

NPPA Bylaws

Name

The name of the association is the National Press Photographers Association, Inc., hereinafter referred to as NPPA.

Mission

The National Press Photographers Association is dedicated to the advancement of visual journalism, its creation, practice, training, editing and distribution, in all news media and works to promote its role as a vital public service.

NPPA encourages visual journalists to reflect high standards of quality in their professional performance and in their personal code of ethics. NPPA vigorously promotes freedom of the press in all its forms. To this end, NPPA provides continuing educational programs and fraternalism without bias, as we support and acknowledge the best the profession has to offer.

Object

The objects and purposes of this association are to:

Advance visual journalism in all its forms;

Create, promote and maintain a high spirit of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct among its members;

Oppose violations and infringements of the rights of visual journalists or their organizations;

Promote a better understanding of the visual journalists' problems;

Support legislation favorable to, and oppose legislation unfavorable or prejudicial to visual journalists;

Work to maintain freedom of the press, in all its forms, and to execute the constitutional rights of journalists;

Cooperate with all recognized local visual journalism associations consistent with the aims and objectives of NPPA; and

Provide educational opportunities for those involved in all forms of visual journalism.

The National Press Photographers Association recognizes that through diversity we bring to our association and our profession a perspective and voice that is vital. NPPA is committed to reflecting diversity in age, gender and race in all its activities. The leadership, committee chairs and program directors are hereby directed to make all reasonable efforts to insure diversity in all programs. NPPA further challenges the entire profession of visual journalism to embrace and reflect every aspect of cultural pluralism in every capacity at every opportunity.

Membership

Eligibility

The membership of this organization shall consist of professional news photographers and others whose occupation has a direct professional relationship with visual journalism.

Membership will be distributed among the eleven (11) regions on the basis of the individual member's current [home](#) address.

Members who move overseas will remain on the membership roll of the regional division to which they were assigned at the time of their moving overseas.

Life membership

Past National Presidents, past National Secretaries, past National Treasurers and charter members of the NPPA shall have Life Membership and shall not be required to pay dues.

Honorary membership

An individual who has a contributory interest in NPPA, but who does not otherwise qualify for membership, may be elected as an honorary member, without the obligation of dues and without the voting privileges, by the Board of Directors.

Code of Ethics

Every member in NPPA is required to endorse the Code of Ethics.

The National Press Photographers Association, a professional society that promotes the highest standards in photojournalism, acknowledges concern for every person's need both to be fully informed about public events and to be recognized as part of the world in which we live.

Photojournalists operate as trustees of the public. Our primary role is to report visually on the significant events and varied viewpoints in our common world. Our primary goal is the faithful and comprehensive depiction of the subject at hand. As photojournalists, we have the responsibility to document society and to preserve its history through images. Photographic and video images can reveal great truths, expose wrongdoing and neglect, inspire hope and understanding and connect people around the globe through the language of visual understanding. Photographs can also cause great harm if they are callously intrusive or are manipulated.

This code is intended to promote the highest quality in all forms of photojournalism and to strengthen public confidence in the profession. It is also meant to serve as an educational tool both for those who practice and for those who appreciate photojournalism. To that end, The National Press Photographers Association sets forth the following Code of Ethics:

Photojournalists and those who manage visual news productions are accountable for upholding the following standards:

Be accurate and comprehensive in the representation of subjects;

Resist being manipulated by staged photo opportunities;

Be complete and provide context when photographing or recording subjects;

Avoid stereotyping individuals and groups;

Recognize and work to avoid presenting one's own biases in the work;

Treat all subjects with respect and dignity;

Give special consideration to vulnerable subjects and compassion to victims of crime or tragedy;

Intrude on private moments of grief only when the public has an overriding and justifiable need to see;

While photographing subjects do not intentionally contribute to, alter, or seek to alter or influence events;

Editing should maintain the integrity of the photographic images' content and context;

Do not manipulate images or add or alter sound in any way that can mislead viewers or misrepresent subjects;
Do not pay sources or subjects or reward them materially for information or participation;
Do not accept gifts, favors, or compensation from those who might seek to influence coverage;
Do not intentionally sabotage the efforts of other journalists;
Ideally, photojournalists should:
Strive to ensure that the public's business is conducted in public. Defend the rights of access for all journalists;
Think proactively, as a student of psychology, sociology, politics and art to develop a unique vision and presentation;
Work with a voracious appetite for current events and contemporary visual media;
Strive for total and unrestricted access to subjects, recommend alternatives to shallow or rushed opportunities, seek a diversity of viewpoints, and work to show unpopular or unnoticed points of view;
Avoid political, civic and business involvements or other employment that compromise or give the appearance of compromising one's own journalistic independence;
Strive to be unobtrusive and humble in dealing with subjects;
Respect the integrity of the photographic moment;
Strive by example and influence to maintain the spirit and high standards expressed in this code;
When confronted with situations in which the proper action is not clear, seek the counsel of those who exhibit the highest standards of the profession; and
Photojournalists should continuously study their craft and the ethics that guide it.

Regions

For administrative purposes [National and International membership](#) shall be partitioned into the following regional divisions:

Region 1

USA: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
International: New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island

Region 2

USA: New York
International: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ontario, Quebec, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire), Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar, Greece, Greenland, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg,

[Macedonia](#), [Madagascar](#), [Mali](#), [Malta](#), [Mauritania](#), [Mauritius](#), [Malawi](#), [Mayotte](#), [Moldova](#), [Monaco](#), [Morocco](#), [Mozambique](#), [Namibia](#), [Netherlands](#), [Nigeria](#), [Norway](#), [Oman](#), [Pakistan](#), [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Qatar](#), [Romania](#), [Rwanda](#), [Saint Helena](#), [Saint Pierre and Miquelon](#), [San Marino](#), [Sao Tome and Principe](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [Senegal](#), [Seychelles](#), [Sierra Leone](#), [Slovak Republic](#), [Slovenia](#), [Somalia](#), [South Africa](#), [Spain](#), [Sudan](#), [Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands](#), [Swaziland](#), [Sweden](#), [Switzerland](#), [Syria](#), [Tanzania](#), [Togo](#), [Tunisia](#), [Turkey](#), [Turkmenistan](#), [Uganda](#), [United Arab Emirates](#), [United Kingdom](#), [Vatican City State](#), [Western Sahara](#), [Yemen](#), [Yugoslavia](#), [Zambia](#), [Zimbabwe](#)

[Region 3](#)

[Delaware](#), [District of Columbia](#), [Maryland](#), [New Jersey](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Virginia](#), [West Virginia](#)

[Region 4](#)

[Indiana](#), [Kentucky](#), [Michigan](#), [Ohio](#)

[Region 5](#)

USA: [Illinois](#), [Iowa](#), [Minnesota](#), [Wisconsin](#)
International: [Anguilla](#), [Antigua and Barbuda](#), [Aruba](#), [Bermuda](#), [Cayman Islands](#), [Cuba](#), [Domenica](#), [Grenada](#), [Guadeloupe](#), [Jamaica](#), [Martinique](#), [Montserrat](#), [Netherlands Antilles](#), [Saint Kitts and Nevis](#), [Saint Lucia](#), [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#), [Trinidad and Tobago](#), [Turks and Caicos Islands](#), [West Indies](#)

[Region 6](#)

USA: [Alabama](#), [Florida](#), [Georgia](#), [Mississippi](#), [North Carolina](#), [South Carolina](#), [Tennessee](#)
International: [Antarctica](#), [Argentina](#), [Bahamas](#), [Barbados](#), [Belize](#), [Bouvet Island](#), [Brazil](#), [Chile](#), [Colombia](#), [Costa Rica](#), [Dominican Republic](#), [Ecuador](#), [El Salvador](#), [Falkland Islands \(Malvinas\)](#), [Guatamala](#), [French Guiana](#), [Guyana](#), [Haiti](#), [Honduras](#), [Nicaragua](#), [Panama](#), [Paraguay](#), [Peru](#), [Puerto Rico](#), [South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands](#), [Suriname](#), [Uruguay](#), [Venezuela](#), [British Virgin Islands](#), [US Virgin Islands](#)

[Region 7](#)

[Arkansas](#), [Kansas](#), [Missouri](#), [Oklahoma](#)

[Region 8](#)

USA: [Louisiana](#), [New Mexico](#), [Texas](#)
International: [Mexico](#)

[Region 9](#)

USA: [Colorado](#), [Idaho](#), [Montana](#), [Nebraska](#), [North Dakota](#), [South Dakota](#), [Utah](#), [Wyoming](#)
International: [Alberta](#), [Manitoba](#), [Nunavut](#), [Northwest Territory](#), [Saskatchewan](#)

Region 10

USA: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada
International: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Christmas Island, Cocos Islands, Comoros, Cook Islands, East Timor, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Heard and McDonald Islands, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Laos, Macao, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn Island, Reunion, Samoa, American Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Wallis and Futuna Islands

Region 11

USA: Washington, Oregon
International: British Columbia, Yukon Territory

Regional Officers

Regional **officers** shall be the **Chair** and Associate **Chair** from each region.

Eligibility

To be eligible for election to regional office, a member must be a NPPA **Professional** member in good standing for at least one year prior to being nominated.

Election of Regional Officers

Regional Officers shall be elected by the members of the Region, by mail or electronic ballot distributed, collected and counted by the National Secretary, and shall serve ~~two-~~ year terms or until their successor is elected.

Vacancies

A vacancy shall exist upon resignation or upon removal from office.
In the event of a vacancy in the office of Regional Director, the regional Associate Director shall automatically assume the office of Regional Director.
In the event of a vacancy in both of the offices of Regional Director and Regional Associate Director the NPPA President shall appoint an interim Regional Director.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of nine Elected Directors (elected by the national membership), ~~three~~ Appointed Directors (appointed by the President) and the national officers. Elected Directors shall serve staggered three year terms or until their successor is elected. Elections shall be held annually to fill the three expired terms.

Eligibility

To be eligible for election as an Elected Director, a member must be a **Professional** member in good standing for at least one year prior to being nominated.

Vacancies

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A vacancy shall exist upon the resignation or upon removal from office of an Elected Director. Such a vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

Meetings

The Board of Directors shall convene at least one meeting per year (the “Annual Meeting”) and may convene as many other meetings as the Board shall see fit.

Notice

Directors shall receive written Notice of Meeting from the National Secretary at least 10 days in advance of said meeting. The Notice of Meeting may, but is not required to, include a draft Agenda. The Notice of Meeting shall state the date, time and place of said meeting.

Quorum

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the Elected Directors, but at no time less than three Elected Directors.

National Officers

The National Officers of the association shall be the President, Treasurer, Vice President, Secretary and Immediate Past President.

Eligibility

To be eligible for election to a national office, a member must be a Professional member in good standing for at least one year prior to being nominated.

Election of National Officers

National Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors and shall serve one year terms (with the exception of treasurer and secretary who serve two-year terms) or until their successor is elected.

Vacancies

A vacancy shall exist upon the resignation or upon removal from office.

A vacancy in the office of President, Treasurer, Vice-president, Secretary or Immediate Past President shall be filled by majority vote of the Board of Directors. National officers thus elected shall serve the un-expired term.

Committees

The Executive Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the Board of Directors during the intervals between meetings of the Board of Directors.

Executive Committee

The executive committee shall be composed of the National Officers: President, Treasurer, Vice President, Secretary and Immediate Past-President. The Executive Director shall serve as ex-officio member of the committee.

Meetings

The Executive Committee shall convene upon the call of the President or the call of any three members of the Executive Committee.

Quorum

The quorum of the Executive Committee shall be a majority of the National Officers.

Standing Committees

Standing Committees: The Board will appoint the chairs of standing committees. Chair and committee service terms are not limited but may be changed at the will of the Board. Standing committees will meet twice annually. All committees are required to report to the Board (in writing) and other committees after each meeting.

Finance Committee – Oversees the preparation of the annual budget, the financial performance of the association throughout the fiscal year, and the financial feasibility of any new proposals that would alter the spending/revenue of the association. This committee will also be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the annual audit. This committee will be assigned one board liaison (Treasurer, who will also act as chair) and one staff liaison.

Membership Committee – Oversees the recruitment/retention of members, makes recommendations to the board on member eligibility, oversees the services and benefits to the members, and represents the needs of the different constituencies and demographics within the membership. This committee will be assigned one board liaison and one staff liaison. Ideally its members will represent the different constituencies and demographics that make up the NPPA and include the chairs of subordinate ad hoc committees.

Program Committee – Oversees the implementation and long range planning of contests and professional services. This committee will be assigned one board liaison and one staff liaison. Ideally it will include the chairs of subordinate ad hoc committees.

Education Committee – Oversees the implementation and long range planning of educational events, services and content. This committee will be assigned one board liaison and one staff liaison. Ideally it will include the chairs of subordinate ad hoc committees.

Communications Committee – Oversees all internal and external communications including the overall web site, newsletters, marketing and PR activity. This committee will also be responsible for internal communications between committees, the board and staff. This committee will be assigned one board liaison and one staff liaison. Ideally it will include the chairs of subordinate ad hoc committees.

Governance Committee – Oversees the board and committee structure as well as governance procedures, volunteer recruitment and elections, new volunteer orientation, and committee/board evaluation. This committee will also oversee and implement the nominations and elections process and investigate and make recommendations to the board on member related misconduct. This committee will be assigned one board liaison (Secretary) and one staff liaison. Ideally it will include the chairs of subordinate ad hoc committees.

Ad Hoc Committees: The Board will appoint ad hoc committee chairs. Chair and committee service terms are not limited but may be changed at the will of the Board. Ad hoc committees will meet as needed. Liaisons are optional, as assigned by Board. All committees are required to report to the Board (in writing) and other committees after each meeting. In the case that an ad hoc committee does not meet formally in the course of a year it will be required to submit an annual report.

Task Forces may be temporarily created by the Board as needed to address short-term projects and will report to the Board or standing committee (including the EC when appropriate) that is most associated with the project. Liaisons are optional, as assigned by Board.

Executive Director

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to employ an Executive Director and determine the salary and size of his/her staff.

Parliamentary Authority

Rules of Order

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, shall govern the association in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the non-profit corporation laws of the State of New York, the by-laws of the Association and any special rules of order the association may adopt.

Professional Parliamentarian

A Professional Parliamentarian shall be hired by the Executive Director with the consent of the President to act as parliamentarian for any Board of Directors meeting. The advice of the parliamentarian on questions of parliamentary procedure shall be considered persuasive and shall not be ignored by the chair except by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present.

Amendment

These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors at any meeting thereof.