



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin October 14, 2024



Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this October edition of the Bulletin.

This month's issue features highlights and recaps from key events, including "Journalists and Scholars Discuss Challenges of Covering China," the International Association of Press Clubs' Meeting in India, and the Aurora Prize finalists announced at a panel co-sponsored by the OPC.

Also inside: a Q&A with Juan Arredondo on his producer role for an HBO documentary, details on the OPC's search for a new Executive Director (deadline Oct. 31), and news about the Visual Storytellers Fund's inaugural grant for a border photo project.

You'll also find upcoming event listings, including Digital Security for International Travel and the OPC Annual Awards Dinner, along with member updates, grant news, and member resources.

We hope you find this issue informative and inspiring.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE OPC

Are you following us on YouTube, Instagram, X, or Facebook?

If not, now's the perfect time to connect! You'll find all our links below:

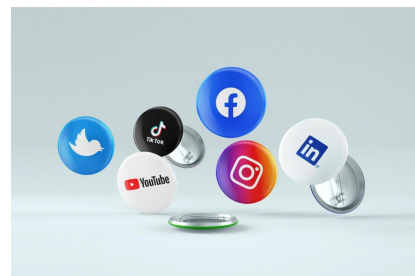
YouTube: [@OPCAmerica](#)

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We're not just looking to boost numbers — we want to build stronger connections with you. When we share stories about your work or highlight your

achievements, following us allows us to tag and amplify your content so audiences can follow you too.

The OPC wants to promote and support journalists, and that includes giving our members visibility. Plus, every member who follows us gets an immediate follow back from the OPC.

Let's stay connected and keep journalism in the spotlight together.

Journalists and Scholars Discuss Challenges of Covering China

by Cathy Manso

The Overseas Press Club and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington D.C. on Oct. 3 cosponsored two panels to discuss the challenges that journalists and academics face when researching and covering China.

Jim Steinberg, dean of SAIS, welcomed the audience, citing “the natural partnership and tremendous synergies and similarities between the work of what journalists do and what we do here at SAIS and in universities like Johns Hopkins.”

Scott Kraft, OPC president and editor at large of the Los Angeles Times, praised the partnership and highlighted the “tremendous courage” of journalists working abroad.

The first panel, *Covering China from Within: Problems and Processes*, moderated by Jessica Chen Weiss, director of the SAIS Institute for America, China and the Future of Global Affairs (ACF), brought together Li Yuan, reporter for The New York Times; Jodi Schneider, OPC governor and former Bloomberg political news director; and SAIS scholars Andrew Mertha and Ling Chen. The discussion centered on how shrinking access to China has changed both journalism and scholarship.

Weiss framed the conversation around the need for humility and rigor when assessing China from afar, asking: “What are we consistently missing or getting wrong in today’s environment?”

Li Yuan urged reporters to move beyond geopolitics, saying coverage often “swings from demonizing China to glorifying it,” and called for “a more truthful portrayal” that includes both the hopeful and difficult sides of the country.

Schneider underscored the steep decline of press access to China and Hong Kong, stressing that the best journalism is done in the field, “when reporters go to these places, build sources, and see things for themselves.” She added, “If



Left to right: Andrew Mertha, Ling Chen, Jodi Schneider, Li Yuan & Jessica Chen Weiss
Photo: Sandra Stevenson

you're not on the ground, what we don't know will only grow greater."



Left to right: Andrew Mertha, Ling Chen, Jodi Schneider, Li Yuan, and Jessica Chen Weiss



Left to right: James Areddy, Margaret Myers, Jeremy Wallace, Shawn Donnan, Edward Wong

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International Association of Press Clubs Meets in India

by Patricia Kranz

The President of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (FCC South Asia), Dr. Wael Awwad, assumed the presidency of the International Association of Press Clubs (IAPC) on Sept. 26, succeeding Doug Wills of the London Press Club. The transition took place following the conclusion of the Association's assembly meeting, held in New Delhi and hosted by FCC South Asia.



Left to right: Jaroslaw Wlodarczyk, Wael Awwad, Magdalena Rigamonti, three members of FCC South Asia, Patricia Kranz, Maurice Reilly and Julie Hare
Photo Credit: FCC South Asia

"It is an honor to take on this responsibility at such a crucial time for global journalism," Dr. Awwad said. "The press today faces unprecedented challenges—from disinformation to shrinking freedoms—and it is vital that press clubs unite in solidarity. I look forward to working with all member clubs to strengthen cooperation, defend free expression, and ensure that journalists everywhere have the support they need to pursue the truth." FCC South Asia, founded in 1958, is among the oldest and most respected press clubs in the region.

OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz participated in the assembly. Other members that traveled to New Delhi for the meeting were the Maurice Reilly and Julie Hare of the National Press Club of Australia and Jaroslaw Wlodarczyk and Magdalena Rigamonti of Press Club Polska. Wlodarczyk, who is also secretary general of the IAPC, said members from Ukraine and Belarus wanted to attend but diplomats in their home countries discouraged them, saying they risked being turned over to Russian officials once they landed in India.

[Continue Reading](#)

Aurora Prize Finalists Announced at Panel Cosponsored by the OPC

by Cathy Manso

The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and the Overseas Press Club of America (OPC) came together in New York to announce the finalists for the 2025 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. The event, marked by powerful stories of resilience and sacrifice, underscored the vital role of journalists in amplifying humanitarian voices; something OPC President Scott Kraft highlighted as central to the Club's mission.

Armine Afeyan, who leads the initiative on behalf of Aurora, opened the event by thanking those who document humanitarian work:

"You're humanizing humanitarian work, putting a face to a place and a name to a cause," she told the audience. "Your work offers an antidote to the apathy that otherwise threatens to override our shared humanity."

Her remarks set the stage for Noubar Afeyan, Aurora's co-founder and CEO of Flagship Pioneering, who reminded participants that the organization itself was born out of tragedy.

"Our motto is 'gratitude in action,'" Afeyan explained, recalling how his grandfather survived a death march thanks to two German soldiers. "Aurora is built to recognize and support people who are doing that exact kind of work today. Seeing humanity in people who are at risk or suffering, and doing whatever it takes to help them, even at great personal risk."

Over the past decade, the Aurora Prize has funded more than 500 projects, reaching 3.5 million people across 63 countries and territories. Prize recipients direct how \$1 million in funding is allocated, ensuring that resources flow to local humanitarians best placed to understand and respond to crises.



[Continue Reading](#)

OPC Seeks Executive Director Deadline Oct. 31

Location: New York City

Reports To: Board of Governors

Type: Full-Time, New York City

Apply: Submit a resume and cover letter to applications@opcofamerica.org



OPC SEEKING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Overseas Press Club of America (OPC) seeks a dynamic and experienced leader to serve as Executive Director, overseeing the organization's mission to promote excellence in international journalism and foster connections among foreign correspondents, editors, and media professionals.

Founded in 1939, the OPC is the oldest and most prestigious association of international journalists in the United States. Its mission is to uphold the highest standards in foreign reporting, support press freedom, and foster a global community of journalists. The OPC annually honors excellence in international journalism through its prestigious awards and provides networking, educational, and advocacy resources to members worldwide.

Position Overview:

The Executive Director serves as the chief executive officer of the Overseas Press Club, responsible for strategic leadership, operational and financial management, member engagement, and representing the Club to the public and key stakeholders. The role requires a seasoned professional with deep understanding of international media, strong business acumen, and passion for supporting journalists who cover global affairs.

Leadership & Strategy

- Develop and implement long-term strategic plans to advance the Club's mission and expand its influence, in consultation with the Board of Governors.
- Serve as key spokesperson and advocate for international journalism and press freedom.
- Build partnerships with media organizations, journalism schools, nonprofits, and donors.

Financial Management

- Oversee the annual OPC awards competition.
- Plan and manage the hallmark OPC awards dinner every April.
- Coordinate speaker series, panel discussions, and networking events featuring prominent journalists and leaders.
- Develop educational initiatives providing foreign correspondents, press freedom, safety training and global news literacy.

Fundraising & Development

- Work with the OPC board on fundraising efforts including corporate sponsorship for the annual awards dinner, grants, and partnerships.
- Cultivate relationships with donors, media leaders, and philanthropic foundations.

Operations & Administration

- Manage day-to-day operations including membership services, facilities and vendors.
- Supervise a small staff of volunteers as needed.
- Oversee budget planning, financial management, and fundraising initiatives.
- Maintain relationships with board members, donors, and institutional partners.

Membership & Communications

- Grow and engage a diverse, global membership base.
- Oversee member communications, newsletters, website content, and social media presence.
- Represent the OPC at public events, media forums, and international journalism gatherings.

Required:

- Previous experience as a journalist or newsroom leader.
- Experience planning high-profile events or awards programs.
- Knowledge of nonprofit governance and board relations.

Preferred:

- Minimum 10 years of leadership experience in media, nonprofit management, or related field.
- Significant fundraising experience, ideally in media, nonprofit management, or related field.
- Proven track record in fundraising, partnership development, and strategic planning.
- Excellent communication, public speaking, and relationship-building skills.
- Experience managing budgets, staff, and board relations.
- Facility with press freedom issues and challenges facing international correspondents.

To Apply:

Submit a resume and cover letter to applications@opcofamerica.org.
DEADLINE: Oct. 31.

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[Read Full Job Description](#)

Q&A: Juan Arredondo's Role in "Armed with Only a Camera: The Life and Death of Brent Renaud"

By Cathy Manso

In this Q&A interview with OPC Governor and producer Juan Arredondo, we explore the documentary, "Armed with Only a Camera: The Life and Death of Brent Renaud." It premiered earlier this year at South by Southwest (SXSW) and received widespread acclaim for its intimate portrayal of Brent's life and the immense sacrifices journalists make in conflict zones.



Juan Arredondo (left), Brent Renaud (right)
Photo Credit: Juan Arredondo

Recently, it concluded an intensive week of screenings and panel discussions in

New York featuring director Craig Renaud, producer Juan Arredondo, and executive producer Jon Alpert, along with journalist Sharif Abdel Kouddous. The events were moderated by a lineup including Committee to Protect Journalist CEO Jodie Ginsberg, Democracy Now!'s Amy Goodman, Foley Foundation's Tom Durkin and OPC member Lauren Walsh, Professor and Director of the Photojournalism Intensive at New York University. This documentary not only honors Brent Renaud's legacy but also pays tribute to fallen journalists worldwide, shedding light on the emotional and physical toll of frontline reporting.

"Armed with Only a Camera" will be available to stream on HBO starting October 21.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: How did you get involved as a producer in the documentary "Armed with Only a Camera, The Life and Death of Brent Renaud"?

Juan Arredondo: I met Brent at the Neiman Foundation in 2018. In 2020, we started working together on documentaries about refugees. When the Russian invasion of Ukraine began in February of 2022, we quickly saw that was more relevant. It was immediate. And it was displacement and refugees. The numbers were swelling fairly fast. So by the second week, we were there entering Ukraine. Our journey took us to Kyiv. We went outside Kyiv to Irpin and we were trying to get to Bucha and that's when we were attacked. My friend lost his life and I was injured.

The moment that happened, Craig, Brent's brother, flew in to get his brother's body out and helped me evacuate. Craig started filming his trip, arriving in Kyiv. From that moment on, I think we were conscious that we wanted to document this. We weren't sure if we were going to make a documentary about it, but I think it's sort of that innate reaction to document what's happening. I quickly realized that I was now on the other side of the story that I was telling. I began to record myself, in voice notes and videos. A couple of months after that Craig pitched this to HBO.

I went back to Ukraine a year after our attack. I met with the driver who took us that day. I took the same route that Brent and I did when we traveled at that time. And that didn't make it into the documentary. We just kept working on it. So from the beginning, I was part of it. I was involved as a subject and helped film, photograph, edit, and produce the documentary.

[Continue Reading](#)



Visual Storytellers Fund Awards Inaugural Grant for Border Photo Project



By Brian Byrd

The Visual Storytellers Fund has selected Daniel Ochoa de Olza as the 2025 winner of the Cortona on the Move/BarTur Grant for his compelling long-term project *The Gap/La Frontera*. The \$30,000 grant, chosen from more than 400 applications, will support Ochoa de Olza's photographic exploration of the U.S.–Mexico border wall and its relationship to the natural landscape it divides.

OPC Governor Brian Byrd served as one of the judges for this inaugural photography grant, which recognizes projects that combine visual storytelling with deeper cultural inquiry.

The Gap/La Frontera examines the border wall as both physical barrier and symbolic construct, questioning what this structure truly represents within its natural environment. Ochoa de Olza photographs the frontier from close proximity, focusing on the open spaces—deserts, coastlines, hills, and plains—where the land's geographic continuity challenges the artificial divisions imposed upon it. The border emerges as an imposition alien to the terrain it

occupies: a structure attempting to create separation where the land itself offers none.

Ochoa de Olza brings both documentary and artistic approaches to his photography practice. With extensive photojournalism experience and fieldwork across multiple regions, he has increasingly focused on long-term projects that examine the politics of perception and the symbolic dimensions of landscape. His work explores the visible and invisible boundaries that shape human experience—from political frontiers to the limits of representation, memory, and identity. [Learn more about Ochoa de Olza's work](#) on the award website. Read his [Hot Mirror](#) interview [here](#).

[The Cortona On The Move | BarTur Grant](#), supported by the [Visual Storytellers Fund](#), empowers photographers globally to create documentary photo essays addressing urgent social, environmental, economic, and cultural issues. For more information, contact Brian Byrd at bbyrdi@proton.me

Upcoming Events

Nov. 12: Digital Security for International Travel

Location: Zoom

Date: 12 November 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Traveling internationally comes with additional considerations these days, particularly for journalists, filmmakers, and anyone else whose livelihoods and artistic endeavors involve sensitive conversations. Join this session designed specifically for OPC members by Freedom of the Press Foundation to learn what's at stake when traveling in and out of the US these days, and how we can best prepare our phones and laptops for journeys across any border.



[RSVP Here](#)

April 20: OPC Annual Awards Dinner



ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Network with Leading Global Journalists

April 20, 2026 | Cipriani, 25 Broadway, New York City

Main reception **6pm** | Dinner and program **7pm**

Date: April 20, 2026

Place: Cipriani, 25 Broadway in New York City.

The Overseas Press Club is excited to announce that its 87th anniversary awards dinner will take place on April 20th at Cipriani, 25 Broadway in New York City.

Individual tickets will go on sale in January.

For more information, contact OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz at patricia@opcofamerica.org.

Read on the OPC Website

Welcome New Members

Claudia Gohn

Freelance
NY, New York
Active Resident,
Young
(29 and under)



Geraldine Baum

New York, NY
Associate Resident

Carolina Sophia Pedrazzi

Freelance
Milan, Italy
Active Overseas
Young (29 and under)



Katerina Hovnian-Alexanian

Student
Princeton University



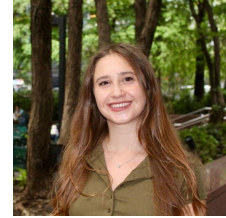
Deep Vakil

Uliana Pavlova

Freelance
New York, NY
Active Resident,
Young
(29 and under)



Freelance
New York, NY
Active Resident



The OPC is grateful to OPC Governor Azmat Khan, director of the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism at Columbia University, for subsidizing OPC memberships and OPC press IDs for the following Columbia journalism students:

A.M. Dimuthu C. Attanayake
Agnė Toločkaitė
Aidann Gia Bacolodan
Aleah Patricia Gatto
Aleka Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel
Alexa York
Alexandra Munro Byrne
Alice Harrison
Allie Moustakis
Allison Wong
Alonso Vidal
Amanda Fernandez
Amarna Bryde Milne
Ambre Angliviel de La Beaumelle
Ana Claudia Boino Amendoeira
Andrew Mercein
Anna Lee
Anthony Balas
Anyuan Liu
Areeba Fatima
Ava Slocum
Baiz Hoen
Barbara Blum
Bridget Morse-Karzen
Charlotte Tellyn
Chengchao Li
Chi Tian
Christopher Mendell
Cleo Kromelow
Colette Coleman
Craig Bonder
Daniel Vigil
Dariya Kozhasbay
David Ka Wei Cheung
David Pinto

Karthik Vinod
Kat Struhar
Katherine Kihiczak
Kathryn Rice
Katlyn Ma
Kersty Nina Alvis
Kimberly Lim
Kristen Bresnahan
Kylie Clifton
Laura Laux
Lauren Ong Yan Ting
Lauren Rosenfield
Leana Carbonez
Leena Fraihat
Lizbeth Cortes Gutierrez
Luiza Świerawska
Mabel Lui
Mabel Pickering
Mackenzie George
Madison DeVore
Manon Beliot
Marcelo Jauregui-Volpe
Maria Vittoria Ravaioli
Marina Bahi Mokhtar Roman
Max Rykov
Michael Mitsanas
Michael Orodare
Misha Valencia
Natalie Jonas
Nic Duffy
Nicole L. Schaller
Oliver Hall
Olivia Morrison
Pei Ting Wong
Priscilla Madeline Putzer
Rachel Zhong

Desiree Hadley
Destiny Rae Jones
Diana Shin
Elliot Leitner
Fathima Madhiha Anis
Genny Gottdiener
Gianna Totani
Gustave Muckensturm
Haiyi Bi
Hannah Smith
Hikari Mae Hida
Hope Zhu
Hugo Amador
Imani Amanullah
Ines Fahmi
Isabella Gaglione
Jake Klingensmith
Jasmine Venet
Jean Ortiz
Jiaqi Liu
Jimena Elmufdi
Jiwon Lee
Jonathan de Bock
Judah Duke
Judith Silfrene
Julia Levine
Julia Vargas
Julie Lee
Junyi Cheng
Justine Streichenberger-
Nicolas
Kaitlyn Schwanemann
Kali Bomeli
Karthik Aggarwal

Racquel Miller
Raja M. Flores
Randa Jumean
Reva Abrol
Ruby Schwartz
Sacha M. Shaw
Sahar Sedaghat
Sahmaya Busby
Selena Frasson
Shirin Hakim
Shivangi Sen
Shui (Crystal) Hu
Siddharth Kejriwal
Sidney Kuri Poor
Sofie Buckminster
Sonia Huq
Sophie Holin
Sthavir Murthy
Su Jin Seo
Sylvia VT Calabrese
Taylor Frances Cook
Tereza Pesmazoglou
Theodore Weiss
Thu Quach Xuan Le
Tinah Ogalo
Veronica Cohn
Victor Maria Heller
Victoria Mendizábal
Xiaohan Wang
Yeonkyung Choi
Yeyya Wane
Zach Jaworski
Ziyuan Yin

People by Cathy Manso

UPDATES

Marc Lacey, OPC governor and managing editor of The New York Times, reflects on his recent trip to the Time's Kyiv bureau in his piece, "[Back in New York, a Reminder of the Realities in Ukraine](#)." Though far from the front lines, Lacey gained a vivid sense of how the third year of the war shapes everyday life in Ukraine. From hearing air raid alerts to operating a remote vehicle used to evacuate wounded soldiers, his visit offered a sobering glimpse into the country's enduring resilience.



Peter Turnley, OPC member and longtime photojournalist, celebrates five decades in his adopted home with “Paris—Je t’aime: 50 Years of Photographs.” The 320-page signed hardcover book captures Turnley’s lifelong perspective in Paris, where he arrived in 1975 and later worked alongside legendary photographers like Robert Doisneau. Known for documenting major world events across 90 countries, Turnley describes Paris as his constant refuge and creative muse. His new collection offers a heartfelt visual tribute to the city and its people. Copies are available exclusively at www.peterturnley.com.



OPC member **Rebecca Fannin** wrote a Newsweek cover story titled “[China’s EV Supremacy Raises National Security Concerns for the U.S.](#)” The article explores how China’s dominance in electric vehicle production could threaten U.S. economic and national security interests. Fannin writes that “EVs are the gateway to a new military-industrial era,” and warns that China’s cost-competitive models now make up most EV sales in countries such as Brazil and Mexico. She cautions that if the United States mishandles its own EV transition, it could lead to widespread job losses in key manufacturing regions.



New Resources

Hot Mirror: A New Resource for OPC Members

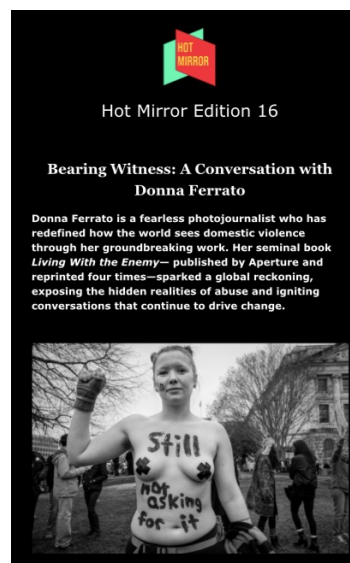
By Brian Byrd

Hot Mirror is an editorial platform for photographers, picture editors, and others shaping the visual language of our time. Taking its name from the photographic filter that removes infrared heat to create sharper, truer images, *Hot Mirror* cuts through the noise in our image-saturated world to examine the stories, decisions, and values behind the lens.

Through in-depth interviews, critical essays, and curated features, the platform explores what drives photographers—how they got here and what we can learn from their journey. *Hot Mirror* illuminates not only the work but the lived experiences of those creating it, with a particular commitment to amplifying under-represented voices and long-term documentary work that tackles urgent social, cultural, and environmental questions. Whether featuring a rising photographer challenging dominant narratives or a veteran editor reflecting on decades of visual storytelling, the publication brings their vision into sharp relief.

Hot Mirror operates on the principle that the clearest picture isn't just the one that looks sharp—it's the one that tells the truth.

Free subscriptions to *Hot Mirror* for OPC members were made possible by OPC



Board Governor Brian Byrd. If you want to suggest a profile or story for *Hot Mirror*, contact him at bbyrdi@proton.me.

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The **Double Exposure Film Festival**, hosted by the 100Reporters organization, will take place from Oct. 30 to Nov. 6 in Washington, D.C. this year. The festival focuses on investigative journalism and cinematic storytelling. This year's themes explore journalistic rights and governmental authority. [Read more here.](#)

In September, the **Committee to Protect Journalists** (CPJ) announced five exceptional journalists who will be honored at the 2025 International Press Freedom Awards on November 20. This year's honorees include Dong Yuyu, a Chinese journalist sentenced on espionage charges after having lunch with a Japanese diplomat in 2022; Elvira del Pilar Nole and Juan Carlos Tito, Ecuadorian journalists who fled to Canada following repeated death threats linked to their investigations into drug cartels; and Bolot Temirov, a Kyrgyz investigative reporter who continues to run Temirov Live—Central Asia's leading anti-corruption outlet—from exile due to threats against his safety. Also recognized is Sonia Dahmani, a Tunisian lawyer, writer, and media commentator serving nearly five years in prison on multiple anti-state charges after publicly condemning racism and defending civil liberties. For information about attending or sponsoring CPJ's awards, [click here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **Wall Street Journal** is calling for applications for its Summer 2026 internships. Applications close on Oct. 31 at midnight Eastern Time. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Applications are open for the **Open Notebook's Early-Career Fellowship Program** for 2026. The one-year program is a paid, part-time fellowship for early-career science journalists. Fellows will work with a mentor to plan, report, and write articles for publication at The Open Notebook and become part of the editorial team. The application deadline is Oct. 31. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** has announced it will award Reporting Grants of \$2,000 - \$3,000 grants and possibly mentorship to at least two winning proposals. The deadline to submit a proposal is Friday, Nov. 1 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Documentarians in Eastern Europe and Central Asia can apply for the **Artdocfest/Riga IFF Pitch Session**, which will take place in March 2026, in Riga. Ten documentary projects will be selected. The deadline to apply is Dec. 15. [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
Cathy Manso at cathy@opcofamerica.org.

OPC Resources Page



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