

# OSBA announces 2008

by Gary Motz  
managing editor

OSBA launched the Media Honor Roll in 2002 to provide school districts a way to acknowledge outstanding education reporting and establish good relationships with their local journalists. Now it's time to recognize another round of outstanding reporters.

As part of the program, OSBA sends personalized certificates and sample resolutions that school boards can customize to recognize reporters, editors and news outlets during a board meeting. The association also recognizes the honorees in the *Journal* magazine and on its Web site.

The OSBA Media Honor Roll recognizes media representatives in print, radio and television. Winners are chosen because they:

- work to get to know the board president, superintendent and district communication director, as well as the district's mission and goals;
- report school news in a fair, accurate and balanced manner;
- maintain a policy of "no surprises" by always giving school officials the opportunity to comment on information to be aired or published;
- give a high profile to positive news about schools;
- visit schools.

There's no question that the news media has tremendous power to influence community attitudes about schools. That makes it extremely important that school districts — if they are to generate and maintain community support — ensure that their message gets through loud and clear. When districts create ongoing and positive relationships with the news media, they are better prepared to provide the community an accurate view of what is going on in their schools.

The Media Honor Roll enables districts to acknowledge and thank

journalists for fair and balanced education coverage. It also promotes the excellent job that Ohio public schools do in educating the state's nearly two million schoolchildren. If districts build positive relationships with the media, they are better positioned to get the word out about the many great things that school boards, students, administrators and teachers are accomplishing.

Working well with journalists also can prove to be valuable when bad news strikes. Education leaders, as advocates for their students, should not oppose journalists who fairly cover schools' shortcomings. They also must work closely with the media to prevent unfair "school-bashing."

"School districts all across Ohio appreciate these reporters' fair and balanced approach to sharing both the challenges facing our schools, as well as the successes," said OSBA Executive Director **Richard Lewis**. "OSBA congratulates the members of the 2008 Media Honor Roll and thanks them for their efforts in providing communities well-rounded and accurate accounts of their schools. Their work enables citizens to better understand and appreciate the value of public education."

Following are members of the 2008 OSBA Media Honor Roll as selected by participating school districts. Journalists or news outlets named by more than one district are listed with each district that selected them.

- **Gayle Agnew**, *The Alliance Review*, West Branch Local (Mahoning)
- **Dave Arcaro**, *Pymatuning Area News*, Pymatuning Valley Local (Ashtabula)
- **Michael Arthur**, *The People's Defender*, Manchester Local (Adams)
- **Deb Beer**, *Bluffton News*, Bluffton EV
- **John Benson**, *The Gazette*, Parma City
- **Wayne Boblitt**, *Brown County Press*, Georgetown EV
- **Jennifer Boytar**, *This Week*, Delaware City
- **Jim Brewer**, *Loudonville Times*, Loudonville-Perrysville EV

- **J.D. Bruewer**, *Van Wert Voice*, Crestview Local (Van Wert)
- **Rachel Buccione**, *Pickerington Times-Sun*, Pickerington Local (Fairfield)
- **Brenda Burns**, *Urbana Daily Citizen*, Ohio Hi-Point Career Center
- **Brenda Burns**, *Urbana Daily Citizen*, Urbana City
- **Leonard Crist**, *Salem News*, Salem City
- **Leonard Crist**, *Salem News*, West Branch Local (Mahoning)
- **Dan Davis**, *The Daily Jeffersonian*, Cambridge City
- **Dan Davis**, *The Daily Jeffersonian*, Mid-East Career and Technology Centers
- **Anne Decker**, *GTV2*, Lima City
- **Beth Deere**, *Urbana Daily Citizen*, Ohio Hi-Point Career Center
- **Beth Deere**, *Urbana Daily Citizen*, Urbana City
- **Kathy Dickerson**, *Coshocton Tribune*, Coshocton County Career Center
- **Judy Divelbiss**, *Knox County Citizen*, Fredericktown Local (Knox)
- **Dave D'Marko**, *WDTN-TV*, Xenia Community City
- **Rob Dowdy**, *Community Press*, Winton Woods City
- **Joanne DuMound**, *The News Sun*, Olmsted Falls City
- **Brian Ewig**, *The Gazette*, Jefferson Area Local (Ashtabula)
- **Mike Ford**, *The Delphos Herald*, Elida Local (Allen)
- **Nancy Gagnet**, *The Mirror*, Maumee City
- **Ed Gebert**, *Times-Bulletin*, Crestview Local (Van Wert)
- **Julie Ghrist**, *Herald-Star*, Toronto City
- **Megan Gildow-Broadstock**, *Springfield News-Sun*, Northwestern Local (Clark)
- **Amanda Godfrey**, *Sandusky Register*, North Point ESC
- **Dave Gossett**, *Herald-Star*, Jefferson County ESC
- **Denise Grant**, *The Courier*, Findlay City

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- **Linda Hall**, *Wooster Daily Record*, Tri-County ESC
- **Linda Hall**, *Wooster Daily Record*, Wooster City
- **Aaron Keith Harris**, *Xenia Daily Gazette*, Xenia Community City
- *Herald-Star*, Indian Creek Local (Jefferson)
- **Matt Hilderbrand**, *The People's Defender*, Manchester Local (Adams)
- **Mandy Hochstedler**, *Bellefontaine Examiner*, Bellefontaine City
- **Craig Hofius**, *Pymatuning Area News*, Pymatuning Valley Local (Ashtabula)
- **Mark Holan**, *Sun News*, Cuyahoga Heights Local (Cuyahoga)
- **Beth Jokinen**, *Lima News*, Allen East Local (Allen)
- **Beth Jokinen**, *Lima News*, Bath Local (Allen)
- **Beth Jokinen**, *Lima News*, Lima City
- **Jeremy Kelley**, *Dayton Daily News*, Sugarcreek Local (Greene)
- **Kevin Kelly**, *Gallipolis Daily Tribune*, Gallipolis City
- *Kettring-Oakwood Times*, Oakwood City
- **Cindy Kranz**, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, Forest Hills Local (Hamilton)
- **Cindy Kranz**, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, West Clermont Local (Clermont)
- **Dennis Laycock**, *Suburban News Publications*, Delaware Area Career Center
- **Lenny Lepola**, *The Sunbury News*, Big Walnut Local (Delaware)
- **Bret Liebendorfer**, *Delaware News*, Delaware City
- **Kimberly Loccisano**, *The Times Leader*, Buckeye Local (Jefferson)
- **Dodie Lockwood**, *Dayton Daily News*, Northmont City
- **Chris Magan**, *Dayton Daily News*, Xenia Community City
- **Jessi Marcincavage**, WTNS Radio, Coshocton County Career Center
- **Jessi Marcincavage**, WTNS Radio, Coshocton City
- **Kristin McAllister**, *Dayton Daily News*, Miamisburg City
- **Marilyn McConhay**, *Englewood Independent*, Northmont City
- **Josie McCormick**, *Coshocton Tribune*, Coshocton County Career Center
- **Mike McKay**, WCMJ Radio, Cambridge City
- **Tom McKee**, WCPO-TV, West Clermont Local (Clermont)
- **Mark Miller**, *Herald-Star*, Toronto City
- **Wendy Mitchell**, *The Ledger Independent*, Manchester Local (Adams)
- **Kurt Moore**, *Marion Star*, Elgin Local (Marion)
- **Kurt Moore**, *Marion Star*, River Valley Local (Marion)
- **LeeAnne Moore**, *Zanesville Times Recorder*, Franklin Local (Muskingum)
- **LeeAnne Moore**, *Zanesville Times Recorder*, Muskingum Valley ESC
- **Dave Mosier**, *Van Wert Independent*, Crestview Local (Van Wert)
- **Deron Newman**, *Register Herald*, Eaton Community City
- **Jon Noel**, *Xenia Daily Gazette*, Xenia Community City
- **Ron Nunnari**, *Englewood Independent*, Northmont City
- *The Oakwood Register*, Oakwood City
- **Dave O'Brien**, *Record-Courier*, Kent City
- **Sue Pitts**, *Bellefontaine Examiner*, Ohio Hi-Point Career Center
- **Candace Preston**, *This Week*, Dublin City
- **Dan Ramey**, WKKJ/WBEX/WCHI Radio, Chillicothe City
- **Penny Regula**, *The Times-Reporter*, Coshocton City
- **Demaris Rice**, *The Bryan Times*, Central Local (Defiance)
- **Holly Richards**, *The Coshocton Tribune*, Coshocton County JVSD
- **Barb Ritsko-Stephens**, *Chronicle-Telegram*, Lorain County JVSD
- **Liz Robertson**, *The Delaware Gazette*, Delaware City
- **Jeff Robinson**, *The Delaware Gazette*, Delaware Area Career Center
- **Brett Roller**, *The News Democrat*, Georgetown EV
- **Carl Ryan**, *The Blade*, Maumee City
- **Carl Ryan**, *The Blade*, Springfield Local (Lucas)
- **Pat Salemi**, *Parma Sun Post*, Parma City
- **Kevin Sandler**, WCSM Radio, Celina City
- **Kevin Sandler**, WCSM Radio, Coldwater EV
- **Kevin Sandler**, WCSM Radio, St. Henry Consolidated Local (Mercer)
- **Matthew Schomer**, *Lisbon Morning Journal*, West Branch Local (Mahoning)
- **Melissa Griffy Seeton**, *The Repository*, Plain Local (Stark)
- **Forrest Sellers**, *Forest Hills Journal*, Forest Hills Local (Hamilton)
- **Kathy Sexton**, *The Jackson County Times-Journal*, Wellston City
- **Tom Sheldon**, WFIN Radio, Findlay City
- **Larry Shields**, *Salem News*, Salem City
- **Greg Smart**, *Huber Heights Courier*, Huber Heights City
- **Jeff Smith**, WTVG-TV, Toledo, Sylvania City
- **Mike Smith**, WKKJ/WBEX/WCHI Radio, Chillicothe City
- **Nancy Spencer**, *The Delphos Herald*, Ottoville Local (Putnam)
- **Larry Spradlin**, *The Ada Herald*, Allen East Local (Allen)
- **Fred Steiner**, *Bluffton News*, Bluffton EV
- **Barbara Summers**, *The Telegram*, Wellston City
- **Bill Tipple**, WPKO/WBLL Radio, Ohio Hi-Point Career Center
- **Mike Ullery**, *Piqua Daily Call*, Upper Valley JVSD
- **Carleta Weyrich**, *The People's Defender*, Manchester Local (Adams)
- **Doug Wilber**, WOBL/WDLW Radio, Lorain County JVSD
- WTOV-TV, Indian Creek Local (Jefferson)
- **Kate York**, *Marietta Times*, Fort Frye Local (Washington)
- **Kate York**, *Marietta Times*, Wolf Creek Local (Washington)
- **Krist Zurbrick**, *Madison Messenger*, London City □