authentically being themselves in front of and behind the camera.

### Investigating LGBTQ History

**11:00am - 12:00pm**

**Investigating LGBTQ History**

Pelican II

Panelists: Robert Fieseler, Pete Madden, Ken Miguel

Until the massacre at the Pulse Nightclub, it was the deadliest mass murder of LGBTQ people in U.S. history. Most people have never heard of the fire that killed 32 people at the Up Stairs Lounge in New Orleans, until recently. The journalists who are bringing this story to life share how they dug through the past to tell update this dark chapter in our history.

### Podcasts: Finding Your Own Voice

**11:00am - 12:00pm**

**Podcasts: Finding Your Own Voice**

Acadian

Panelists: Christina Cauterucci, Sonali Glinton, Lara Sydell

So you’ve come to the realization that you’re not Jonathan Van Ness or one of the Two Dope Queens, but you still want to host your own fabulous podcast? Turns out you can! Creating and recording a podcast is easier than ever, but how do you find your voice and set yourself apart when new podcasts are being launched every day? From selecting your beat to establishing your format, each decision along the way is critical in establishing your behind-the-mic brand. Ask our panel of podcasters how they got started on their own podcast projects and what you can do to establish your own voice.
12:00pm - 1:30pm

Take time to visit the expo!

1:30pm - 3:15pm

Straight Money Talk with Suze Orman

Join us as the world’s Money Matriarch, Suze Orman, brings her no-nonsense money moves to our stage. She will be rocking the house with unique money advice that every one of us needs to know so we can be more and have more. You’ll be able to ask questions, get personalized answers, and maybe — just maybe — you will witness a true “Suze Smackdown!” You never know what can happen when Suze Orman takes the stage. Learn, laugh, and live your richest life in this one-of-a-kind, priceless event.

Sponsored by AARP® Real Possibilities

3:15pm - 4:00pm

Coffee Break Café

Sponsored by TOYOTA

3:45pm - 4:45pm

New Ways: HIV Is More Than Black and White
Moderator: Femi Redwood
Panelists: Dorian-Gray Alexander, Jesse Ehrenfeld
Learn HIV news skills and strategies for any beat. We delve into Louisiana — such as its high rates of incidence, the need to get the word out about U=U, relative low rates of PrEP — for case studies of strong and untold stories, with implications and ideas for coverage beyond the Pelican State while showing how you can get info for your area. Plus we’ll examine winning techniques for telling the human sides of these stories and more. Come away with new data, investigative, feature writing and other journalism techniques. This New Ways New Orleans session is part of NLGJA’s work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Partnering and Communicating Together (PACT) to Act Against AIDS, with the campaign shifting to Let’s Stop HIV Together.

Sponsored by

Producing Documentaries and the Future of Long-Form Storytelling
Panelists: David Begnaud, Shane O’Neill, Khaled Sayed, Alex Schuman
Demand is high for documentaries both in video and podcast form. Long-form programming presents a chance for newsrooms to follow up on big stories of the past and highlight our communities with in-depth, character-based storytelling. Learn from documentary filmmakers and investigative reporters about how to produce independent documentaries and how to create opportunities in your newsroom for this increasingly popular storytelling style.

Sponsored by

How I Survived as a Freelancer
Panelists: Cheryl Gerber, Kristina Marusic, Beth McDonough
Whether you’re just starting out or want to up your game as a freelancer, this panel will provide insights about pitching stories, building relationships, managing time, invoicing for your work and ensuring that you get paid, file taxes and practice self care. We’ll also discuss best practices and how to avoid common pitfalls, and there will plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Sponsored by

Looking Back...
NLGJA 2014
Chicago, Illinois
As part of an initiative funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Partnering and Communicating Together to Act Against AIDS program, NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists is presenting journalism training and offering resources to enhance strategies and skills in covering HIV & AIDS.

Since 2016, NLJGA has provided a series of in-person trainings in Atlanta, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Palm Springs and at this convention in New Orleans at 3:45 pm on Friday. You can check out trainings and other resources at www.nlgja.org/newways. And don’t miss out on the chance to get tested for HIV from 9 am to 1 pm Friday.

We also are offering fellowships for journalists to get a stipend to produce news stories on HIV & AIDS. Learn more at www.nlgja.org/newways/fellowships.

These resources are designed to equip journalists to cover issues and trends related to HIV & AIDS in new ways while reiterating the time-tested basics of talking, testing and treatment. Journalists can better serve their viewers, readers and listeners with important information, especially those in communities and geographic areas most impacted by HIV & AIDS.

Want to be alerted about upcoming New Ways trainings? Have a suggestion on a New Ways training topic?

Email us at NewWays@nlgja.org.
### 5:00pm - 6:00pm

**Keeping Journalists Safe**

Panelists: Maria Salazar Ferro, Sean Taylor

Fires, hurricanes, tornadoes and floods, oh my! That’s just the start of the list of safety issues journalists are facing in 2019. This panel will look at how you can keep safe from natural and unnatural disasters, whether you are covering a political rally, mass shooting or a firestorm.

Sponsored by **SAG-AFTRA**.

**Reporting on Bi+ Identities**

Panelists: Fiona Dawson, Kristina Marusic, Beth Reynolds

This session will cover which identities fall under the bi+ umbrella; review the disparities facing the bi+ community within the greater LGBTQ+ community; discuss the differences between sexual orientation, gender identity and relationship model preference (monogamy vs. polyamory, etc.); review relevant terminology; and discuss best practices for reporting on bi+ identities. There will also be time for Q&A throughout the session.

Sponsored by

**Don’t Call It Art! The Importance of Visuals**

Panelists: Renee Melides, Cody McCloy, Akasha Rabut, Rachael Zimmerman

Don’t call it art! More than just window dressing, photography and visuals are a vital part of the editorial process, and getting them wrong is just as bad as misquoting someone in a story. In this panel we’ll provide a frank discussion on choosing imagery and subjects. We’ll discuss all aspects of imagery as part of the storytelling process from theory and sources to photo selection, with a special emphasis on diversity not only in who we show in our photos, but who we hire to take them.

### 6:00pm - 7:30pm

**Diversity Reception**

Join us as NLGJA and Prudential Financial salute the value of diversity in newsrooms and America as a whole. We honor our partners in diversity who share our dedication to fair and accurate coverage of our communities and bring us together.

Sponsored by **Prudential**

### 7:00pm - 10:00pm

**Womens+ Networking Dinner** *(Advanced ticket purchase required)*

Join us for an evening of fellowship out and about in New Orleans. Fantastic food. Fantastic friends. Fantastic fun. A $50 ticket is required to attend. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis and will be on sale at registration in the LaSalle Ballroom Prefunction through 5:00pm or until they are sold out.

Looking Back...

**NLGJA 2017**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
8:30am - 9:30am
Trans & Nonbinary Morning Meet-Up

9:30am - 10:45am
Stonewall50
Moderator: Cathy Renna
Panelists: David Begnaud, Raymond Braun, Shane O’Neill

2019 has seen historic and unprecedented media attention on LGBTQ Pride events, from World Pride in New York and the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. From accurate and inclusive coverage of our community’s history to deeper, nuanced exploration of the issues facing LGBTQ people around the world to divisions within the community on what Pride means today, this plenary will explore from behind the scenes how the coverage played out. Join for a robust discussion of the hits, misses and ongoing challenges of covering our diverse community.

11:00am - 12:00pm
Coping with Trauma
Moderator: David McAlpine
Panelists: Evan Lambert, Blake McCoy, Casey Stegall

Shootings, floods, fires, crime, courtroom drama — journalism is often about covering someone’s worst day, every day. Studies show up to one in eight journalists can show signs of stress or PTSD on the job. We’ll discuss coping strategies, what not to do after returning home and how people can seek help in their newsrooms.

Sponsored by Google Tools
Presenter: Benét Wilson

Bring your laptop to this interactive session where you will learn how to use Google News Initiative to research, fact check and enhance your stories. There will be a demonstration of tools including Advanced Search, Image Search, Google Scholar, Google Maps, Google Earth, Google Translate and Google Trends.

The Art of Telling LGBTQ Stories in Mainstream Media
Moderator: Sara Johnson
Panelist: Christina Kahrl

Every major media company works to create great content, but how do they work to tell LGBTQ stories that are both authentic and accessible to mainstream audiences? On an editorial or content-creation level, what role can LGBTQ writers, producers and editors have in helping their media outlet tell our stories effectively? What have been some of the challenges experienced? How can LGBTQ employees at a mainstream media company make a positive impact on coverage through employee resource groups, and how can they help create productive relationships with straight cisgender allies and coworkers?

Sponsored by ESPN

12:00pm - 1:00pm
Lunch on your own

1:00pm - 2:15pm
Food Journalism: A Recipe for Success

Food journalism addresses American politics, immigrant culture, booming (or bust) local economies, the impact of lab created or genetically modified foods and everything in-between. In an era of influencers and online reviews, the voice of authority is up for grabs. Although the topics may range from finding the best burger in America to the finding indigenous communities that forage rare ingredients, hard investigative skills are still required to deliver accurate and compelling stories. Beyond sticking to a journalist’s ethical responsibilities, language plays a more powerful role than ever. Are you choosing words that help or hurt your message? Join members from the Association of Food Journalists for this exploration of current best practices in food journalism.
### 2:30pm - 3:30pm

**Having an Opinion**  
*Pelican I*

Panelists: Derrick Clifton, Frank Rizzo, Lena Wilson

Scrolling through Twitter, it seems like every cool person has a hot take these days. Who could forget that saucy review of Guy Fieri's Times Square dining disaster? But what is like to make your living from being opinionated or critical? Even if it's not your full-time gig, how should you be using your voice and perspective to your advantage? How do you use your voice in professional settings (rather than just in your snarky tweets) and what does it all mean in a world saturated with unsolicited commentary about everything from "Old Town Road" to the "Cats" trailer? Is there a difference between how it used to be done and the opinion pieces of today?

**Producing for the Future**  
*Pelican II*

Panelists: Jeremy Campbell, Ryan Wood

Gone are the days of audiences choosing to watch traditional news in traditional ways. Move over, Ron Burgandy. Get your creativity flowing in this interactive session featuring innovative tricks and tips that all content producers can use to create compelling stories that stand out in a saturated market of news and information.

**Queer Quota**  
*Acadian*

Panelists: Dell Alänn, Bob Bicknell, Ramon Escobar, Luis Giraldo, Eden Lane

Is it enough to have LGBTQ representation based solely on sexual/gender identity, or is it more important that they be “obviously” LGBTQ? What constitutes diversity in a newsroom and on-air? What does representation mean?

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### 3:00pm - 3:45pm

**Coffee Break Café**  
*Sponsored by TOYOTA*  
*Pelican Prefunction*

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### 3:45pm - 4:45pm

**Author's Café**  
*Pelican I*

Panelists: Kumari Devarajan, Brian Pellot, Jonathan Vatner

Come hear from LGBTQ authors as they share their latest and greatest with the opportunity to engage in intimate conversation.

**Are We Journalists or Activists?**  
*Pelican II*

Panelists: Bryan Lowder, Bobby Magill, Daniel Villarreal

Whenever LGBTQ journalists write about the queer community, we face a thorny question: Where do our loyalties lie? Many of us like reporting complex stories and making nuanced arguments. But what happens when that complexity or nuance has the potential to make our community look “bad,” or at least look messier, in the eyes of outsiders? Are we willing to upset the GLAADs of the world when our reporting, analysis, or opinion work falls outside of “official guidelines” and standard movement narratives, or should we always follow their lead in service of the cause? Whether we think of ourselves as journalists, activists, or both, this panel will help us navigate the tricky business of writing about the LGBTQ community with honesty and depth, while also wanting the best for it.

**Business Journalism for Beginners**  
*Acadian*

Panelists: Julia Carpenter, Sonari Glinton, Chris Martin, Steven Overly, Dominic Rushe

Business journalism has seldom been more important. Finance has been at the heart of major stories from Trump to Brexit in recent years. There are stories behind every company report, the monthly jobs report, the latest government figures on growth. The financial decisions companies make and the economic and trade policies that governments pursue have a direct impact on everyone’s life. But many journalists — and readers — find tackling finance stories daunting and are sometimes unsure of where to look for the facts that matter and how to interpret them. The panel will look at how to bring finance and economics stories to life, making concrete how business and economics affects real people’s lives.

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Looking Back...
NLGJA 2007
San Diego, California
PRIDE IN OUR WORK

Reuters has a long-standing commitment to diversity in the workplace and proudly supports the work of the NLGJA.

JOIN US! To learn more about Reuters journalism and job opportunities visit reut.rs/careers.
5:00pm - 6:00pm

**Done with TG 101: Moving Beyond the Basics of Covering Transgender Lives in the Media**

Panelists: Gillian Branstetter, Lana Day, Bethany Grace Howe, Camilla Marchena

In recent years, coverage of transgender people has seen an increase, but it seems that journalists continue to slip into the same stories and stereotypes in both mainstream and LGBTQ media. It’s high time that we look at our blind spots and take stock of which aspects of trans lives still need to be covered. From trans representation in stories to challenges related to healthcare, this panel of experts will shed light and give story ideas to elevate your coverage.

**The Beat of Music in the Big Easy...and Beyond**

Panelists: Jeff Nelson, Keith Spera

Music hums at the heart of entertainment and popular culture. In New Orleans, a city famous for its strong musical heritage, we hear from industry veterans who explore the world of music entertainment journalism and criticism from the view onstage and backstage.

**Let’s Talk Politics**

Moderator: Kristina Torres

Panelists: Sabrina Eaton, Jeremy Peters, Eugene Scott

Politics touches every one of our beats in one way or another, especially in the lead-up to the election. And even if it’s not our normal beat, it’s likely that many of us will be pulled onto election coverage whether we like it or not. We’ll explore how to cover this and other elections, whether it’s your beat or not, talk about the easiest way to get data, the best ways to navigate political language and the simplest way to build sources to help you get a story that goes beyond the political horse race of who is ahead in the polls.

6:00pm - 7:00pm

**Lifetime Members Reception**

Our Lifetime Membership program celebrates a dedication and commitment to fair and accurate coverage of LGBTQ issues by NLGJA members who have devoted their talents and support, not just for today, but for a lifetime. For more information, stop by the registration desk at the convention or visit the Membership Section of NLGJA’s website at nlgja.org. Become a Lifetime Member during convention and join us at this invitation-only reception that includes a special gift!

Sponsored by

7:00pm - 9:00pm

**NLGJA 2019 Closing Reception**

Visit with friends and colleagues. Have a beverage from the bar. Bid on some fabulous auction items. Relax and unwind after a full weekend of activities and learning.

The NLGJA 2019 Closing Reception will cap off this year’s convention with the annual Auction and Awards Reception, where we will present our highest honors.

9:30am - 10:30am

**NLGJA Board of Directors Meeting**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

August 29 - September 1, 2019 | New Orleans, Louisiana | 47
DELL ALÄNN is a producer for CBS News in Los Angeles. He's been with the network for five years and, prior to joining CBS, he worked in various news markets and was an assignment producer at NBC News. Alänn is a native of New Jersey. He is a proud Pirate and graduate of East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.

DORIAN-GRAY ALEXANDER is a self-made expert on living with HIV since 2006 and an activist who embraces life. He hosts “The Proof Positive Show” on WHIV-LP 102.3 FM community radio, www.whivfm.org, in New Orleans. Committed to public service and social justice, he serves on many community boards. He can also be seen hitting the streets as a 610 Stomper, a 100-man strong all-male dance group.

MADI ALEXANDER is a data reporter for Bloomberg Government in Washington D.C., where she covers Congress, elections and campaign finance. She is originally from Moore, Oklahoma, and has a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri. Alexander keeps a database of the national parks and historical sites she's visited, which so far is 38.

JASON ANDERS is chief news editor at the Wall Street Journal, where he oversees their daily news report. Anders has been at WSJ for nearly 20 years. He was one of the WSJ's first online reporters and wrote about the early days of online investing. He went on to cover technology and politics from New York and Washington, and eventually served as technology editor and then business editor. He previously worked at the Chicago Tribune.

KAREN BAILIS is a senior news editor at Newsday, where she has helped oversee the features and news copy desks. She also has worked on the sports and national/foreign desks. She's always been a stickler for proper grammar and the facts and enjoys a clever pun, wordplay and the lyrics of Stephen Sondheim and David Yazbek.

KATIE BARNES is an award-winning journalist for ESPN and espnW, covering culture, LGBTQ issues, women's basketball, collegiate softball and women's combat sports. Since joining ESPN in August 2015, Barnes has written on myriad topics, such as transgender athletes, campus sexual assault, sports leagues incursion into public policy, racial justice and Hollywood stunt doubles. Their article on two high school transgender athletes earned them a GLAAD Award nomination for Outstanding Magazine Article. Barnes holds a degree in history, Russian studies and American studies from St. Olaf College, and master's degree in student affairs and higher education from Miami University (Ohio). They were the 2017 NLGJA Journalist of the Year.

DAVID BEGNAUD is the lead national correspondent for “CBS This Morning” based in New York. He joined the network in 2015 and his reporting, featured across all CBS News broadcasts and platforms including “CBS This Morning,” the “CBS Evening News,” “48 Hours,” CBS Sunday Morning” and CBSN, has earned him some of journalism’s most prestigious awards. He often uses long-form storytelling in longer pieces for regular broadcasts as well as original documentaries.
BOB BENNETT is senior producer for WAVY-TV/WBTV-TV in Norfolk, Virginia. He has 26 years of television experience, and has won numerous Emmys and an Edward R. Murrow award for news coverage. Bennett also worked at WJLA-TV, where he produced the 6:00 newscast, as well as worked with the web team to increase the station’s Facebook fan base by more than 100,000 users in less than a year. Besides expertise in social media, Bennett also specializes in severe weather coverage and breaking news. Outside of work, Bennett mentors young producers and reporters, critiquing their work and preparing them for a future in television news. He is also a lifetime member of NLGJA, as well as a member of the Society of Professional Journalists.

BOB BICKNELL is the senior executive producer for CBS News Newspath – CBS News, a satellite news gathering organization, which provides news and information to 200-plus CBS affiliates nationwide and to broadcasters around the world. Previously, Bicknell was a senior producer and producer for Newspath, writing and producing correspondent coverage of breaking news, including the 2012 presidential campaigns and election night. During his 18 years at CBS, he also served as senior producer/managing editor of “The Early Show” and senior producer for “CBS News Up to the Minute,” formerly the network’s overnight news broadcast. He began his career at CBS writing, producing and editing for “Up to the Minute,” while concurrently filing daily as the nationally syndicated technology reporter for KXLY-AM in Philadelphia. Bicknell is a graduate of the University of Delaware.

SIMON BOUIE is a national Emmy Award-winning producer of the “CBS Evening News” in the Los Angeles bureau. A native of Los Angeles and graduate of the University of La Verne, Bouie began his career at KCBS in 1999 where he started as a production assistant. He would go on to become an assignment editor and occasional undercover investigative producer. In 2005, Bouie joined CBS Network News as a booker and associate producer for “The Early Show.” In 2014, Bouie’s responsibilities shifted primarily to “CBS Evening News” as an associate producer and digitalarchivist. In 2017, Bouie was promoted to producer for the “CBS Evening News,” a position he continues to hold.

GILLIAN BRANSTETTER is the media relations manager for the National Center for Transgender Equality. In this role, she helps answer questions from journalists and members of the press about policies, issues and campaigns led by NCTE. She connects reporters with NCTE’s team of policy experts working on health-care access, employment protections, identification documents and many more issues faced by transgender people today. Branstetter also has the privilege of working with transgender people from around the country to promote their stories and ensure news coverage of their experiences is accurate and fair.

RAYMOND BRAUN is an award-winning media personality, producer and journalist. Most recently, Braun executive produced and hosted the documentary “State of Pride,” with Academy Award-winning filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. Braun has hosted TV series for MTV and Logo and covered events ranging from the Republican and Democratic conventions to the aftermath of the Pulse shooting in Orlando. He has been named a Forbes “30 Under 30 Global All Star,” the No. 1 most influential LGBTQ talent in the world by the Financial Times Pride Power Rankings and “one of the preeminent queer advocates of his generation” by Out. He was one of 50 media personalities to be invited by President Barack Obama to the White House’s inaugural “Digital Innovators Summit.” Braun is regularly interviewed and quoted on LGBTQ issues, social justice, politics and Pride.

ANDRÉS BRENDER is a news reporter for Telemundo News 48, a local news station that serves the Spanish-speaking community in the Bay Area in California. As part of the Telemundo 48 team, Brender reports breaking news and the stories that are most important to Bay Area viewers. Prior to joining Telemundo 48, Brender worked for different stations and channels, including the local Telemundo station in Los Angeles and the television channels América TeVe, Estrella, Globosat’s TeleAzteca, NatGeo and Network Ten in Australia. Brender won an Emmy for his report “Del Reto a la Superación.” Brender earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Emerson College and has two master’s degrees, one in international relations and another in international security, from the University of Sydney in Australia. Brender is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

RAILLAN BROOKS (he/him) joined The New York Times in 2017, and became the leader of the team that assigns, edits and designs the recently redesigned A2/A3 pages in the print edition. He was previously an assistant editor at Audubon — a nonprofit magazine for bird lovers (of which he is not one). He left for HuffPost, where he became an associate editor and researcher for the Highline project, HuffPost’s home for long, deep-dive enterprise. He is now an editor on The Times’s Culture desk, where he works on the daily culture news report as well as the Weekend and Arts & Leisure sections. Brooks has a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University where he studied sociology, geography and physics. In his first journalism gig, as a reporter for an urban planning trade publication, all three came in handy. Perhaps unsurprisingly, his second job, as a news blogger and crime reporter for the late, lamented Village Voice, didn’t make much use of any of them.

SALLY BUZBEE is the executive editor and senior vice president of The Associated Press. She led the AP’s Washington bureau for six years and was AP’s Middle East regional editor based in Cairo from 2004 to 2009, leading coverage of the Iraq war, Iran and other Mideast issues. She previously was a reporter and editor in Washington D.C., Los Angeles, San Diego, Kansas City and Topeka, covering issues including business, education, politics and national security. She is a journalism graduate of the University of Kansas and holds an MBA from Georgetown University.

JEREMY CAMPBELL is a reporter focused on impactful, innovative storytelling. He helped reinvent the formula for local news with “Atticus,” TEGNA’s investigative team that crafts docu-series reports about hard-to-talk-about issues. Their digital docs about drug abuse in wealthy suburbs, American sex trafficking and the maternal mortality crisis among black women have been seen by more than 17 million viewers. His reporting career began in the winds of change after Hurricane Katrina. He created a documentary about New Orleans life after the storm that led to his first on-air job as a reporter/anchor at KLKY in Lafayette, Louisiana. He is currently based at WXIA in Atlanta where his work is shared with TEGNA’s 41 markets nationwide.

VANESSA CARR KENNEDY is a New Orleans musician, drag performer and advocate for the LGBT community. In 2017, Vanessa was named Saint Vanessa of the Betwixt and Between by the Big Easy Sisters for her work with them and her support of the LGBT community. Kennedy also holds the titles of Miss Louisiana Leatherette 2016, Miss New Orleans Pride 2016 and Miss Tulane Avenue Bar, Emeritus. Vanessa Carr Presents participates in and coordinates “Drag Queen Story Hour” at the Alvar Branch Library in New Orleans. VCP also produces several other drag performances, brunches, as well as social and private events.
JULIA CARPENTER is a reporter at The Wall Street Journal, where she covers personal finance. She has reported on culture, gender, business and more for publications including The Washington Post, CNN Business and Glamour, among others. Her work at CNN Business won a 2019 Excellence in Journalism Award from NLGJA.

CHRISTINA CAUTERUCCI is a staff writer at Slate, where she covers gender, politics and culture. She hosts “The Waves,” a podcast about women and feminism and “Outward,” a podcast about LGBTQ culture. Her work has appeared in the Washington Post, HuffPost, Washington City Paper and NPR. A two-time Georgetown University graduate, Cauterucci lives in Washington, D.C.

JEN CHRISTENSEN is an award-winning journalist who has worked in the business for 20-plus years and is the immediate past president of NLGJA and current national board vice president of digital and print. She writes stories for CNN.com and produces TV segments for CNN Dr. Sanjay Gupta that focus on medical topics and climate change. Christensen’s work has earned some of the highest awards in broadcasting — the Peabody and DuPont, producing Christiane Amanpour’s “God’s (Jewish) Warriors.” She produced several other award-winning documentaries, including “MLK’s Words That Changed a Nation,” a documentary in which she held the actual copy of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech; Soledad O’Brien’s “Black in America,” “Sarah Palin Revealed,” “Generation Islam” and “Obama Revealed.” She’s won writing awards and has earned several leadership awards including CNN’s Ovation Award for Outstanding Service to Diversity and Inclusion and Go Magazine’s 100 Women We Love. In her spare time, she freelances as a reporter and photographer for print and digital publications. She’s co-authored chapters in the books “Women Public Speakers” and “Women Confronting Retirement.”

MEREDITH D. CLARK, PH.D. is an assistant professor in the Department of Media Studies at the University of Virginia. She spent 10 years working in print and digital news media before making the transition into academia. Clark’s research, teaching and professional writing focuses on the intersections of race, media, and power. She is the lead researcher for the American Society of News Editors’ annual Newsroom Diversity Survey. In 2015, she was named No. 66 on TheRoot’s Root 100, a list of the 100 most influential African Americans under 40 in the country. She was one of the inaugural co-contributors to Poynter.org’s diversity column.

DERRICK CLIFTON is an independent/freelance journalist and media consultant specializing in the intersections of identity, culture, entertainment, politics and social justice movements. With 10-plus years of experience in opinion journalism, digital media, corporate and political communications and nonprofit board work, Clifton is a recognized social critic, essayist and media strategist most known for examining beyond the surface to address the root cause of vital challenges and difficult discussion topics. Clifton also serves as the communications manager of ProPublica Illinois, the award-winning nonprofit investigative newsroom and the first regional operation of ProPublica. Previously, they worked in digital reporting and editing roles, as well as media relations and public affairs with teams at a major energy company, on campaigns and at an international public relations agency. A Master of Science in Journalism graduate of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, Clifton remains a frequent writer, speaker and commentator. They began their career in the news media as an editor of The Daily Northwestern, with work eventually appearing or being featured by NBC News, The New York Times, Vox, The Los Angeles Times, The Root, The Griot, PBS Newshour, MSNBC, Out, Them, The Advocate, and more.

JOHN COLUCCI is the senior director, social media for Sinclair Broadcast Group, overseeing social media strategy, education, partnerships, projects and curation and creation of content for all of the company’s TV stations and digital properties. In addition to his leadership role, Colucci is an on-camera personality, appearing as a social media reporter for KOMO-TV in Seattle and other Sinclair stations, and previously was a regular contributor to HuffPost Live. Colucci also has spoken at conferences such as South by Southwest, National Association of Black Journalists and NLGJA. Colucci leaped into the world of social media in 2011 while then in a project management role at Virgin America, and led numerous creative marketing initiatives for the fledgling airline. A native of Edison, New Jersey, Colucci now resides in Seattle.

FIONA DAWSON is an award-winning director, producer, writer and IFP documentary lab fellow. She directed the Emmy-nominated “Transgender, at War and in Love” commissioned by The New York Times, co-directed the award-winning feature documentary, “TransMilitary” and directed the bisexual themed short film, “More Than He Knows,” which is currently making festival rounds. Dawson is in production for her online hosted show sharing positive stories of people working to end stigma and discrimination, “NOW with Fiona” for Tagg Communications. In 2015, Dawson was honored by The White House as an LGBT Artist Champion of Change. She was voted Houston’s Female Grand Marshal for the 2009 LGBT Pride Parade, has served on the board of directors of the Human Rights Campaign and the board of directors of NLGJA. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she is director of Free Lion Productions.

LANA DAY (she/her) is a senior at St. Martin’s Episcopal School. She is passionate about the representation of transgender people in arts and media.

“A major contribution to gay history.”
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The Life of RANDY SHILTS
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JAN DIEHM is a journalist engineer at The Pudding, where she wields data and design to craft visual essays. She appreciates the finer things in life: LEGO sets, Southern delicacies such as pimento cheese and fried green tomatoes and vintage Britney Spears. She’s had stops at CNN, the Guardian US, ABC News and the Hartford Courant, among others.

DAVID DOUGLAS is an NBC News producer based in Los Angeles. From there, he works on stories you see on “NBC Nightly News,” “TODAY” and NBCNews.com. In addition to covering news in the American West, he focuses some of his time covering environmental issues for the network with Chief Environmental Affairs correspondent Anne Thompson. Recently, he traveled to the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea to look at how an endangered species of bird holds promise to help the two countries find a reason to cooperate. Prior to joining NBC News, he was a senior producer for the Al Jazeera Media Network. He is an alumnus of Elon University.

SHARIF DURHAMS is president of NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists. He is a senior editor for news and alerting for CNN Digital, where oversees daily planning decisions for CNN’s desktop homepage and mobile alerts. Durhams was previously a homepage editor at The Washington Post, where he helped to structure coverage of the 2016 Olympics and election and directed homepage breaking news planning after the shooting of four police officers in Dallas and the announcement of Fidel Castro’s death. His team helped The Washington Post surpass The New York Times in digital traffic for the first time. The Post won the Online News Association’s General Excellence in Online Journalism award in 2015.

SABRINA EATON is currently the one-woman Washington, D.C., bureau for the largest media outlet in a key political state: Cleveland.com and The Plain Dealer of Cleveland. She covers everything in Washington that affects Ohio, from Congress to the Supreme Court to the Trump administration. She shoots photos and videos in addition to writing. National media outlets regularly pick up her scoops. She’s won journalism awards from the National Press Foundation, Society of American Business Editors and Writers, Associated Press Society of Ohio and Cleveland Press Club. Her television appearances include “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer,” “Hardball with Chris Matthews,” “The TODAY Show” and others.

DEBBI EBALOBO (she/her) is a senior manager, Brand and Business Communications for The Coca-Cola Company. She started her Coca-Cola journey at the Glaceau office in New York City before moving to Atlanta. Most recently in her role, she led strategic storytelling across Coca-Cola North America’s stills portfolio, which include brands such as smartwater, Dasani, Powerade, Zico, vitaminwater and more. She was born and raised in the Philippines. At age 9, Ebalobo’s family moved to Scotland and a couple of years later, made the trek to Georgia. Her journey of being a first-generation Filipino immigrant drives her passion of increasing Asian-American visibility and educational/professional opportunities for underrepresented communities.

JESSE M. EHRENFELD, M.D., MPH, is the chair of the American Medical Association. He is also the Joseph A. Johnson Jr. Distinguished Leadership Professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in the departments of anesthesiology, surgery, biomedical informatics and health policy. He was elected to the American Medical Association Board of Trustees in 2014.

DEBBI EBALOBO is an NBC News producer based in Los Angeles. From there, he works on stories you see on “NBC Nightly News,” “TODAY” and NBCNews.com. In addition to covering news in the American West, he focuses some of his time covering environmental issues for the network with Chief Environmental Affairs correspondent Anne Thompson. Recently, he traveled to the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea to look at how an endangered species of bird holds promise to help the two countries find a reason to cooperate. Prior to joining NBC News, he was a senior producer for the Al Jazeera Media Network. He is an alumnus of Elon University.

RAMON ESCOBAR is vice president of talent recruitment and development for CNN Worldwide. He is responsible for the recruitment of all on and off-air talent for CNN U.S., CNN International, CNN en Español and HLN. He also advances the internal development of all anchors, correspondents, contributors and producers. Escobar is based out of New York City and has held his position of vice president of talent recruitment and development since 2012. He also served as the vice president of diversity and inclusion for CNN Worldwide from January 2017 to June 2019, and continues to play a vital role in diversity and inclusion efforts for WarnerMedia News and Sports, the parent company of CNN.

ROMAN FEESER is an award-winning digital producer and social media manager for “CBS Sunday Morning with Jane Pauley.” Before entering his dream job at “Sunday,” he worked as a digital producer for “CBS Evening News.” He has written for the Advocate.

ROBERT W. FIESELER is a journalist and the debut author of “Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Upstairs Lounge Fire and the Rise of Gay Liberation”—winner of the Edgar Award in Best Fact Crime and finalist for the Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction. Fieseler graduated co-veladictorian from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and is a recipient of the Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship. A proud gay American, he married his longtime partner at Walden Pond and resides in New Orleans.

KEVIN FLYNN is an executive producer at CNBC. He currently produces “Fast Money.” Flynn joined CNBC in 2010. He has been instrumental in producing several key events for the network, including CNBC’s 2011 and 2015 Republican Presidential Debates, CNBC’s “Stock Draft” and numerous primetime specials. Flynn also serves as co-lead of CNBC’s OUT@NBCUniversal chapter. Prior to joining CNBC, Flynn worked on the digital team at NBC News. Flynn holds a degree from New York University.

RICHARD FOWLER is a political analyst for Fox News, where he frequently co-anchors “The Five” and appears on “The Story with Martha McCallum,” “America’s Newsroom,” “The Daily Briefing with Dana Perino,” “Fox News @ Night” and “Kennedy” on the Fox Business Network. In 2018, Fox News named him a co-host of their “All-American New Year Eve Show” in Times Square. Fowler is an advocate for youth and social policy reform. Fowler is the former executive director of Generational Alliance, a progressive youth engagement organization. Fowler currently chairs the Center for Black Equity’s Leadership Council and is a staple on SiriusXM Progress, hosting “Progress Presents” and filling in on its popular drive-time morning show, “Make It Plain.”

JOE FRYER joined NBC News in 2013. He is a correspondent based in Los Angeles, reporting for “NBC Nightly News,” “TODAY” and MSNBC. He has covered some of the world’s biggest stories, including the Las Vegas mass shooting, Hurricane Harvey and the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang. He has also interviewed some of the world’s biggest stars, including Madonna, Celine Dion and Jennifer Lopez. Before joining the network, he reported for KING 5 News. Fryer also worked at KARE-TV in Minneapolis, WTVF-TV in Nashville, WBAY-TV in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and WKYT-TV in Lexington, Kentucky. Fryer’s a proud graduate of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism. He has been honored with four National Edward R. Murrow Awards. He has been nominated for two National Emmys and has won 19 regional Emmys. His awards shelf also includes 11 regional Murrows, two National Headliners and three Sigma Delta Chi Awards.

KENDIS GIBSON joined MSNBC in 2019 as a weekend anchor for “MSNBC Live” on Saturdays and Sundays. Previously, Gibson served as anchor of ABC News’ “America This Morning” and “World News Now,” delivering a unique mix of ABC News’ “America This Morning” and “World News Now,” delivering a unique mix of the latest headlines and one-of-a-kind signature segments. His work was seen across all ABC News programming, including “Good Morning America,” “World News Tonight with David Muir,” “Nightline,” “20/20,” “This Week with George Stephanopoulos” and ABC News Digital. Gibson joined ABC News in 2014 as a correspondent and anchor after spending time in local and national networks. Prior to joining ABC News, Gibson served as anchor and reporter based in Washington, D.C., during the Obama presidency. He reported on politics and led coverage of historic events, as well as the deadly Navy Yard shooting and the aftermath and recovery following Hurricane Sandy. He was born and raised in Belize, Central America, and spent his teenage years in Brooklyn, New York.

SONARI GLINTON, the founder of DeLlte! Media, served as a correspondent on NPR’s Business Desk and the ground-breaking NPR podcast “Planet Money.” Glinton began in journalism as producer at WBEZ followed by NPR’s “All Things Considered.” He also began a more than decade-long relationship with Youth Radio, mentoring, teaching and reporting NPR stories with teens. Glinton has been recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists for investigative reporting for his role in uncovering abuse and corruption in Cook County juvenile system, which led to widespread reform in the system. Most recently he received the Edward R. Murrow Award for investigative reporting into President Trump’s business practices. He serves as an adviser to The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies at Boston University.

BETHANY GRACE HOWE, PH.D. is a former newspaper writer and editor, as well as having served as a high school journalism teacher in the Pacific Northwest for 15 years. Having recently completed her doctorate at the University of Oregon, she continues her research into transgender identity as it is impacted by media and interpersonal communications. She serves as a writer for The Syndrome Mag, a feminist humor website, and The Eugene Register-Guard, in Oregon's southern Willamette Valley.

CHRISTINA GINN is an Emmy-winning executive producer for MSNBC’s “Velshi & Ruhle.” For 20 years, she has partnered with some of the top talent in the industry including Ali Velshi, Stephanie Ruhle, Anderson Cooper, Wolf Blitzer, Jake Tapper, Don Lemon, Chris Cuomo, Kate Bolduan, Brooke Baldwin and many other talented anchors, reporters and producers at CNN, NBC, ABC and CBS in local and network television. She played a major role developing new programming and channel architecture for a 24-hour news channel in a highly competitive top-20 market. Ginn was awarded a Peabody Award for her work on the Gulf oil spill and an Emmy for her CNN breaking-news coverage of the Arab Spring. She produced live coverage of terror attacks, wars, hurricanes, earthquakes, state funerals, royal weddings and every presidential election from Bill Clinton’s in 1996 to Donald Trump’s in 2016.

LUIS GIRALDO is a digital journalist at “48 Hours” and CBS News. His content appears on prime-time television, CBSNews.com and all its platforms — from social media to CBS Audio News. At CBS, Giraldo has contributed to historic programming such as “Change and Challenge: The Inauguration of Donald Trump,” the 2016 Pulse Night club network coverage in Orlando and the Murrow Award-winning documentary “39 Days.” Giraldo spent the last year developing podcasts for CBS News and “48 Hours.” For his latest project, he teamed up with the legendary Erin Moriarty for her “My Life of Crime” podcast. Giraldo was born in Bogotá, Colombia, and moved to the United States at age 9, calling Fort Myers, Florida, home. He obtained his degrees in telecommunications, violin performance and Spanish at the University of Florida.

SARA JOHNSON (she/her/hers) is a feature producer responsible for producing and directing a wide range of compelling content for ESPN. Prior to this role, Johnson was espnW’s director of video production focusing on strong female-lead stories for ESPN’s women athletes and fans. She also spent 10 years with Studio Directing on numerous ESPN studio shows and remote events. Before joining ESPN in 2005, Johnson spent several years freelancing and as a publicist for music and non-profit public relations firms. Johnson currently serves as content chair of ESPN EQUAL, an award-winning volunteer business employee resource group of which she is a founder, whose mission is to help foster a workplace where LGBTQ+ employees are accepted, included and welcomed as well as encouraged to share their unique perspectives to best serve fans.
prove that working solo can sometimes give you an edge.

Anchorage, Reno and Chicago, and has earned five regional Emmy Awards for his work. He often trains since 2014. He's worked in South Bend, Indiana; Texas, respectively. She thinks video is the most powerful way to tell stories on safe injection sites and the rise of LGBTQ candidates in mainstream society and sports for ESPN, Cosmo.com, Playboy, the Windy City Times and elsewhere. She has also been active on the boards of GLAAD, Equality Illinois and NLGJA. She has been elected both to the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame and the Gay and Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame. She lives in Connecticut with her wife.

JAWEED KALEEM is a national correspondent at the Los Angeles Times, where he writes about race and ethnicity. He frequently reports on immigrant communities, civil rights and religion, among other issues. Before joining The Times, Kaleem covered religion and general assignment news at HuffPost and the Miami Herald. A graduate of Emerson College, he grew up in Northern Virginia.

Evans Lambert is an award-winning journalist, who joined the Fox 5 News team in July 2017 from Fox-owned WVTI Fox 13 in Tampa, Florida. While covering news in Tampa, with stops along the way in Orlando and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, he reported on numerous stories of national interest. He was the station's lead reporter on one of the hardest stories he has ever had to tell, the Pulse nightclub attack. Lambert's career in broadcast journalism began before he graduated high school as a reporter and anchor for "Teen Perspective 2News," a teen news show at the ABC affiliate in his hometown of Baltimore, where he developed a passion for storytelling. Lambert is a proud graduate of the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism.

TED LAND is a reporter and multimedia video journalist at KING 5 News in Seattle, where he has been shooting, writing and editing stories since 2014. He's worked in South Bend, Indiana; Anchorage, Reno and Chicago, and has earned five regional Emmy Awards for his work. He often trains other journalists on how to elevate the quality of their stories under tight deadlines, get closer to the emotion and prove that working solo can sometimes give you an edge.
PETE MADDEN is a reporter and editor for the ABC News Investigative Unit, which contributes coverage of national security, political corruption and human rights to “Good Morning America,” “World News Tonight with David Muir,” “Nightline,” “20/20” and abcnews.com. Previously, he was a senior producer at Sports Illustrated, where he co-reported the magazine’s “First Golfer” feature about President Donald Trump’s global golf business. Trump called it “fake news” but the Washington Post called “one of the best pieces of political journalism of the Trump age.” He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism.

BOBBY MAGILL is president of the Society of Environmental Journalists and covers energy and public lands for Bloomberg Environment in Washington, D.C. In 2018, he covered the United Nations international climate talks in Katowice, Poland. Previously, he was a senior science writer at Climate Central in New York City and was an environment reporter for newspapers in Colorado and New Mexico. Born and raised in Charleston, South Carolina, he graduated from the College of Charleston in 2001.

CAMILA MARCHENA (she/her/hers) is patient navigator for trans women in the New Orleans area. She also organizes with the community on pushing for the health care trans people deserve. In this role, she also advocates for trans rights and visibility in many different aspects of life, such as health care, housing and employment.

KRISTINA MARUSIC is an award-winning investigative reporter for Environmental Health News, where she covers issues related to environmental health and justice with a focus on Western Pennsylvania. She has previously worked as a freelance journalist covering LGBT equality, feminism, social and environmental justice, activism and politics with bylines at the Washington Post, CNN, Slate, Vice, Women’s Health, Fusion, MTV News, the Advocate, Logo TV’s NewNowNext and Bustle, among others. She also holds an MFA in creative nonfiction, and is the founder and co-president of the Pittsburgh NLGJA chapter.

KATHLEEN MASSARA (she/her) is an editor on the Arts & Leisure section of The New York Times. She was previously a producer on the home page, where she handled breaking news, mobile updates and push notifications. Before her stint on the news desk, she was heavily involved in the arts: as the managing editor of Artnet News, a digital editor at Christie’s.com and the Arts & Culture editor at HuffPost. She holds a master’s degree in cultural reporting and criticism from New York University and a political science degree from McGill University. She has written about Margarita Xirgu, the lesbian actress and director; the artist Isamu Noguchi’s time in an internment camp; the musician Phil Collins’ “pop man’s burden” and the weirdness of U.S. Strategic Command (which exists just outside her hometown of Omaha, Nebraska). At the moment, she’s dreaming of creating the first LGBTQ newsletter at The Times.

CHRIS MARTIN is a cleantech & renewable energy reporter at Bloomberg News.
CHAD MATTHEWS is the vice president and news director at WABC Eyewitness News New York. A 12-year veteran of WABC, Matthews previously worked as assistant news director. He also worked at NBC Miami, where he was assistant news director. Matthews oversees all news gathering and presentation of local news across all of WABC’s platforms.

DAVID McALPINE is an award-winning field producer for Fox News based in Washington, D.C. He covers the transportation beat for the network, and contributes to and coordinates breaking news, political and special events coverage. Before moving to Fox, McAlpine produced the top-rated 5 p.m. newscast at WPVI-TV in Philadelphia. He started his career at KTLA-TV in Los Angeles as an entertainment producer. He has also produced newscasts and special coverage at KTLA and KIRO-TV in Seattle. McAlpine graduated cum laude from the University of Southern California, where he was an All-American Division I athlete and a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He holds a bachelor’s in broadcast and digital journalism and a bachelor’s in neuroscience.

CODY McCLOY started at CNN.com in 1996, after graduating from the University of Missouri, focused on broadcast journalism. At first, he was hand-tagging HTML for the site, then moved up to a video editor and helped create interactivities. He is a long-serving member of the small, but dedicated Photo desk at CNN Digital, where he works to create a strong visual presence across all of CNN’s digital platforms.

BLAKE McCoy joined Fox 5 DC from NBC News where he was a correspondent covering major national stories. McCoy was among the first national reporters in San Bernardino following the terror attack and has covered multiple mass shootings since, including Orlando and Las Vegas. He covered the water crisis in Flint, controversial police shootings and countless hurricanes, blizzards and tornadoes. There were a few fun stories too, like a dog and cat running for president in Kentucky. Yes, they were on the ballot and McCoy moderated a mock debate with their owners. Before joining NBC News, he anchored newscasts in Minneapolis, Las Vegas and Boise, Idaho.

BETH McDONOUGH has been a professional freelance writer for five years and has nearly a decade of work experience in industries from entertainment to manufacturing. Her work has appeared in publications such as TravelZoo, SheKnows, Bustle, Romper, ParentMap, StepMom Magazine, SyFy Wire and her personal LGBTQ stepparenting blog, The Babbling Blonde (www.babblingblonde.com).

LAUREN McGAUGHY is a state politics reporter for The Dallas Morning News in Austin. She covers the Texas legislature, courts and state agencies, with a focus on criminal justice and LGBTQ rights issues. She previously worked for The Houston Chronicle and The Times-Picayune, covering state politics at both papers. She’s a graduate of Georgetown University and UCLA, where she studied U.S.-Sino relations and Islamic Studies. She likes comic books and cats.

SEAN McLAUGHLIN is vice president of news for The E.W. Scripps Company. His focus is journalistic excellence, audience relevance and digital platforms. Prior to this position, he served as executive news director and creative services director at KMOV in St. Louis. He has additional news management experiences in Minneapolis, Tulsa, Oklahoma and Springfield, Illinois. McLaughlin has a bachelor’s degree in political science and mass communications from Minnesota State University.

MEKAHLO MEDINA is the co-anchor of the NBC4 weekend morning news “Today in LA,” and is also the technology and social media reporter. Medina joined NBC4 in 2006 and is one of the station’s most prolific social networkers. He’s also highly engaged with viewers on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Path, a mobile social network. He uses his news stories across multiple social media platforms in both the digital sphere and on television. He is also known for leveraging the “second screen” experience by encouraging the station’s viewers to engage on Twitter and Facebook. Medina joined NBC4 as an anchor and manager of “News Raw,” a news show that aired on the station’s digital channel, which focused on hyper-local news coverage, culture, technology and social media.

RENEE MELIDES is a photo editor at The New York Times and is currently based in New York. Melides also worked for The Times in both the London and Hong Kong bureaus. Prior to this, she was the deputy photo editor at Monocle Magazine in London. Before venturing into the realm of photo editing, she spent her years as a photojournalist working for clients such as The Financial Times of London, Reuters, Monocle Magazine, The Age, Australian Financial Review and the Sydney Morning Herald, to name a few. In her spare time she also works on her own personal documentary projects and visual stories.

YVETTE M. MILEY is a senior vice president for MSNBC and NBC News, responsible for talent management and development of news personnel both on and off camera. She is the executive in charge of weekend, overnight, breaking news and special events programming on MSNBC, as well as NBC’s “Early Today” broadcasts. Additionally, Miley is the head of diversity and inclusion for NBC News and MSNBC, focused on the retention and recruitment of leading journalists in the industry. Miley also served as executive editor of thegrio.com, a website targeting African Americans. In June 2016, Miley was tapped as executive-in-charge of the NBC News digital platform NBCOUT, the first LGBTQ news vertical created by a major broadcast media organization. Before joining MSNBC and NBC News, Miley was vice president and news director of the Miami/Fort Lauderdale-based NBC-owned and operated television station NBC 6/WTVJ. Miley is the recipient of many of the industry’s highest honors. Miley has received numerous awards, including three Emmy Awards, 10 Edward R. Murrow Awards and the NABJ Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award, among others. Miley is a native of Riviera Beach, Florida and a graduate of the University of Florida.

RAND MORRISON is the executive producer of “CBS Sunday Morning.” He is the winner of 11 Emmy Awards, two George Foster Peabody Awards and two Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards. Under Morrison’s leadership, “CBS Sunday Morning” has earned four Daytime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Morning Program. Before joining “CBS Sunday Morning” in 1999, he served as executive producer of CBS News Productions. Prior to that, Morrison served in senior management positions on several CBS News magazines, including senior broadcast producer for “Public Eye with Bryant Gumbel” and “48 Hours,” and senior producer for “Eye to Eye with Connie Chung.” Before joining “48 Hours,” Morrison was a producer for the Weekend Editions of the “CBS Evening News” and served as a broadcast producer for the “CBS Morning News.” He joined CBS News in 1982 as a writer for “Nightwatch,” the overnight news broadcast, after having held a variety of positions at the Associated Press and United Press International.
ROSS MURRAY is the senior director of education and training at The GLAAD Media Institute, which provides activist, spokesperson and media engagement training and education for LGBTQ and allied community members and organizations desiring to deepen their media impact. Murray uses the best practices perfected by GLAAD to train a new generation of advocates in order to accelerate acceptance for LGBTQ people, as well as other marginalized communities. He specializes in the relationship between religion and LGBTQ people. He has written for and appeared on numerous media outlets, including CNN, MSNBC, Al Jazeera and The Washington Post.

JEFF NELSON joined PEOPLE's editorial team in 2013. He writes and reports breaking news, is live on the red carpet during awards season and covers a wide variety of film, music, TV, celebrity and human interest stories. Nelson has scored exclusive sit-downs with everyone from Barry Manilow to Madonna and, as the front-of-book editor, he manages a team of writers, reporters, designers and photo editors. A Minnesota native, Nelson graduated from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, with a degree in journalism and mass communication. He lives in New York City.

SHANE O’NEILL is a senior video editor at The New York Times. During his tenure at The Times, he has produced the short documentary “Who Threw The Wall?” produced and edited the internet culture series “InterNetting With Amanda Hess,” edited the geopolitics series “The Interpreter” and covered the 2016 U.S. presidential election. O’Neill’s work has won a Silver Medal for Society for News Design, honors for The Times-Picayune. He occasionally freelances for international news and media outlets. Before Taboom, Brian served as Religion News Service’s director of global strategy, as Index on Censorship’s digital policy advisor and as Free Speech Debate’s online editor. He is a volunteer mentor-editor at The OpEd Project.

SEALE PATTERSON has been with the New Orleans Public Library for 20 years, and has managed the Hubbell branch in Algiers Point since 2006. She hosted New Orleans Public Library’s first ever Drag Queen Story Hour in 2017, and has held six story hours at her library since then, and has another scheduled for October. She also serves as the coordinator for many of the Drag Queen Story Hours held at various libraries and other locations across New Orleans.

ADAM K. PAWLUS (he/him/his) is the executive director for NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists, a national association of over 870 journalists, news executives, communications professionals and educators dedicated to ensuring fair and accurate coverage of the LGBTQ community and promoting diversity within newsrooms. Originally from Chicago, Pawlus has over 17 years of association management, conference coordination and communications experience in the Washington, D.C., area. He has a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in political science and speech communications experience in technology, biotechnology and venture capital industries in the Washington metropolitan region. Overly graduated with a master’s degree from Columbia University, where he studied as a Knight-Bagehot Fellow in economics and business journalism, and earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park. He currently resides in Washington, D.C., and serves as president of the local NLGJA chapter.

SUZE ORMAN is the most listened to and respected personal finance expert in the world today. USA Today called her “a force in the world of personal finance” and a “one-woman financial-advice powerhouse.” Time and Forbes both named her as one of the 100 most influential and powerful people in the world. Businessweek named her the top female motivational speaker. Orman is the author of nine consecutive New York Times Best Seller books. A two-time Emmy Award winner, Orman hosted the weekly TV show “The Suze Orman Show,” which aired for 14 years in the U.S. and 18 countries worldwide. She is the most successful, single fundraiser in the history of PBS, raising over $250 million. Orman is immensely proud of her work in the LGBTQ community, including her public support for marriage equality. She received the GLAAD Vito Russo Award for her TV work in promoting equal rights for the LGBTQ community, as well as the HRC National Equality Award.

STEVEN OVERLY covers the intersection of technology, policy and politics for POLITICO. His reporting primarily focuses on Silicon Valley’s efforts to shape public policy in the nation’s capital, and the tech industry’s fraught relationship with Congress and the Trump administration. Prior to joining POLITICO, Overly worked for seven years as a business reporter at The Washington Post, most recently writing and editing news about automation, artificial intelligence and self-driving vehicles. He previously covered the technology, biotechnology and venture capital industries in the Washington metropolitan region. Overly graduated with a master’s degree from Columbia University, where he studied as a Knight-Bagehot Fellow in economics and business journalism, and earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park. He currently resides in Washington, D.C., and serves as president of the local NLGJA chapter.

SEBASTIAN ONTIVEROS is national director of the Multicultural Business Alliance and Strategy Group. As senior manager of consumer engagement for Toyota Motor North America, Ontiveros is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to enhance awareness of the Toyota and Lexus brands among diverse consumer groups across TMNA’s business units. As senior manager of consumer engagement, he is tasked with developing, cultivating and overseeing a portfolio of strategic national partnerships that include Hispanic, Asian American, LGBTQ and the millennial demographics to ensure continued growth in TMNA’s community outreach.

BEN MYERS has worked as a reporter and government investigator in south Louisiana for exactly one decade. He is currently based in Lafayette, where he covers special topics in the Acadiana region for The Advocate. He previously reported on politics and government for The Times-Picayune.

STEVE NOVIELLO is a seven-time Emmy Award-winning journalist who has been a consumer rights advocate for almost 20 years. He is currently the consumer reporter at KDFW Fox 4 Dallas. Noviello’s work appears each week on Fox television stations across the country. He has been honored multiple times by the Associated Press and a four-time National Headliner Award winner. Noviello also works as a college professor teaching students the fundamentals of superior storytelling.

ADAM K. PAWLUS is the senior director of the Multicultural Business Alliance and Strategy Group. He is currently the consumer reporter at KDFW Fox 4 Dallas. Noviello’s work appears each week on Fox television stations across the country. He has been honored multiple times by the Associated Press and a four-time National Headliner Award winner. Noviello also works as a college professor teaching students the fundamentals of superior storytelling.

SHANE O’NEILL is a senior video editor at The New York Times. During his tenure at The Times, he has produced the short documentary “Who Threw The Wall?,” produced and edited the internet culture series “InterNetting With Amanda Hess,” edited the geopolitics series “The Interpreter” and covered the 2016 U.S. presidential election. O’Neill’s work has won a Silver Medal for Society for News Design, honors for The Times-Picayune. He occasionally freelances for international news and media outlets. Before Taboom, Brian served as Religion News Service’s director of global strategy, as Index on Censorship’s digital policy advisor and as Free Speech Debate’s online editor. He is a volunteer mentor-editor at The OpEd Project.

SUZE ORMAN is the most listened to and respected personal finance expert in the world today. USA Today called her “a force in the world of personal finance” and a “one-woman financial-advice powerhouse.” Time and Forbes both named her as one of the 100 most influential and powerful people in the world. Businessweek named her the top female motivational speaker. Orman is the author of nine consecutive New York Times Best Seller books. A two-time Emmy Award winner, Orman hosted the weekly TV show “The Suze Orman Show,” which aired for 14 years in the U.S. and 18 countries worldwide. She is the most successful, single fundraiser in the history of PBS, raising over $250 million. Orman is immensely proud of her work in the LGBTQ community, including her public support for marriage equality. She received the GLAAD Vito Russo Award for her TV work in promoting equal rights for the LGBTQ community, as well as the HRC National Equality Award.

STEVEN OVERLY covers the intersection of technology, policy and politics for POLITICO. His reporting primarily focuses on Silicon Valley’s efforts to shape public policy in the nation’s capital, and the tech industry’s fraught relationship with Congress and the Trump administration. Prior to joining POLITICO, Overly worked for seven years as a business reporter at The Washington Post, most recently writing and editing news about automation, artificial intelligence and self-driving vehicles. He previously covered the technology, biotechnology and venture capital industries in the Washington metropolitan region. Overly graduated with a master’s degree from Columbia University, where he studied as a Knight-Bagehot Fellow in economics and business journalism, and earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park. He currently resides in Washington, D.C., and serves as president of the local NLGJA chapter.

SEBASTIAN ONTIVEROS is national director of the Multicultural Business Alliance and Strategy Group. He is currently the consumer reporter at KDFW Fox 4 Dallas. Noviello’s work appears each week on Fox television stations across the country. He has been honored multiple times by the Associated Press and a four-time National Headliner Award winner. Noviello also works as a college professor teaching students the fundamentals of superior storytelling.


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JEREMY W. PETERS is a reporter in the Washington bureau of The New York Times who covers politics. He has reported on a variety of topics for the paper, including two presidential campaigns, the machinations on Capitol Hill and the intersection of politics and the news media. Most recently he covered the 2016 election. His other assignments in his decade at The Times have included the financial markets, the economy and New York politics. He usually takes a notebook with him on vacation to file dispatches for the Travel section, which has featured his writing on trips from Corsica to the Caribbean. He graduated from the University of Michigan, where he was a reporter and editor for The Michigan Daily, with a bachelor’s degree in history and political science.

ERICA PROFFER is an investigative reporter who has helped law enforcement spot human trafficking, exposed weaknesses on the international boundary line and has fought to get many people justice when it seems they have nowhere else to turn. She strives to have all investigations tell a story in which we can relate, bringing the voiceless out of the shadows and empowering the community. She turned three documentaries as an investigative journalist, covering the environment, social justice and international relations on the Texas/Mexico border. Her awards include a national Society of Professional Journalists Award for Public Service in Television Journalism, a state Headliners Foundation Award for Enterprise and Innovation, several Associated Press awards, a regional Edward R. Murrow and seven regional Emmy nominations. At KVUE in Austin, Texas, Proffer shoots, writes and edits her stories.

AKASHA RABUT is a photographer and educator based in New Orleans. Her work explores multi-cultural phenomena and tradition rooted in the American South. Rabut is also the founder of Creative Council, a mentoring program for young people in New Orleans pursuing careers in the arts. Rabut’s photographs have appeared in museums and galleries around the world. Anthology Editions will publish a volume of her collected work in early 2020. She holds a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute.

NII-QUARTELAI QUARTEY is senior advisor and national LGBT liaison at AARP headquarters in Washington, D.C. As strategic advisor in multicultural leadership at AARP, he is charged with deepening community engagement with LGBT organizations to better meet the needs of AARP’s LGBT members. Prior to joining AARP, he was at the American Heart Association leading an innovative national childhood obesity initiative in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Quarrey is a past board president of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and a current National Foster Youth Institute board member. A native of California, he received his Doctor of Education from Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology.

CATHY RENNA is the principal of Target Cue, a premiere public relations and communications firm that focuses on LGBTQ and HIV-related issues and events and provides media training, strategic and crisis communications services to diverse nonprofit organizations. While working for GLAAD in 1998, she was dispatched to Laramie, Wyoming, immediately following the attack on Matthew Shepard and worked with journalists and community on the ground through the aftermath of his death, the trials and community impact. She has also worked with the Tectonic Theater Project on media and education related to “The Laramie Project.”

FRANK RIZZO has been an arts/theater writer for more than 40 years. For 33 years, he wrote for The Hartford Courant. He currently is theater critic for Variety and is theater columnist for Connecticut magazine. His other print, radio and TV gigs have included The New York Times, American Theatre magazine, Playback, the Connecticut HEART Beat and other publications. He also lecturers at colleges and elsewhere on arts/entertainment journalism, celebrity feature writing and the musical, “Hamilton!” He lives in New Haven and New York City.

MO ROCCA is a correspondent for “CBS Sunday Morning.” He is also the host of CBS's series “The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation.” In January 2019, Rocca debuted the podcast “Obituaries” — an irreverent but deeply researched appreciation of people and things of the past who have long intrigued him. He is the author of a forthcoming book of the same name to be released in November 2019. Rocca created and hosted the Cooking Channel’s “My Grandmother’s Ravioli,” in which he learned to cook from grandparents across America. He is also a frequent panelist on NPR’s hit weekly quiz show “Wait, Wait...Don’t Tell Me!” Before joining CBS, Rocca was previously a correspondent for Comedy Central's “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” and “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.” On Broadway, he played Vice Principal Panch in “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.” Rocca began his career in TV as a writer and producer for the Emmy and Peabody Award-winning PBS children's series “Wishbone.” Rocca is the author of “All the Presidents’ Pets,” a historical novel about White House pets and their role in presidential decision-making. Rocca is a graduate of Harvard University, where he served as president of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

JESSE RODRIGUEZ (he/him) is the New York-based director of booking for MSNBC, focusing on the channel’s weekday morning show, “Morning Joe,” daytime hours of news coverage and primetime programming. Before joining the “Morning Joe” team, he was a booking producer on MSNBC's “The Dylan Ratigan Show” for two years following his time as a planning producer for MSNBC’s daytime news. He coordinated daily coverage of the 2008 presidential election. He started at NBC News in 2007 as an assignment editor on the network’s national news assignment desk. Before that, Rodriguez was with CBS's Miami affiliate WFOR-TV as the weekend assignment editor. Rodriguez was instrumental in breaking the news of Fidel Castro's 2006 transfer of power to his brother Raul Castro, leading the station to be the first English-language news organization to break the story. Rodriguez is the 2002 Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards national winner for Literature and Journalism. He attended Florida International University, where he studied international relations. He is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and NLGJA.
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We celebrate your dedication to supporting LGBTQ journalists and commitment to advancing a mission of fair and accurate coverage of our community. LGBTQ voices matter.
DOMINIC RUSHE is business editor for Guardian US and is based in New York. He writes on all aspects of business and economics as well as covering other areas including arts, literature and LGBTQ issues. Previously, Rushe worked for The Sunday Times in London as a media correspondent and for the Daily Mail. Rushe was part of the Guardian team that won the 2014 Pulitzer prize for public service journalism.

MARIA SALAZAR FERRO became director of the Committee to Protect Journalists’ Emergencies Department in October 2016. She oversees CPJ’s assistance and safety work worldwide. In 2018, she was elected president of the board of the ACOS (A Culture of Safety) Alliance, a coalition formed in 2015 that improves protections for freelance journalists. Salazar Ferro joined CPJ in 2005, and has served as coordinator for the Journalist Assistance Program and the Global Campaign Against Impunity, and as senior research associate for the Americas program. Salazar Ferro has spearheaded international coalitions to support journalists in distress in East Africa and in Syria. She has written about exiled, missing and murdered journalists. She has represented CPJ on missions to Mexico, Kenya, Turkey and the Philippines, among others, and served on the IFEX council from 2011 to 2013. Prior to joining CPJ, Salazar Ferro worked as a researcher for the United Nations Fund for Population Aid and the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and as an associate reporter for Inter-Press Services in New York.

KHALED SAYED is an investigative producer with the I-Team at ABC7 Bay Area, San Francisco, as well as a photojournalist, a video reporter and an award-winning documentary director with a master’s degree in journalism from the University of California, Berkeley. His work has been published by many news outlets, including ABC 7 Bay Area, UPI, NBC Nightly News, NBC Bay Area, PBS NewsHour, The New York Times, the Huffington Post, the San Francisco Chronicle and the Bay Area Reporter. Sayed has directed and produced commercials, documentaries, online campaigns, promos and short films for a wide range of industries. He brings a strong background in editing and storytelling to his work. In addition to his commercial experience, he has worked on multiple documentary projects supporting causes ranging from environmentalism to human rights.

NEAL SCARBROUGH currently serves as vice president and executive editor for Fox Sports, where he literally referees the sports debates across Fox Sports’ studio shows. As content supervisor, Scarbrough is charged with keeping the network’s daily programming relevant, provocative and inbounds. He also interacts daily with on-air talent. He moved to the New Orleans Advocate in 2015 in covering the Columbine tragedy and the Online Journalism multiple platforms. His shelf includes a Pulitzer Prize for his role in covering the Columbine tragedy and the Online Journalism Award for General Excellence earned by ESPN.com when he was its editor-in-chief. He also built a decorated career at major U.S. newspapers, including The Seattle Times, Newsday and the Chicago Sun-Times. Before joining ESPN, Scarbrough served as the sports editor for The Denver Post and The (Nashville) Tennessean.

ALEX SCHUMAN is an investigative reporter for Hearst Television. He has produced two feature documentaries available on Hulu, Amazon Prime and Starz. Prior to his current work producing long-form investigations, Schuman covered Congress and The White House for Nexstar Media Group’s Washington, D.C., bureau. He is currently finishing his third feature documentary.

EUGENE SCOTT is a national political reporter for the Washington Post. He covers identity politics for the Fix, a political analysis vertical. He previously covered the 2016 presidential election for CNN and was a fellow at the Georgetown University Institute of Politics. Scott has won multiple awards and fellowships throughout his 20 year career and his work regularly appears on MSNBC and NPR among other outlets. He received his master's degree from the Harvard Kennedy School and sits on the board of advisors for the journalism school at the University of North Carolina, his alma mater.

Fifteen. That’s how many years JANA SHORTAL has worked as a journalist for KARE 11 news in Minneapolis; it’s also the same amount of time she has spent wondering if she could ever really be that much-needed addition to the now-defunct Destiny’s Child. But she’s for sure gonna name her first child Destiny, just to get remotely close to that brand. Other tidbits. She is from a town you’ve never heard of but it’s a 40-minute drive from St. Louis. She once sold her 10-year anniversary gift from KARE 11 to an ex so she could buy a pair of Air Jordans. Shortal graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia a very long time ago and, had it not been for a persistent journalism professor, would have spent her adult life driving the Wienermobile.

BROOKE SOPELSA is the editorial manager of NBCOut, the LGBTQ digital destination launched by NBC News in June 2016. Under Sopelsa’s leadership, NBCout.com seeks to both enlighten and entertain by showcasing enterprise reporting, original video and other unique content about and of interest to the LGBTQ community. During her three-year tenure, NBCOut has consistently been one of the most popular sections of NBC News Digital. In addition to assigning and editing breaking LGBTQ news stories, feature articles and video reports, Sopelsa has also spearheaded a number of franchises and special projects, including the annual #Pride30 list and the four-part series “Stonewall 50: The Revolution.” Prior to her return to the NBC family, Sopelsa was a producer at the Huffington Post, where she developed and produced live news and lifestyle segments. Before joining HuffPost, she spent six years at NBC: first as a writer/producer for CNBC.com and then as a producer for MSNBC.com, where she earned a GLAAD Media Award nomination for her multimedia report on the contemporary voguing scene. Sopelsa started her career in journalism as a production assistant and an on-air reporter at Time Warner Cable Channel 10 News in Bergen County, New Jersey.

KEITH SPERA is a native of New Orleans. After graduating from Texas A&M University with a degree in political science, he ditched law school plans and returned to his hometown to write. He edited the monthly entertainment magazine OffBeat before joining the staff of The Times-Picayune newspaper in 1996 as its music critic. He rode out Hurricane Katrina at the paper’s office and was part of its Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage team. He moved to the New Orleans Advocate in 2015 and now works for the combined New Orleans Advocate-Times Picayune. He is the author of the 2011 book “Groove Interrupted: Loss, Renewal and the Music of New Orleans”; has contributed to Rolling Stone, Relix, L.A. Weekly and other publications; and appears frequently on TV and radio. He wrote the main essay for Smithsonian Folklows’ acclaimed 2019 boxed set commemorating the 50th anniversary of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.
CASEY STEGALL joined Fox News Channel in 2007, and currently serves as a correspondent based in the Dallas bureau. Prior to joining Fox, Stegall served as a reporter and substitute anchor for KDFW-TV in Dallas, where he was responsible for up to 10 live reports per day and coverage of breaking news. Before this, he was a reporter and substitute anchor at KVUE-TV in Austin, Texas, covering the city government beat and cultivating sources. A recipient of several awards, including a 2006 regional Emmy Award for Best Live Reporting in Dallas, Stegall started his broadcast journalism career in 2000 as a reporter for WTVW-TV in Evansville, Indiana. He graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in telecommunications, specializing in television news.

JOSH STOFFREGEN-FOYE leads global communications strategy and media relations for Prudential’s Workplace Solutions Group, which comprises Prudential Retirement and Prudential Group Insurance, both business units of Prudential Financial. He also serves as a spokesman and advocate on LGBT issues for the firm. He joined Prudential from Institutional Investor, where he was a managing editor for the News Division. Prior to his post as editor, he was a reporter on the retirement beat for Institutional Investor. Previous to Institutional Investor, he held various freelance reporting and columnist roles, including as a reporter at Ozarks Senior Living, a monthly covering the aging population of the Ozark Mountains.

LUCIA I. SUAREZ SANG (sher/her) is a US/World reporter for FoxNews.com. She previously worked at Fox News Latino and as a town reporter for the Rutland Herald in Vermont. A native of the Dominican Republic, Suarez Sang is a proud immigrant to the United States.

STACY SULLIVAN is community relations and events director for Republic Media.

LAURA SYDELL has spent nearly thirty years in journalism and most of the last 20 covering the tech that's changing our lives for NPR. Her stories and investigations take the esoteric and mundane of Silicon Valley and bring it down to Earth. Laura's groundbreaking and award-winning reporting has ranged from watching the launch of the iPhone, to breaking the story on patent trolls for the Planet Money podcast, to reporting has ranged from watching the launch of the iPhone, to breaking the story on patent trolls for the Planet Money podcast, to

SEAN F. TAYLOR joined the SAG-AFTRA San Francisco-Northern California local as the executive director in fall 2016. Prior to leading the San Francisco-Northern California SAG-AFTRA local, Taylor served as the assistant executive director/central regional director at Actors' Equity Association from 2013 to 2016 representing actors and stage managers. Beginning in 2004, Taylor was house counsel for AFTRA in Chicago. In 2005, Taylor was promoted to assistant executive director/house counsel for the New York local and remained in the role for SAG-AFTRA following the 2012 union merger. During his tenure, he served as lead negotiator in numerous broadcast collective bargaining agreements for Chicago, New York and Los Angeles. He also served as senior counsel for the Chicago Park District, where he negotiated several union collective bargaining agreements.

TROY THIBODEAUX is the data science and news applications editor for The Associated Press. He leads a team of data journalists based around the United States who work with reporters, editors and visual journalists to find and tell stories from data. He also oversees teams working on newsroom tools and automation efforts. He previously served as database editor for the AP's Washington, D.C. bureau, developing data-driven stories and interactives on politics, government and elections. Before joining AP, Thibodeaux worked at the intersection of technology and the newsroom for Advance Internet, where he was part of the team developing emergency applications and maintaining operations for Nola.com during Hurricane Katrina, work for which The Times Picayune/Nola.com received the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.

KRISTINA TORRES is the leadership communications manager for the University System of Georgia, a position she began after a 24-year career working at newspapers and media companies in South Carolina, Minnesota and Georgia. Called one of “the best state capitol reporters in America” by The Washington Post, Kristina during her career spent more than a decade as an education beat writer for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, where she worked on the Pulitzer Prize-nominated team that exposed the nation’s biggest test cheating scandal. She is also a member of the NLGJA national board of directors. A Colorado native, Kristina graduated with a journalism degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

LISA TURNER is a former White House political appointee. She served in the Obama Administration as the associate commissioner for external affairs for the Food and Drug Administration and as the chief communications officer at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service. In 2018, Turner became LPAC’s national political director, where she has built the committee’s electoral structure and the award-winning independent expenditure operation that has helped elect U.S. Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Kyrsten Sinema, as well as Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. This cycle, she has led the creation and launch of Project LPAC as the senior director of research and political engagement. Her career has focused on improving people’s lives through her work in politics. For over 25 years, she has been the president of the The Turner Group, Ltd., a campaign-consulting firm where her portfolio has spanned political innovation, strategy and media advising to candidates, community leaders, philanthropists and national committees.

KRIS VAN CLEAVE was appointed CBS News transportation correspondent in September 2015 and is based in Washington, D.C. He previously served as a correspondent for CBS News, the Network’s 24-hour television news gathering service for CBS stations and broadcasters around the world. Since joining CBS News in 2014, Van Cleave has covered a number of breaking news stories, including the deadly derailment of Amtrak train 188, the Boston Marathon bombing trial and the crash of Germanwings 9525. Prior to joining CBS News, Van Cleave served as a reporter and anchor for nearly eight years at WJLA-TV and national committees.

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FRANCISCO VARA-ORTA is a training director for Investigative Reporters and Editors. He has worked for 18 years in professional newsrooms throughout the country, published by Chalkbeat, Education Week, the Los Angeles Times, Austin Business Journal, Houston Chronicle, Austin American-Statesman, San Antonio Express-News, Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting, Nieman Storyboard, Laredo Morning Times and La Prensa de San Antonio.
KATIE ZAVADSKI is ProPublica’s research editor. She oversees the research team, works on the Trump, Inc. podcast and runs ProPublica’s Emerging Reporters program. Prior to joining ProPublica in 2018, she worked as a reporter and editor at The Daily Beast, New York Magazine and Newsweek. She studied comparative religion at Harvard.

DAN ZIMMERMAN is a staff attorney at Phelps Dunbar in New Orleans, specializing in media law, first amendment litigation and intellectual property law. He has successfully litigated on behalf of media clients to obtain the calendar that helped lead to the conviction of former New Orleans Mayor Nagin on corruption charges and the autopsy reports of Katrina victims at Memorial/Baptist hospital. On the intellectual property side, his has represented Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, and Beyonce.

RACHAEL ZIMMERMAN is an emerging photographer, photojournalist and community creator who developed her passion for visual storytelling while working in the sports industry. In 2016, Zimmerman founded “Inside the Black Triangle,” a photojournalist series exploring queer people beyond societal stereotypes. The series has gone on to inspire diverse and authentic connections in the LGBTQ+ community. Zimmerman’s passion for storytelling is fueled by her desire to empower others to live their authentic truth. Earlier this year Zimmerman was honored with the Jeanne Córdova Award presented by NLGJA.

LEE ZURIK is an evening news anchor and chief investigative reporter at WVUE-TV in New Orleans and director of investigations at Raycom Media. Zurik has been honored with many of journalism’s top awards, including two George Foster Peabody Awards, three duPont-Columbia Awards, the IRE Medal, three IRE Certificates and eight national Edward R. Murrow Awards. Before Hurricane Katrina, Lee was a sports anchor/reporter. He taught himself to be an investigative reporter by reading IRE resources (books and tipsheets) and attending IRE conferences.

JONATHAN VATNER has written for The New York Times; O, The Oprah Magazine; Out; Advocate; Poets & Writers and many other publications. His short fiction has been published in “Confrontation,” “West Branch Wired,” “The Midnight Oil,” “Chelsea Station,” “Jonathan,” the “Best Gay Stories” anthology and more. His first novel, “Carnegie Hill,” debuted Aug. 20 from Thomas Dunne Books, an imprint of St. Martin’s Press. He lives in Yonkers, New York with his husband and cats.

DANIEL VILLARREAL has written for Vox, Slate, Advocate.com, Towleroad, Out.com, Metro Weekly, The Stranger, The Dallas Voice and The Austin Chronicle; has served as an editor or manager for Here Media, Hornet, Queerty, LGBTQ Nation and Outsports. He has taught writing classes at Austin College and workshops at Netroots Nation and Creating Change, and recently spoke about emerging topics in queer media at South by Southwest 2019. He is a co-founder and coordinator of both QueerBomb Dallas, the city’s annual alternative queer pride celebration, and CinéWilde at the Texas Theatre, the nation’s longest-running monthly LGBTQ film event. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

BÉNÉT J. WILSON is the credit cards editor for The Points Guy. She is also the founder and editor-in-chief of Aviation Queen, a freelance aviation/travel writing business. She has worked for myriad aviation trade publications and managed communications for two airlines, an aircraft engine manufacturer and two aviation nonprofit organizations. She serves on the boards of the Online News Association and Mercer University’s Center for Collaborative Journalism.

LENA WILSON is a culture critic whose writing has appeared in Slate, Bitch Magazine and The Playlist. During the day, she works as a project manager in The New York Times newsroom. At night, she angers the internet by saying that women and LGBTQ people deserve equal treatment in front of and behind the camera. Please ask her to talk about the 2009 camp horror film, “Jennifer’s Body.”

RYAN WOOD is an award-winning executive producer for TEGNA, a national media company that owns 49 local TV/digital properties across the country. What does that mean? Great question. If journalism ownership groups had air traffic control, Wood would be the lead controller. Every day he works with TEGNA stations to maximize content sharing, manages national breaking news/big event coverage, and coordinates TEGNA’s Pilots and Innovation initiative. Wood is fortunate to have been honored with four regional Emmy Awards, a national Gracie Award and a regional Edward R. Murrow Award, among others. When he’s not on an airplane or in a newsroom, you can find Wood posting food pictures on Instagram, watching “Jeopardy!” or in the front row of the latest Broadway show.

KATIE ZAVADSKI is ProPublica’s research editor. She oversees the research team, works on the Trump, Inc. podcast and runs ProPublica’s Emerging Reporters program. Prior to joining ProPublica in 2018, she worked as a reporter and editor at The Daily Beast, New York Magazine and Newsweek. She studied comparative religion at Harvard.

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We’re proud to support the NLGJA 2019 National Convention.

The Facebook Journalism Project believes high-quality journalism builds community. It’s why we support organizations like NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists. In addition to partnering with news publishers and non-profits globally, we also train journalists and newsrooms online and in person.

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David Steinberg
Former Copy Desk Chief
San Francisco Chronicle

“I stay an NLGJA member not only because I support fair and accurate coverage, but I also enjoy the camaraderie among my fellow LGBTQ journalists and media professionals.”

Oriol Guttierez
Editor in Chief, POZ Magazine

BENEFITS OF NLGJA MEMBERSHIP:

- Access to NLGJA’s Members-Only website, which allows members to update their member profile, receive the latest NLGJA news and stay connected with upcoming events.
- Affiliation with a proven and internationally recognized professional organization that represents your interest within the media.
- Access to NLGJA’s Mentorship Program, which matches members with those who can assist them in their industry.
- Access to NLGJA’s online job board.
- Discounted registration to NLGJA’s National Convention.
- Discounted admission to NLGJA regional events, training sessions and webinars.
- Members save 20% when using OutNewsWire or TravelOutNewsWire. Authors who are members save 66% on book announcements when using either wire service.
- NLGJA’s weekly newsletter, NLGJA Weekly, a professional development-focused digest of career training, member news, student activity and organizational information.
- An opportunity to seek recognition of your work with NLGJA’s two awards programs: the annual Excellence in Journalism Awards and our NLGJA LGBTQ Journalists Hall of Fame.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

**Basic ($75)**
People who derive income from the gathering, editing or presentation of news or editorial content for print, broadcast or online. Includes the right to vote and to run for office.

**LGBTQ Media ($45)**
People who derive income from the gathering, editing or presentation of news or editorial content for broadcast, online or print in LGBTQ Media. Includes the right to vote and run for office.

**Associate ($75)**
People who are former full or part-time journalists or who hold media related jobs such as public relations, public or corporate information, directors of media organizations or who worked as a journalist in the past or who are journalism educators. Includes the right to vote, but excludes the right to run for office.

**Retired ($25)**
People who no longer work full-time but who when working qualified for Basic membership. Includes the right to vote, but excludes the right to run for office.

**International ($25)**
People living outside of the US. Includes the right to vote, but excludes the right to run for office. Voting as subject to qualification as a Basic or Associate member.

**Student & Early Career ($25)**
People just entering the field: engaged/enrolled in high school or an educational institution of higher learning, or under the age of 25 planning to pursue a career in journalism. Includes the right to vote, but excludes the right to run for office.

**Ally ($75)**
People who are supporters of NLGJA’s mission but are NOT former journalists; part-time journalists; holding media-related jobs; nor qualified to be a member in any other category. Ally members have access to member rates for conferences, summits, conventions and events, where a member rate is offered. Does not include the right to vote, nor run for office.

**Lifetime Membership ($1,200)**
Includes access to all NLGJA membership benefits and special recognition in the annual convention program.

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