



**NOMINEES
SOUGHT FOR
HALL OF FAME**

SEE PAGE 5

SEE PAGE 6

Feb. 19 event will recognize Omaha's version of Tom Selleck TV character

Police Chief Schmaderer to be next Face on Barroom Floor

By Tom O'Connor

Communications Committee

With his Hollywood looks and macho personality, Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer gives our city an impressive flair in the law enforcement world. It wouldn't be a huge stretch to compare his character to the role of Frank Reagan, the New York City police commissioner played by Tom Selleck in the popular TV show "Blue Bloods."

Schmaderer joined the Omaha Police Department in 1996 and has served as chief since 2012, making him the longest-serving police chief among all major cities. In March



Police Chief Todd Schmaderer

2025, he signed an agreement with the City of Omaha to extend his term as chief another five years.

His longevity is evident by the fact that he has served as police chief under three mayors – Democrats Jim Suttle and John Ewing Jr. and Republican Jean Stothert. He jokes, "Nobody knows what political party I am."

On Thursday, Feb. 19, Schmaderer has agreed to place himself under "house arrest" when he comes to the Omaha Press Club to be honored as the 185th Face on the Barroom Floor. It promises be a memorable night, as the OPC recognizes him as the first active police chief ever to become a Face on the Barroom Floor.

(NOTE: Tom Warren had been retired as police chief for 11 years and was serving as president and CEO of the Urban League of Omaha when he and his wife, Aileen, were honored as Face No. 160 in 2019.)

Being a Face means a lot to Schmaderer. "This is the Heisman Trophy of awards in

Omaha," he said. "As chief of police, it's the kind of award you don't expect to receive. It's certainly a tremendous honor."

Police work runs in the Schmaderer family. Todd's father, Rich, is a retired police sergeant in the Omaha Police Department, while his younger brother, Brian, serves as an active lieutenant in the OPD. He also has a nephew who is an OPD rookie police officer.

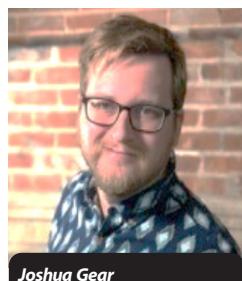
Being behind a microphone and podium is nothing new for Schmaderer, who is known for being in complete control when dealing with media. He's done nearly 100 news conferences in his 13-plus years as Omaha's police chief. He has been featured in national media outlets such as Dateline NBC, CNN, Fox News and Washington Post Live.

"When Todd does a news conference, he runs the room. It's because of his respect and

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Joshua Gear
OPC President



Joshua Gear

As I write this article, it occurs to me that one year ago this week marks my election to the Omaha Press Club board. To find myself as the newest president of this great institution, named alongside so many marvelous journalists, communicators and community leaders, is a humbling experience and one for which I cannot express enough gratitude.

Those of you who have met me know that I'm something of a history buff. Important events, historic moments, major anniversaries, that sort of thing. Having finished up the club's 70th year in existence, we head into 2026 set to mark another impressive milestone.

The Omaha Press Club restaurant formal-

ly opened in 1971, making this the 55th year of amazing memories, meals and moments atop the First National Bank Building.

From the very beginning of my experience with the club, covering events as a news photographer, it was immediately apparent what an amazing space this is. That intuition became experience, as a member and volunteer, attending dinners and gatherings, meetings and meals, events and celebrations, all commemorating the news and newsmakers in this great community.

2026 marks another major milestone, with the anticipated sale of the 16th & Dodge building and its evolution into a new phase of operation with NuStyle. I join every board member, committee volunteer and club staffer in dedication to ensuring the club's future through teamwork, collaboration and innovation.

No one knows what tomorrow holds, but when I consider the Omaha Press Club, I think of the words of Winston Churchill: "History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it."

Meet the 2026 OPC leaders

Here are the members of the 2026 OPC board of directors. Front, from left: Mike McKnight, Liz Hruska, Bridget (Weide) Brooks, and Roger Humphries. Back from left: Rod Howe, Keith Station, Todd Lemke, Hunter Samuels, Joshua Gear, Woody Bradford, Steve Villamonte, Jeremy Maskel, and Dr. Robert Meyers. A recap of the Annual Meeting is on page 2. Photo By Gary Willis.



'Oh, what a year!' OPC finishes 2025 strong

By Gary Willis
Communications Committee

Officers were elected for 2026, club operations were reviewed for 2025 and Steve Villamonte provided delicious hors d'oeuvres that were enjoyed by those attending the Omaha Press Club Annual Meeting.

Outgoing President Mike McKnight

The Four Seasons had a hit song, "Oh, What a Night." For the Omaha Press Club that tune has been, "Oh, What a Year." The Face on the Floor events brought great crowds to the OPC, including a sold-out crowd for the Rev. Tom Fangman.

Then there was the Education Committee exclusive with Nebraska Chief Justice Jeff Funke. This forum drew a wide range of attorneys, prosecutors, judges and members to the Press Club for an informative hour and a half.

I should mention that my son's wedding rehearsal dinner was a highlight for me at the club in 2025. Steve, Christine and the service staff received rave reviews from family and friends for the dinner and service.

The year also created curiosity for the future of the building on which the Omaha Press Club sits. As I wrote this, the latest word on closing the transaction for the new ownership was sometime in January.

The OPC board has set up a transition committee to offer incentives for NuStyle renters that will benefit both the Omaha Press Club and the apartment developers. So that exciting growth lies ahead in 2026 for Joshua Gear, the incoming president. He's highly motivated and has the perfect skills to guide the Omaha Press Club forward. It's been an honor to lead the board this past year.

Executive Director Steve Villamonte

We had a really good bottom line for 2025. The a la carte business has been slow, and most of our income has been event business. After our summer, I told the board in October that I was really nervous about business for the rest of the year. Then December came and we had a fantastic month of party events. In fact it was the best December we have had in more than 10 years. And we did not have a single complaint from our party guests!

I give movie star status to Mike McK-

night, and I thank him for being a great communicator and great to work with during his year as president. I also praise the work of the Marketing and Membership Committee with Bridget Weide Brooks's leadership, Roger Humphries for arranging the Faces on the Barroom Floor, which are our signature events, the Communications Committee for producing the newsletters (and bugging me monthly for menus and messages).

Special thanks go out to Liz Hruska, who is an ambassador for the club, and Gabe Villamonte. Son Gabe and his "angels" (his girlfriend, his sister, and a friend of his sister) have helped immensely at the club, especially in December in the kitchen and serving.

And finally, thanks to Christine, who takes on many roles and is the face of the club. She does a great job and makes friends out of everyone she meets.

In closing, it also is great to see Hunter Samuels back at the club after a health issue, continuing his duties as treasurer.

OPC Foundation

No report.

Finance

Hunter Samuels

Our Annual Meeting this year was earlier than normal, and the accountant was unable to reconcile the profit-and-loss statement at that time due to him being on vacation. Our accountant must get the financial statement from Steve, then reconcile it. Then he gives Steve the OK to run the profit-and-loss statement. Steve couldn't get last month's statement until after the Annual Meeting. Steve sent it to him later in January, and he did two months of reconciliation. It turns out we had a very good bottom line.

I missed out for a few months due to health issues. Hats off to the rest of the board getting everything going and to the staff that really makes this place operate in a more efficient manner than you would expect with a small crew. Throughout the year, there were a few months with lower business, but we ended up in a good place.

We look forward to the new tenants coming into the building and hope they take advantage of the club.

Education Committee Dr. Robert Meyers

The Education Committee continues to appreciate our relationship with KIOS-FM 91.5 as they continue to record and replay our events. In 2025, we were able to provide

informational learning presentations for six months of the year.

Attendance to the Noon Forum programs remains a concern, and this year we had to cancel three scheduled forums in a row due to lack of registration. Despite those setbacks, committee members continue to strive to bring outstanding programs to our members and the public at large.

During 2025, we hosted the following forums:

January: LOVB Volleyball with coach Susan Fritz and players Jaali Winters and Jordan Larson.

March: A mayoral primary election debate that resulted in more than 150 in attendance. Also, a presentation by Jack and Lisa Diesing and Amy Hornocker about the 75th anniversary of the College World Series in Omaha.

April: The mayoral general election debate between Jean Stothert and John Ewing, Jr. (with thanks and gratitude to 6 News WOWT and the League of Women Voters).

September: The Honorable Jeffrey J. Funke, chief justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, presented an early evening forum.

October: Omaha Mayor John Ewing Jr. joined us to discuss the "First 100 Days" and his leadership plans and goals for Omaha going forward.

November: Demetrius "Dee-Dee" Gatson, CEO of Queen's Butterfly House, spoke about assistance for previously incarcerated women.

The committee is grateful for our continued relationship with KIOS and to Education Committee member Joshua LaBure, who records each forum for replay at 6 a.m. on the last Saturday of the month and makes the forums available on KIOS.

The Education Committee is contemplating the direction for the future. We will be looking at various possibilities to provide educational, inspirational and entertaining events to our members and the public. To help us, a survey has been sent to OPC members seeking input on various issues. Please check your email inbox, complete and return it to us.

Members of the Education Committee are Angella Arndt, Bob Coate, Rod Howe, Jeremy Maskel, Mike McKnight, Michael Sinovec, Keith Station, Gary Willis, Jason Thomas, and John Wyvill.

Marketing/Membership Bridget Weide Brooks

Our committee encompasses both market-

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Annual Meeting story: continued from Page 2

ing and membership, and we tackle a variety of wide-ranging tasks throughout the year to support the club.

2025 Committee Priorities & Accomplishments

1. Plan and execute the 2025 Omaha Press Club Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame event. The committee successfully supported and executed the event on Saturday, May 31, 2025, welcoming six new inductees.
2. Grow membership and strengthen member engagement. Areas of focus included attracting new members, improving on-boarding, increasing member involvement, and updating membership materials.
3. Support the club's anticipated transition to new building ownership. The committee was prepared to provide communications and marketing support related to the ownership transition.

Ongoing Support & Operations

Throughout the year, the committee also supported ongoing club operations, including:

- Coordinating hospitality volunteers for key OPC events, such as the Face on the Barroom Floor.
- Conduct monthly checkups of the OPC website to ensure information remains accurate and up to date.
- Assisting with email communications related to club events and activities.

Looking Ahead to 2026

2026 is shaping up to be an exciting year for the club, and for our committee. We developed a marketing plan in November and will focus on implementing those ideas to increase membership and strengthen membership engagement.

Members of the Marketing/Membership Committee are Angella Arndt, Allen Beermann, Chad Bishoff, Liz Boothby, Roger Humphries, Dr. Robert Meyers, Hunter Samuels, Keith Station, Tali Washburn, and Gary Willis.

Members who help with the hospitality and outreach efforts are Woody Bradford, Bob Caniglia, Chris Christen, Kurt Keeler, Liz Hruska, Mike McKnight, Marie Meyers, and Anne Walsh.

Communications Committee

Gary Willis and Angella Arndt

The Communications Committee meets monthly except July to plan the OPC newsletter. The issue for July/August covers two months. We got off our normal meeting

schedule a couple of times due to conflicts of member schedules.

We had two members join the committee in 2025, Katie Raine Thomas and John Fey. Both have excellent journalism skills and are a welcome addition.

Thanks go out to Don Summerside, our copy editor, and Sandra Tursi, graphics and layout editor. We are so grateful to have such a dedicated group of proofreaders, including Tom O'Connor, Anne Walsh, Hunter Samuels, and Bridget Weide Brooks.

Our committee membership consists of Todd Andrews, Angella Arndt, Bridget Weide Brooks, John Fey, Joshua Gear, Roger Humphries, Tom O'Connor, Katie Raine Thomas, Hunter Samuels, Don Summerside, Anne Walsh, and Gary Willis.

Christine and Steve Villamonte attend the meetings when they are able, and we thank them for their support. Roger Humphries, Kurt Keeler, and Gary Willis pitch in to photograph the Press Club events.

The Communications Committee also lends a hand to the OPC Hall of Fame Committee when needed. Todd Andrews has graciously been the emcee of the Hall of Fame for several years and always does an excellent job.

There are a lot of moving parts in creating the online OPC newsletter. We plan to send out a survey to the OPC membership in 2026 to track readership and get input. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and return.

If you have any interest in writing, we are looking for writers of all abilities for the various events we have throughout the year. Remember, we have a fantastic group of proofreaders, so don't underestimate your abilities.

Face on the Barroom Floor

Roger Humphries

First, I would like to thank committee members Andee Hoig, Gary Sadlemyer, Tom O'Connor, Stacie Hamel, Gary Willis, Gil Cohen, Taina Evans, John Ewing Jr., Liz Hruska, Hunter Samuels, James Fogarty, Keith Station and Steve Villamonte for their hard work and support this past year.

In 2025, the committee put forth the following Face nominees. We started with John Chapman - April 24, Trenton Magid and Jeff Beals - May 22, Vic Gutman and Roberta Wilhelm - Sept. 25, and the Rev. Tom Fangman Jr. - Oct. 30.

We tried something new by having the check-in for the Fangman event on the main floor of the building. It was a great idea that Bridget suggested, alleviating congestion on the 22nd floor.

We have already slotted our next Face for Feb. 19 featuring Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaederer. The committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to select Faces for the coming year.

I would like to thank the members of the hospitality team because they do a lot to help make the events go smoothly. And last, but not least, thanks go to the OPC staff, Steve, Christine, and Gabe and his angels. They all do such an excellent job to make the evening memorable.

Strategic Planning No Report

Building Transition Dr. Robert L. Meyers

Following the news of the planned sale of the First National Bank of Omaha building to NuStyle, a Transition Committee was named to help coordinate the change of ownership and the continuation of the Omaha Press Club in its current location.

Members of the Board of Directors Executive Committee met with the new owners to begin the planning process, which was complicated by a number of situations beyond the control of the new buyers and current ownership. The result was a delay in closing the sale and converting the building to a residential property.

As of this time, the OPC Marketing Committee has presented a plan, accepted by the board of directors, for partnering with NuStyle residents in the FNBO building. In addition, other NuStyle properties as well as other residential properties in the downtown area would be eligible for special group membership to OPC.

A plan for effective communications with NuStyle ownership was established to ensure consistent and directed messaging between NuStyle and the OPC Board of Directors.

Incoming President Joshua Gear

If you haven't already done so, please see page 1 of this newsletter for my first "Message From the President."

As I declare in that message, to find myself as the newest president of this great institution, named alongside so many marvelous journalists, communicators and community leaders, is a humbling experience and one for which I cannot express enough gratitude.

I also want to thank Mike McKnight for his leadership in guiding the OPC board through the change in building ownership.

accomplishments, his genuine professionalism and transparency – the media have to be nice and play fair with him,” said his fiancée, Carla Liberty, who is business development director for YASH Technologies, a global IT consultant firm. Carla will be one of Schmaderer’s roasters at the OPC event.

Schmaderer, who is the 32nd chief in OPD history, has had a distinguished and impactful career in law enforcement. He leads a department of 1,200 employees, including 906 sworn officers.

In addition to pioneering OPD’s media strategy, he has navigated the department through a variety of critical incidents, from citywide civil unrest involving the National Guard, police corruption scandals, the arrests of two separate serial killers, officers killed in the line of duty, community-shattering child murders, and high-profile deaths involving in-custody prisoners.

Under Schmaderer’s leadership, Omaha has witnessed significant advancements in public safety and police-community relations. His tenure has seen a remarkable reduction in gun violence, with homicides reaching a 40-year low, while achieving a 100% clearance rate for homicides for the last three years, an unheard-of statistic for a major city.

The department also has experienced a notable decrease in complaints against officers, a substantial increase in diversity reflective of the community, and a reduction in officer-involved shootings to their lowest level. Most notably, Omaha recorded no homicides for 120 days in 2019, none the first 133 days of 2023, and achieved a city/national record low of homicides in 2024.

An Omaha native, Schmaderer attended St. Pius X Catholic School and Roncalli Catholic High School, where he was a multi-sport athlete. He received a full-ride scholarship to play football at Wayne State College, in Wayne, Nebraska. He spent one year playing at Wayne State as a running back/receiver/kick returner, while pursuing a degree in business.

After his first year at WSC, Schmaderer decided to follow in his father’s footsteps and pursue law enforcement. He returned to Omaha and earned his bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from the University of Nebraska Omaha. In 2007, at the age of 36, Schmaderer received his master’s

degree in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati, one of the leading criminal justice programs in the country. Further augmenting his expertise, Schmaderer is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Executive Institute.

Business and the stock market have always been a significant interest of Schmaderer. He and his father discuss market trends and their



Police work runs in the family. From left: Todd's father, Rich, a retired OPD sergeant; younger brother Brian, an OPD lieutenant; and Chief Schmaderer.

day trading every morning on his drive to work.

Schmaderer’s numerous awards include: Alumni Award for Excellence (2013 and 2017) and Lifetime Achievement Award (2024), all from UNO; Special Achievement Award (2022), Metropolitan Chiefs Association; Distinguished Service Award (2022), Omaha Police Foundation; Omahan of the Year Award (2023), Suburban Rotary of Omaha; and Law Enforcement Champion Award (2024), Special Olympics.

He is affiliated with several professional associations, including Major Cities Chiefs Association, International Chiefs of Police Association, and the Omaha Metropolitan Chiefs Association. He also serves on the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands. In 2016, Schmaderer – along with Mayor Ewing – participated in Omaha’s Dancing with the Stars fundraiser for children battling cancer. He won first place in the event and set a record for funds raised.

In 2024, after 2½ years of writing, Schmaderer authored and self-published his first textbook – “Synergy of Influence: Leadership, Law Enforcement & the Media” – a book shaped by 10 years of reflection on his career as police chief. The book has currently been launched as a textbook resource in multiple curriculums within the UNO collegiate

system.

Schmaderer lives in the Elkhorn area with Carla, a New Orleans native, and her 13-year-old daughter, Mina Merwick. Together, they share a blended family that includes three other grown children, who are college graduates with promising careers in Nebraska – Ashlynn Schmaderer, 26, Garret Schmaderer, 22, and Derek Merwick, 22.

The couple first met when Carla came to Schmaderer’s office in 2018 as a government sales representative for USCellular to discuss Nebraska’s first priority network for public safety. They were engaged on July 6, 2025 on a Gulf Coast trip to celebrate Carla’s 45th birthday at one of their favorite beaches in Orange Beach, Alabama.

In their spare time, Schmaderer and Carla enjoy spending time with family, golfing, boating, exploring local dining and new culinary experiences, traveling throughout the United States and abroad – ideally near the ocean – attending sporting events, and relaxing at home or at the family farm in southeast Nebraska.

Roasters for Schmaderer Face event

The preliminary list of roasters includes: Emcee – **Brian Mastre**, news anchor for WOWT (Ch. 6); **Matt Kuhse**, city attorney, City of Omaha; **Mike Dowd**, attorney, Dowd & Corrigan, LLC and Omaha Police Officers Association; **Scott Voorhees**, morning show host, KFAB-AM (1110); **Jim Suttle/John Ewing Jr.**, mayors that Todd has worked under; and **Carla Liberty**, business development director, YASH Technologies, a global IT consultant firm, and Todd’s fiancée.

FACE ON BARROOM FLOOR – TODD SCHMADERER

WHEN: THURSDAY, FEB. 19:

5:30 P.M. – RECEPTION;

6:30 P.M. – DINNER, 8 P.M. – ROAST

COST: \$90 FOR OPC MEMBERS;

\$100 FOR NON-MEMBERS

RSVP: THE EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. CALL THE OPC AT 402-345-8008.

MEMBERS CAN CHARGE TO THEIR OPC ACCOUNT. NON-MEMBERS NEED TO PROVIDE THEIR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.

DRESS IS BUSINESS CASUAL.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Everyone I talk to says January went by so fast. I feel the same way. If you interacted with me during the holiday season, you might have noticed something about me not exactly right. Less spring in my step; more business and less bubble.

My mother was diagnosed in the middle of November with fast-growing cancer. She passed a month later. I think December was a blur for me most of the time. Thank you to the board and the members for being so very kind and patient with me.

Unfortunately, I received word during the Santa Brunch of my mother's passing. My entire family was working at the event, and if



Christine with her mother, Kathy Jones.
Photo by Christine Villamonte.

you noticed tears, you now know the reason why. I am saddened by our loss but thankful that my mother's suffering did not last long.

Again, thank you all for your condolences. I cannot overstate how much I love my second home, the OPC, and my second family, the members. I am very blessed.

New procedures for access

From DoubleTree garage

During the ownership transition of our building from FNBO to NuStyle, access options from the DoubleTree garage to the club have changed.

From 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., continue to take the garage elevators to level 1, then the ground-floor hallways to the club elevators. You may use same hallways to return to the garage elevators.

After 6 p.m., the hallway access is closed. Take the garage elevators to level 2 and exit the garage to the outdoor FNBO building entrance at the northwest corner of 16th and Dodge.

Dodge. EXITING the club after 6 p.m. is NEW. Use the FNBO main entrance/exit door (left of revolving door) at 16th and Dodge.

OPC parking at the DoubleTree garage continues to be validated for 2 hours, day or night.

Last but not least: a reminder in the new year that this newsletter is a convenient monthly guide to our special events. The Page 1 stories preview our most prominent events, such as the Feb. 19 Face on the Barroom Floor honoring Police Chief Todd Schmaderer. Event menus are published in each edition of OPC News. And last but not least, the Events list on the last page of the newsletter gives you an at-a-glance, day-by-day schedule.

See you at your club!

-Christine Villamonte
Restaurant and Events Manager

PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS

Winemaker's Dinner

Friday Feb. 6, 2026
6 p.m.

Members \$90 • Non-members \$100

Appetizer
Empanadas
Wine

Amuse
Peruvian Ceviche
Wine

Salad
Classic Thunderbird
Parmesan Croustade
Wine

Sorbet
Amalfi Lemon

Entrée
Paella Valenciana
Saffron Bomba Rice, Chicken,
Seafood, Mussels, Shrimp

Dessert
Tiramisu
Wine

Valentine's Day Dinner

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026

6 p.m.
\$100 (tax included)

Appetizer
Brie Pear & Apricot

Amuse
Clam Chowder

Salad
OPC Thunderbird

Sorbet
Strawberry

Entrées (Choose one)

Beef
Filet Mignon Maître d'Hôtel
& Madeira

or
Prime Rib Au Jus Chantilly
Garlic Duchess Potato

Seafood
Alaskan King Salmon
Beurre Blanc, Risotto

Poultry
Chicken Piccata
Roasted Rosemary New Potato

Chef's Vegetable on All

Dessert
Peanut Butter Chocolate
Ice Cream Tort Framboise

or

Cheesecake & Driscoll Strawberry

St. Patrick's Day Buffet

Tuesday, March 17, 2026
11:30 a.m.- 8p.m.
Members \$22

All-You-Can-Eat Buffet
Fresh Corned Beef
Boiled Cabbage
Irish New Potatoes
Dark Rye Bread & Butter

Dessert
Frosted Brownie

Beverage
\$2 Green Beer



**PHONE 402-345-8008
FOR RESERVATIONS**

Easter Buffet

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Adults \$35 • Children \$17

Carving Station

Prime Rib of Beef
Whiskey Pepper-Glazed Ham

Entrées

Chicken Bourguignon
Lemon-Pepper Butter Baked Tilapia

Eggs Benedict

Lyonnais New Potato
Biscuits & Sausage Gravy
Seasonal Vegetable
Build-Your-Own Omelet
Multi-Topping Buttermilk Pancakes

Salad Display

Thunderbird Salad, Chef Salad,
Creamy Dill Cucumber Salad,
Potato Salad, Deviled Eggs,
Smoked Salmon, Chaud-Froid,
Continental Fruit Display
Continental Cheese Display

Desserts

Pastries, Sticky Buns,
Chocolate-Dipped Driscoll Strawberries
& Homemade Coffee Cake, Cheesecake



Nominations close Feb. 27 for 2026 Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame



print, digital media, or public relations. Nominees may be living or deceased and must have demonstrated exceptional leadership, courage, and/or impact within the news industry.

Nominees must have worked in the Omaha area during their careers, or have had a meaningful portion of their professional career based in Omaha before continuing elsewhere.

Nominations are submitted online. You may nominate more than one individual; however, a separate submission is required for each nominee.

Submit a nomination here:
<https://fs7.formsite.com/villa/HOFNominations/index>

Additional information about the Hall of Fame and past inductees is available at:
<https://www.omahapressclub.com/spa>

Nominations are now open for the selection of inductees for the Omaha Press Club Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame. The 2026 induction ceremony will be Saturday, June 6 at the Omaha Press Club.

The Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to journalism, including broadcast,

The 2025 members Of the Hall of Fame

From left, front: Dirk Chatelain and Clint Bellows. In back: Michael Scott, John Knically and Andrew Ozaki. Not pictured: Jeremy Maskel. Photo by Gary Willis.



2026 - 2027 Officers

Joshua Gear

President
Lozier Corporation

Keith Station

President-Elect
Mayor's Office

Hunter Samuels

Treasurer
Ronald McDonald House

Jeremy Maskel

Secretary
Omaha Public Schools

Mike McKnight

Past President
WOWT

Board of Directors

(2025-2027)

Todd Andrews
Angella Arndt
Rod Howe
Roger Humphries
Liz Hruska
Dr. Robert Meyers
(2026-2028)

Allen Beermann
Woody Bradford
Bridget Weide Brooks
Todd Lemke

Salvation Army
Freelance Content Contributor
Retired
Roger Humphries Photography
Catalyst Public Affairs Analyst
Retired
Retired
Houghton Bradford Whitted
Image Building Communications
Omaha Publications

Communications Committee

Don Summerside • Gary Willis • Josh Gear
Roger Humphries • Tom O'Connor • John Fey
Bridget (Weide) Brooks • Hunter Samuels
Todd Andrews • Angella Arndt • Anne Walsh
Sandra Tursi • Elaine Allen • Katie Raine Thomas

Committee Chairs

Communications

Gary Willis, Angella Arndt

Education

Dr. Robert Meyers

Executive Committee

Joshua Gear, Jeremy Maskel,

Mike McKnight, and Hunter Samuels

"Face on the Barroom Floor"

Roger Humphries

Hall of Fame

Dr. Robert Meyers

Marketing / Membership

Bridget (Weide) Brooks

OPC Foundation

TRUSTEES

Henry Cordes

Erin Grace

Aaron Hegarty

Mehrnaz Khanjani

Chris Machian

Tracie McPherson

Brian Norton

Aaron Sanderford

Danelle Schlegelmilch

Matt Wynn

TRUSTEES EMERITUS

Elaine Allen

Chris Christen

Steve Jordon

Howard K. Marcus

WE'RE ONLINE! READ YOUR OPC NEWSLETTER AT OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM



Every Thursday

Prime Rib Night
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 6

Winemaker's Dinner
\$90 OPC members, \$100 non-members

Saturday Feb. 14

Valentine's Dinner
6 p.m.
\$100 per person inclusive

Thursday, Feb. 19

Face on the Barroom Floor
Police Chief Todd Schmaderer
5:30 p.m. reception,
6:30 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. roast
\$90 OPC members, \$100 non-members

Are you looking for a perfect party setting? A lunch surrounded by brilliance?
A dinner your guests will always remember? Keep the OPC in mind.

Tuesday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day Buffet
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and
4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
\$22

Wednesday, March 18

Republican Congressional Debate
11:00 a.m. lunch & social
Noon-1 p.m. debate
\$19

Thursday, March 19

Democratic Congressional Debate
11 a.m. lunch & social
Noon-1 p.m. debate
\$19

Sunday, April 5

Easter Brunch
Two seatings:
10 a.m.-noon, 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m.
\$36 adults \$17 Children 3-10

Saturday, April 25

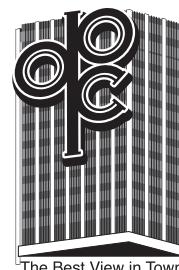
OPC Scholarship Brunch

Hours of Operation

1620 Dodge St., Omaha NE 68102

LUNCH

Tuesday- Saturday
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed Mondays



DINNER

Thursday - Saturday
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF

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Steve Villamonte opcdirector@gmail.com

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Christine Villamonte opcchristine@gmail.com

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