

For Immediate Release

Catholic Media Association Announces Election of Seven Board Members

Board provides leadership, expertise in support of Catholic media

CHICAGO (April 25, 2022) — The Catholic Media Association announced today the election of seven members to its Board of Directors, the governing body of the association. Directors serve various categories of membership, representing the diversity of Catholic media professionals throughout North America.

“The association has always been blessed with vibrant, talented Catholic communicators who serve the board,” Amy Kawula, president of the Catholic Media Association, said. “This legacy continues as we welcome new members. They join us in sharing their gifts and talents to encourage, support and provide educational opportunities for members, as well as continue to strengthen our association.”

Terms are for three years and officially begin on the date of the members’ annual meeting at the Catholic Media Conference, taking place this July in Portland, Oregon. Directors may serve up to three consecutive terms.

“We are at a pivotal moment in time when the Church must communicate with care, precision and clarity. To that end, we must invest in our people and provide them the tools they need to succeed,” Rob DeFrancesco, executive director of the Catholic Media Association, said. “Catholic Media Association board members possess the leadership and experience to help propel the Church in her mission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

Of the seven members elected this year, three are incumbents, two have served on the board in previous years, and two are new to the Board of Directors. There are 15 board members.

Jennifer Brinker, a reporter at the *St. Louis Review* newspaper and *Catholic St. Louis* magazine, will serve her third term as Newspaper Editorial Staff Member. Brinker serves on the education committee, and has organized webinars for members of the Catholic Media Association.

Paula Gwynn Grant, re-elected to serve a second term as Diocesan Communications Director, is Secretary for Communications for The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., home of the *Catholic Standard* and *El Pregonero* archdiocesan newspapers, where she is responsible for internal and external communications.

Matthew Schiller of *Catholic New York* was re-elected to serve as Newspaper Publisher Member on the board. Schiller joined Catholic New York in 2006 as Advertising and Business Manager. Throughout his career he has actively participated in the Catholic Media Association, serving as Treasurer, President and a board member. Schiller was the 2017 recipient of the St. Francis de Sales award.

Michael B. Stechschulte was elected to his first board term and will serve as Midwest Regional Representative. He has been editor of Detroit Catholic, the online news publication of the Archdiocese of Detroit, since 2018. Before that, he was editor of the publication's print successor, *The Michigan Catholic*, from 2012 to 2018. Detroit Catholic publishes a biweekly podcast, "Detroit Stories," which highlights the people, communities and faith of southeast Michigan in a narrative, storytelling format.

Kerry Weber is an executive editor for *America*, where her work focuses on the magazine's Features and Faith in Focus departments. She began her tenure at *America* in 2009, and her writing has since earned several awards from the Catholic Media Association. Weber was elected to the board as the Magazine Editorial Staff Member.

Monica Yehle was elected to the Magazine Publisher Member position on the board. Since 1990, she has been editor-in-chief of *MISSION*, the national magazine of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies. Yehle serves as Chief of Staff at the National Office.

Carol Zimmermann was elected to the board as Eastern Regional Representative, and she has been working for Catholic News Service for nearly 30 years, primarily as a part-time reporter, covering education and more recently the Supreme Court. Zimmermann previously coordinated and edited the CNS Supplementary Kits and has recently been working on podcasts.

About the Catholic Media Association

The mission of the Catholic Media Association is to build and strengthen the value, effectiveness and identity of Catholic media by facilitating the professional development and spiritual growth of our members. The Catholic Media Association contributes to the Church's mission of communicating the Good News and evangelizing the modern world by engaging and supporting Catholic media.

The Catholic Media Association has been uniting and serving Catholic media since 1911. The CMA is the most active and vibrant group of Catholic media professionals in the world, with more than 200 publication members and 600 individual members. Member publications reach nearly 10 million households plus many more through digital media.

List of Catholic Media Association Board of Directors

- Amy Kawula, President, *The Compass*
- Ed Langlois, Vice President and Western Regional Representative, *The Catholic Sentinel*
- Joe Sinasac, Treasurer, Novalis Publishing
- Ana Rodriguez-Soto, Secretary and Southern Regional Representative, *The Florida Catholic*
- Most Rev. Robert P. Reed, Honorary President, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston
- Jennifer Brinker, Newspaper Editorial Staff Member, *St. Louis Review*
- Gretchen Crowe, General Publisher Member, *Our Sunday Visitor*
- John Feister, Magazine Member at Large, *Glenmary Challenge*
- Janelle Gergen, Member at Large, Diocese of Crookston
- Paula Gwynn Grant, Diocesan Communication Director, Archdiocese of Washington
- Michael La Civita, Magazine Business Staff Member, *ONE Magazine*
- Antonio Enrique, Eastern Regional Representative, *The Pilot*
- Alton Pelowski, Magazine Editorial Staff Member, *Columbia*
- Matthew Schiller, Newspaper Publisher Member, *Catholic New York*
- Maria Wiering, Midwest Regional Representative, *The Catholic Spirit*
- J.D. Long-García, Past President, *America Magazine*

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Media Contact

Robert DeFrancesco
Executive Director, Catholic Media Association
rdefrancesco@CatholicMediaAssociation.org
CatholicMediaAssociation.org
(602) 751-2720