YOUNGSTOWN PRESS CLUB

NEWS FLASH

Youngstown Press Club News Briefs

Members' Corner

It's Not Too Late, But You're Cutting It Close

Sept. 23 is the biggest night of the year for the Youngstown Press Club. Our Hall of Fame and Awards Dinner allows us to honor our colleagues for their exceptional careers and valuation contributions to the fields of journalism and communication.

It's also an opportunity to inspire those among us who are newer to our industries and, of course, it's a great opportunity for us to catch up with our friends and colleagues — past and present.

We added a new element this year, recognizing Media Pioneers who have helped shape journalism and broadcasting across the Mahoning Valley and beyond. Those pioneers this year are Simeon Booker, known for his coverage of the Civil Rights Movement; Helen Hart Hurlbert, who served as publisher of the Warren Tribune Chronicle; and Warren P. Williamson Jr., who founded WKBN radio. Journalists Dan O'Brien and Mark Niquette, photojournalist Bob Yosay, the late radio personality Ralph R. “Boots” Bell and the late Carolyn Martindale, long-time Youngstown State University journalism program director, round out this year's Hall of Fame inductees.

We're also honoring three more YPC members for their hard work and dedication to the industry and the club. David Skolnick, *Vindicator* politics writer for the past 26 years, will receive the club's First Amendment Award. Chad Krispinsky, WKBN sports anchor, will receive the Excellence in Media Award, and Lori Factor, immediate YPC past president, will receive the Medal of Merit.

It's a night you don't want to miss, but preregistration is required. The event starts at 5 p.m. Sept. 23 and the Sept. 14 deadline is approaching fast. The

cost is $55 per person for YPC members and $65 for non-members. A small transaction fee will be added for credit card users. A portion of proceeds from press club events goes to the club's college scholarship fund.

Dinner sponsors are Covelli Enterprises and Stambaugh Auditorium.

Get **your seats** (or an entire table) by Sept. 14 so you don't miss out,

Denise Dick, YPC Board Member

Maintaining Election Integrity

The Youngstown Press Club, the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and the League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown wlll present "Defending the Ballot Box: A Panel Discussion on Election Integrity, Safety afnd Security on Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026.

The program will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 505 Gypsy Lane.

The forum will feature four prominent panelists with election experience at the national, state and local levels. They will offer urgent, candid insights into protecting voters and their votes and ensuring that every legitimate vote is accurately counted.

The panelists are:

- Kathy Boockvar, former secretary of state and chief election official in Pennsylvania and current president of Athena Strategies LLC, which focuses on strengthening election security and democracy.

- Lisa Lee Kohler, regional coordinator for election protection and president of the League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown.

- Jen Miller, executive director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

- Melissa Wasko, deputy director of the Mahoning County Board of Elections.

The moderator will be David Skolnick, politics reporter for *The Tribune Chronicle* and *The Vindicator.*

Adam Chase, a Mahoning County sheriff's deputy, will discuss ballot collection and security.

Pre-registration is required by Oct. 14 to attend this program. No walk-ins will be admitted. The cost is $10.

To register, go to **https://www.yopressclub.com/defendingtheballotbox.html**.

Club Spotlight

Member Profile

Marty Burke, Digital Content Producer, WKBN

Hometown: Youngstown.

Your job: As a digital producer at WKBN, I help write, curate and manage content for WKBN.com; plus, I sometimes go out in the field and do my own reporting. I love my job because I have a passion for keeping the Mahoning and Shenango valleys informed and connected.

What's the best career or journalism advice you ever received and from whom? Don't be afraid to ask questions, even if you think they're stupid. Many people I learned from in college and at my job now have told me that.

What's one of your favorite books? This Is How You Lose the Time War by Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone.

If you weren't in television news, what position would you be in and why? I'd love to be an author. I've always enjoyed writing, and I can't imagine life

without writing in some capacity. Regardless of where my future takes me, I do hope to publish a novel of my own someday.

Coming Up...

We have speakers and activities throughout the year. Sign up, register and check back here to learn more.

- Sept. 23: 5 p.m., Hall of Fame and Awards Dinner, Stambaugh Auditorium. **Buy tickets here**.
- Oct. 20: Panel discussion on Defending the Ballot Box: A Panel Discussion on Election Integrity, Safety and Security.in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown and the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. **Buy tickets here.**
- Nov. 30: 5 p.m., YPC Members' Holiday Party, Avalon Downtown.

YPC Mission

The Youngstown Press Club's mission is to support journalists and communicators in the greater Mahoning Valley by:

- Honoring past excellence in journalism and communications through our Hall of Fame, Excellence in Media Award, First Amendment Award and Medal of Merit.
- Supporting working journalists and communicators by championing First Amendment and press freedom causes, and providing speakers and events that help them to hone their craft.
- Investing in the future of journalism and communications by offering scholarships, mentoring and support for student journalists and communicators.

Interested in supporting YPC? Learn about becoming a sponsor or scholarship donor. **Support us**.

YOUNGSTOWN PRESS CLUB

Founded in 1902 and re-established in 2018, the Youngstown Press Club promotes journalism and related professions in the Mahoning Valley.

www.youngstownpressclub.com

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