



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Sept. 8, 2023

Our September issue of the Bulletin includes a summary of the Annual Meeting on Sept. 5, another look at the Board of Governors election results, information on how to join two new platforms for discussion among OPC members, and reminders about three upcoming OPC programs. Please note that the Sept. 20 event with William J. Holstein and Michael G. McLaughlin will be held at Club Quarters, at 40 W. 45th St, New York. Read more and RSVP below:

- **Sept. 13:** [OPC and Dart Center Offer Psychological Safety Training on Stress, Burnout and Trauma](#)
- **Sept. 20:** [Are China and Russia Accelerating their Cyber Campaigns Against the United States?](#)
- **Oct. 19:** [Book Night - 'No Ordinary Assignment' – With Jane Ferguson](#)

We also have updates on OPC member news in the People Column, new programs and opportunities for journalists in our Resources section, and more.

OPC President Scott Kraft Welcomes New Governors

On Tuesday night, the OPC held its Annual Meeting, in person for the first time since 2019, with many more members joining online via Zoom. The meeting was held at the midtown headquarters of the



Committee to Protect Journalists, and included discussion of club business, the announcement of results for the Board of Governors election, and a chance to catch up with colleagues over drinks and food.

The club elected seven new governors to its board, and voted to re-elect five journalists or media professionals who have served on the board for the past two years. Proposed constitutional amendments were also approved.

“We are thrilled to welcome such an accomplished group of journalists and international reporting experts to our Board of Governors,” said OPC President Scott Kraft. “They will play key roles in the coming year as we build on an already impressive record of OPC accomplishments – providing forums for journalists to discuss global reporting challenges, offering financial support to reporters, photographers and editors in conflict zones, and, of course, recognizing the finest work from abroad in our annual awards.”

Joining the board are Fahim Abed, a co-editor at Lighthouse Reports and a 2023 Nieman fellow at Harvard; Juan Arredondo, a freelance photographer, documentary filmmaker, and visual journalism professor at Rutgers and Columbia University; Brian Byrd, a senior program officer for the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts; Nadja Drost, an independent journalist working in long-form print, television, radio and documentary film; Alexis Okeowo, a staff writer at The New Yorker who has reported on conflict, human rights, and culture across Africa, Mexico and the American South; John Simons, a partner at the Brunswick Group, a global advisory firm focused on strategic issues; and Nilo Tabrizy, a video reporter for The Washington Post’s Visual Forensics team.

Elected to a second term are Raney Aronson-Rath, the executive producer of PBS’ FRONTLINE; Anup Kaphle, executive editor of Rest of World, a digital publication that focuses on technology in the non-Western world; Beth Knobel, associate professor of Communication & Media Studies at Fordham University; Ginger Thompson, chief of correspondents at ProPublica; and Daniella Zalzman, photojournalist and founder of Women Photograph, a non-profit that works to elevate the voices of women and nonbinary visual journalists.

Kraft thanked outgoing governors whose terms have expired: David Ake, Bill Collins, Farnaz Fassihi, Charles Graeber, Hendrik Hinzl and Derek Kravitz.

For a list of the full board, [please click here](#).

Jane Reilly, executive director of the OPC Foundation, announced that fellowships resumed this year, after Covid disruptions, at The Associated Press, Reuters and The Wall Street Journal. She also took a moment to applaud William J. Holstein, who stepped down this year after serving as president of the

foundation for more than 25 years. At a board meeting in May, the foundation's board elected John Daniszewski, Vice President and head of standards at the AP, as the organization's current president.

[Read the OPC Board of Governors Announcement Here](#)

Upcoming Events

Sept. 13: OPC and Dart Center Offer Psychological Safety Training on Stress, Burnout and Trauma

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom



The OPC and the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma will host a 90-minute training session on coping with stress, burnout and trauma on the job. The session will cover the basics of self-care and collegial support, including the impact of covering trauma and tragedy on journalists, and offer concrete guidance and techniques for enriching one's coping skills and wellness, and building resilient news teams.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY TRAINING ON STRESS, BURNOUT & TRAUMA	SEPT. 13 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 11:30 AM. ET
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The training will include a slide presentation and briefing, as well as a Q&A.

Registration is limited to 50 participants.

Registrants will receive a link to join the program via Zoom on the day of the event. If you register but find you cannot attend, we ask that you email us at info@opcofamerica.org so we can give people on our waiting list the chance to participate.

The trainer is **Elana Newman**, Ph.D., the McFarlin Professor of Psychology at the University of Tulsa, and has conducted research on a wide range of topics regarding the psychological and physical response to traumatic life events, assessment of PTSD in children and adults, journalism and trauma, and understanding the impact of participating in trauma-related research from the trauma survivor's perspective.



RSVP Now



Sept. 20: Are China And Russia Accelerating Their Cyber Campaigns Against The United States?

Please note the change of venue - this event will be held at Club Quarters at 40 W. 45th St.

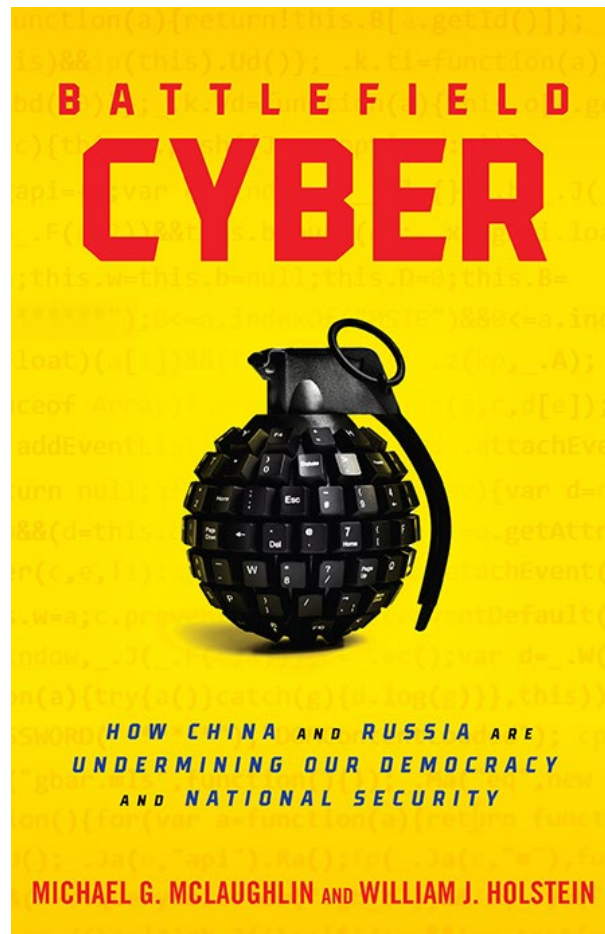
Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Club Quarters, 40 W. 45th St, New York

The co-authors of *Battlefield Cyber: How China and Russia Are Undermining Our Democracy and National Security* will argue that Chinese state-supported entities appear to be accelerating their cyber and espionage attacks against the U.S. government and military, as evidenced by their sending of a spy balloon across the United States and attempts to penetrate U.S. military communications in Guam. Chinese actors also have broken new ground by penetrating the Microsoft Outlook cloud email servers that host the State and Commerce Departments, placing malware in U.S. critical infrastructure that The New York Times called a “ticking time bomb,” and penetrating the U.S. Navy’s secrets, as per the two recent arrests of Chinese-American sailors in California. Russia, for its part, is behind a surge in ransomware attacks against schools and universities, hospitals and businesses around the world.

Co-authors **Michael G. McLaughlin** and OPC Past President **William J. Holstein** also will argue that the two authoritarian giants are seeking to undermine Americans’ confidence in their own institutions and their democratic political system in large part by creating and fanning divisive and polarizing content on social media.

John Avlon, a vice president of the OPC who is senior political analyst and an



anchor at CNN will moderate the discussion.

Books will be available for sale at the event and can be purchased [here on Amazon](#).

RSVP Now



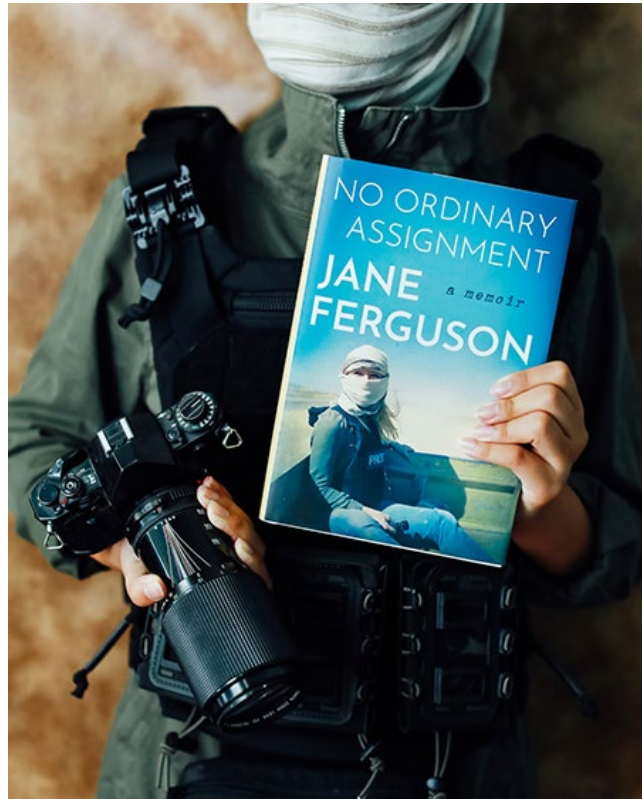
Oct. 19: Book Night - 'No Ordinary Assignment' – With Jane Ferguson

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

Jane Ferguson has covered some of the biggest war stories of recent years. She won the OPC's Peter Jennings Award in 2021 for her coverage on PBS NewsHour of the fall of Afghanistan. Her reporting on Yemen earned an Emmy, a George Polk Award and an Alred I. du Pont Columbia Award.

No Ordinary Assignment starts with her childhood in Northern Ireland during the Troubles and moves on to chronicle her experiences reporting in numerous conflict zones.



Ferguson told the OPC her memoir is “a deep look at what shapes someone in their early lives to pursue this work, and then what happens to that person when they are out in the world at some of its roughest moments, trying to do the job well while being the complicated, flawed, passionate human beings that we are. So, I could say it's a book about what it takes to become a war reporter and then what it does to that person as they do the work.”

Elizabeth Becker, author of *You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War*, will moderate the discussion. Becker won the Sperber Book Prize and Harvard's Goldsmith Book Prize for her book, which was featured in an OPC [program](#) in 2021.

No Ordinary Assignment is for sale on Amazon [here](#).

RSVP Now

Non-OPC Events

Sept. 20: ProPublica's Magic - Steiger and Engelberg Reveal Their Secrets

Time: 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time

Place: The National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South.

The Silurians Press Club will host Paul Steiger, ProPublica's founding editor, and Steve Engelberg, its editor-in-chief, who will tell attendees how their newsroom has garnered its enviable reputation for investigative coups.

Their appearance is particularly timely: ProPublica has been in the forefront in the ongoing investigations of the lavish gifts received by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

Since its founding in 2008 with a \$10 million infusion from a foundation, ProPublica has partnered with over 90 news organizations, including the New York Daily News, the New York Times and PBS for its award-winning investigations.

Steiger, a Bronx native, is a former managing editor of the Wall Street Journal. Engelberg, originally from the Boston area, is a former managing editor of the Oregonian and former investigations editor for the New York Times, where he spent 18 years. He is a co-author of *Germes: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War*.

Ticket sales must end at noon the Monday before our luncheon. Withdrawals after that time will have to be paid as The National Arts Club will bill us for each place. We are no longer offering a Zoom livestream Because of persistent audio difficulties. A video of the event will be available on the Silurians YouTube channel a few days after the event.

RSVP Here



Sept. 28: 2023 Oslo Freedom Forum in New York

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: [New York City's historic Town Hall](#)

Join the Human Rights Foundation for an afternoon of theater talks and performances by the world's top activists and dissidents, followed by a special Speaker Gala at 7:00 p.m. at the Rockefeller Center's Rainbow Room.

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Víctor Navarro**, Venezuelan human rights activist and VR designer
- **Sanaa Seif**, Egyptian filmmaker, activist, and sister of political prisoner Alaa Abd El-Fattah
- **Pastor Seungeun Kim**, Korean human rights advocate and leader of a modern-day underground railroad rescuing North Koreans
- **Nazanin Boniadi**, British-Iranian actress and human rights activist
- **Kalbinur Sidik**, Uzbek survivor of China's genocide and eyewitness to the camps
- **Gulbahar Haitiwaji**, Uyghur survivor of the CCP's concentration camps
- **Paul Rusesabagina**, formerly detained "Hotel Rwanda" hero

General tickets (\$25 Theater Pass and \$10 Student Pass) are available for purchase on [Ticketmaster](#).

Speaker Gala tickets (\$1,500 for a single ticket and \$10,000 for an eight-person table) are available for purchase on [Eventbrite](#). Gala tickets include access to the theater programming.

[Purchase Tickets](#)

OPC Launches Two New Platforms To Encourage Club Conversations

At the OPC Annual Meeting, the OPC announced the launch of two new platforms for chat and conversation among members. If you want to join a closed OPC listserv and/or a WhatsApp group, please click the button below to sign up for invitations.

Thank you again to all members who responded to our social media survey. Despite the last year's turmoil at X, formerly Twitter, we found that it is still the strongest social media tool we have for reaching and engaging with our audiences. According to our survey, members use it more than any other platform for professional purposes. But given uncertainty about the platform's future, we will continue to monitor the situation and grow other platforms in the meantime.

LinkedIn is also a key platform for members and we have put some extra effort into growing that audience since early this year. We plan to use LinkedIn's newsletter function to grow our audience more.

If anyone is interested in seeing more information about the survey results, email me at chad@opcofamerica.org and I can send a summary of our findings.

The survey showed that Facebook isn't used very much for professional purposes among members and our public reach on that platform is limited, so we are giving Facebook less attention now. We will be closing the OPC Connect Facebook group because that has not been a fruitful platform for communication among members. We hope the new listserv or WhatsApp groups might be a better fit for OPC conversations.

[Sign Up Here](#)

OPC and 21 Organizations Call for an End to Russian War Crimes Against Journalists in Ukraine

At least 5 women journalists have been killed by Russia since its war in Ukraine.



Oksana Baulina • Oleksandra Kuvshynova • Vira Hyrych • Oksana Haidar • Victoria Amelina



The Coalition For Women In Journalism (CFWIJ), the OPC and 20 other organizations signed a statement denouncing war crimes committed by the Russian Federation against journalists in Ukraine, calling for immediate action to hold the perpetrators accountable.

"Deliberately targeting journalists, shelling their facilities, and engaging in arbitrary detentions and torture clearly violate international humanitarian law and press freedom. We urge authorities to take decisive steps to address these grave violations and provide increased support for front-line reporters," the groups wrote in the statement.

The groups expressed alarm at the continued targeting of media workers in

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, citing the recent missile attack in Pokrovsk as a clear example of Russian forces deliberately targeting journalists by employing a “double tap” strategy to kill rescue workers and media personnel responding to the initial shelling.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), at least 17 journalists have been killed on the frontlines in Ukraine, including Brent Renaud, who was executed with a shot to the head.

The statement welcomed International Criminal Court (ICC) charges against Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova for the abduction of Ukrainian children, and urged the court to take a similar approach toward war crimes against journalists.

[Read the Full Statement Here](#)

Welcome New Members

Ronan Furuta

Filmmaker
Burlington, VT.
Active Non-Resident, Young
(29 or under)

Colin Monahan

Erasmus Mundus Journalism
Aarhus University
Aarhus, Denmark
Student

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Daniel Shailer, the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Fellowship winner in 2023, had an item in the [Aug. 21 New Yorker](#) about a long-distance swimmer’s record-setting swim around Staten Island. The piece is titled “Tits Out under the Verrazano.” Shailer, also a long-distance swimmer who once swam the English Channel, is just completing an internship with the Tucson Sentinel. He heads to Mexico City soon for an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Associated Press.

Zane Irwin, winner of the 2023 Flora Lewis/Jacqueline Albert-Simon Scholarship, has been covering breaking news for The Associated Press from Senegal, including the deadly capsizing of a boat carrying more than 100 migrants bound for Europe [in late August](#). On Aug. 22 he cowrote a story with colleague Ndeye Sene Mbengue about a few dozen survivors who were reunited with their families in Senegal, a week after they were found adrift off the Atlantic archipelago of Cape Verde. Irwin previously covered Cameroon as a Pulitzer Center reporting fellow in 2022.



AWARDS

Mellissa Fung, an OPC member and filmmaker, has been [nominated](#) for a Golden Panda Award for Best Director of a Documentary for her film *Captive*. The film follows Fung as she talks with the teenage girls who were held captive by Boko Haram, and reflects on her experience being abducted by Afghan rebels while on assignment in Afghanistan. This is the inaugural year for the Golden Panda Awards, which is organized by the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles.



UPDATES

OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** co-wrote a piece for The New York Times [on Sept. 2](#) investigating how retailers and manufacturers whose food products are marketed for weight loss could see ripple effects from the rise of drugs like Ozempic. The story, written with colleague Lauren Hirsch, includes insights from executives of companies such as Medfast, which makes weight loss products like shakes and protein bars. “On several earnings calls in August, chief executives reassured investors that the Ozempic revolution had not left them in the dust, and that they could somehow share in the blazing success of new diabetes and weight loss drugs,” Walt and Hirsch wrote.



Laurie Hays, an OPC Governor and founder of a consulting firm, has been publishing a Substack, titled “Boardroom Confidential, aimed at providing insights into “important business news” and to help readers “see around the corner for what’s coming next.” Her most recent post [on Sept. 6](#) examines United Auto Workers (UAW) talks and what employee demands mean for the future of workplaces. Hays is managing partner and founder for Laurie Hays and Assoc. and advises on strategic, financial and corporate governance communications.



OPC member **Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff**, an author, New York University instructor, and communications consultant specializing in global sports, published her second book, *Basketball Empire: France and the Making of a Global NBA and WNBA*, [on Sept. 7](#). The book, published by Bloomsbury, explores why so many French basketball players have joined the NBA and WMBA, and what this has meant for the league and generations of players since 1950.



OPC member **Barbie Nadeau** reported from Rome for CNN [on Aug. 28](#) after more than 4,200 migrants and refugees landed on Lampedusa island, a record number that overwhelmed migrant facilities and send the Italian government scrambling for an emergency plan. Nadeau said during an on-camera dispatch that before the incident, the Italian government had sequestered three rescue boats from NGOs, which officials



alleged had violated new rules put in place to prevent the organizations from rescuing migrants. “That’s why these numbers are so big. That’s why the photos and images are so astonishing,” Nadeau said. Most of the refugees had set sail from Tunisia.

Kathy Gannon, an OPC member and longtime former correspondent and news director for The Associated Press who covered Afghanistan and Pakistan for 35 years, spoke on an online Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) panel [in August](#) to mark two years since the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and discuss the Taliban’s authoritarian rule and human rights violations. During the program, she said when looking at what has changed since 2020, it’s important not to oversimplify ideas like hope and quality of life for Afghan people. Gannon cited a 2018 survey indicating barely 3 percent of respondents said they had hope for the future at the time. “The poverty level was 50 percent, 85 percent of the money in Afghanistan came from outside, all of which stopped once the Taliban took power.” She said former President Hamid Karzai and other officials told her in interviews that if President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani had stayed in Kabul in August 2020 and allowed for a negotiation with the Taliban, the situation would be dramatically different today. “Poverty was excruciating in many parts of the country before the Taliban arrived, and it has been exacerbated, of course,” she said.



Two OPC members have continued their coverage of issues in Morocco with a story about the country’s decisive action and success in its response to COVID-19. **Jacob Kushner** wrote the story, which was supported by the Pulitzer Center, with photos and additional reporting by **Kang-Chun Cheng**. Jaouad El Bakili also contributed to the piece. The story compares the country’s early vaccination rates of 10 percent by early March 2021, when countries in North America and Europe were still struggling to procure doses. “Though many experts agree that the country’s decisive response to the pandemic is a case study of success,” the authors wrote, “some say it was at the cost of civil liberties and the country’s autocratic regime may have underreported COVID-19 deaths.” Kushner was the winner of the OPC Foundation’s 2013 Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship.



People Column

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** has posted a tipsheet on how

to tackle rising disinformation campaigns ahead of pivotal elections around the world. As campaigns ramp up for Argentina, where a far-right libertarian candidate has emerged as the frontrunner in the general election this fall, to Mexico, India and the U.S. in 2024, “the results of pivotal upcoming elections will have implications for democratic norms globally.” [Read the tip sheet here.](#)

The **ICFJ** has also posted master classes in its Disarming Disinformation series. The two-part program is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese. [Click here to see a playlist of clips from the program.](#)

The **Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN)** has posted an excerpt of its Reporter’s Guide to Investigating War Crimes. The full guide is expected to be published later this month. The guide covers how to be resilient in the face of distress, vicarious trauma, and reactions in the aftermath of traumatic coverage. [Read the preview here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **ICFJ** is accepting applications for the **Douglas Tweedale Memorial Fellowship** to provide training and support to Latin American journalists, focused on fact-checking and best practices for fighting disinformation. The fellowship will allow journalists in the region to enhance their skills and gain practical knowledge to apply within their own newsrooms. The application deadline is Sept. 14. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Applications are open for the **Joan Shorenstein Fellowship Program**. The fellowship is designed to “bring journalists, scholars, politicians and policymakers to the Shorenstein Center for a semester to work on a project with a tangible output, and engage with students, faculty, other fellows, and the broader Harvard Kennedy School community.” The deadline to apply is Sept. 12. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **McGraw Business Journalism Fellowship** provides grants up to \$15,000 and editorial support to produce “deeply reported enterprise and investigative stories that delve into critical economic, financial or business issues across a wide array of subjects.” The deadline to apply for fall 2023 Fellowships is Sept. 30. Applications for the spring 2024 Fellowships will be due March 31, 2024. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Applications are open for **Cullman Center Fellowships** for 2024 through 2025. Around 15 fellowships are given each year to people whose work will benefit directly from access to the research collections at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street in New York. The deadline to apply is Sept. 29. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Applications are open for the **Light in Motion** grant from **Black Women Photographers**, which provides a \$2,500 grant in unrestricted funds to help one photographer who is part of both Black Women Photographers and its Flickr community to further their practice. As part of the grant application, participants must join our Flickr community and share a photo on Flickr that aligns with the theme: “Light in Motion.” The deadline to apply is Oct. 6. [Read more and apply](#)

[here.](#)

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, in partnership with the **ACOS Alliance** and the **Foley Foundation**, is offering a four-day crisis zones reporting course in New York from Oct. 19 to 22. The course is open to freelancers from over the world covering hostile environments. While the course is intended for full-time freelance journalists at no cost, there are five spots reserved for paying participants (staff or freelance) from small news organizations, nonprofits and public media. If you would like to be considered for one of these seats at a tuition of \$1575, please reach out to programs@dartcenter.org. To read more and apply, [click here.](#)

Applications are open for fellowships from the **Alicia Patterson Foundation**. These fellowships are open only to U.S. citizens who are full-time print journalists, or to non-U.S. citizens who work full-time for U.S. print publications, either in America or abroad. Freelancers are welcome to apply. The deadline to apply is Nov. 1. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The National Press Foundation is offering a year-long fellowship for journalists of color. The Widening the Pipeline Fellowship will provide “expenses-paid trainings in Washington, D.C., as well as virtual workshops to support journalists of color staying in – and leading – the newsrooms of tomorrow.” The deadline to apply is Nov. 5. [Read more and apply here.](#)

More Resources

Click the button below to go directly to the OPC's Resources page, or find it in your Member Dashboard under "Resources."

If you have any issues accessing the resources page, please contact Chad Bouchard at chad@opcofamerica.org for credentials.

OPC Resources



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