



**THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES  
NASHVILLE/MIDSOUTH CHAPTER**

Geneva M. Brignolo, Executive Director  
161 Rains Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203

[emmynash@aol.com](mailto:emmynash@aol.com) - <http://emmynashville.org/>

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 2016-17**

National Trustee, **Whit Adamson**, President, Tennessee Association of Broadcasters  
National Trustee, **Phillip L. Bell**, Owner, BellMedia  
National Trustee & President, **Clifton Hunt**, Sky 5 Reporter and Creative Services, WTVF  
National Trustee Alternate, **Ellen Jones Pryor**, Director of Communications, Frist Center for Visual Arts  
Executive Committee, **Gene Policinski**, Chief Operating Officer, Newseum & Freedom Forum  
Vice President, **Lisa Harless**, Senior Vice President, Regions  
Vice President, **Nicholas E. Dugger**, Owner, Tennessee Digital Video  
Regional Vice President, **Amy Burkett**, General Manager, WTVI  
Regional Vice President, **James E. Ford, Jr.**, Supervising Director, WRAL  
Regional Vice President, **Michael J. Schoenfeld**, Vice President Public Affairs, Duke University  
Regional Vice President, **Sharon M. Tinsley**, President, Alabama Broadcasters Association  
Secretary, **Emily Pearce**, Director of Vanderbilt Video, Vanderbilt University News Service  
Treasurer, **Jennifer Lane**, Principal, Decosimo/Vaden  
Legal Counsel, **Rachel Anne Boynton, Esq.**  
Regional Office, **Geneva M. Brignolo**, Executive Director, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth  
Governor, **David Ditmore**, Special Projects Producer, WZTV  
Governor, **Jennifer Duck**, Producer, *Anderson Cooper 360*, CNN  
Governor, **Edie Emery**, Sr. Director of Strategic Marketing and Publicity, SESAC  
Governor, **Jessica Frost**, Director of Business Development/Licensing, BMI  
Governor, **Aaron Gant**, Vice President of Production, Warner/Chappell Production Music  
Governor, **John Hussey**, Senior Producer/Director/Editor, PK Pictures  
Governor, **Janet Ivey**, Founder and CEO, Janet's Planet  
Governor, **Heather Middleton**, Vice President of Public Relations, Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp  
Governor, **Doreen Wade**, Vice President and General Manager, WSMV  
Governor, **Pete Weber**, Sportscaster, Nashville Predators  
Governor, **Adam Yeomans**, Bureau Chief, The Associated Press  
Awards Chairman, **Beth Tucker Womack**, Scheduling, Metro/Nashville Public Schools  
Education Chairman, **Dr. Linda Miller**, Vice Principal, Metro/Nashville Public Schools  
Program Chairman, **Rich Stone**, President/Director of Photography, Stone Productions  
Student Awards Chairman, **Nicholas E. Dugger**, Owner, Tennessee Digital Video



**WHIT ADAMSON**  
**National Trustee, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**President, Tennessee Association of Broadcasters**

After dabbling in aviation and serving as an air traffic controller in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Whit began his media career as an advertising account executive at WSMV Nashville in 1972, and rose to Regional Sales Manager. In 1987, he became Executive Director of the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters. In this role, he is a lobbyist and advocate for telecommunications and advertising Issues in the United States Congress, State General Assembly, industry regulatory boards and commissions, and the Federal Communications Commission. As the State Emergency Communications Chairman designee at the Federal Communications Commission, Whit testified before the Senate Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development on the flooding across Tennessee in early May of 2010 and at the FCC on Earthquake Preparedness in 2011. Whit administers the broadcast Statewide Emergency Alert System (EAS) as Statewide Emergency Communications Chairman; the broadcaster's Child Abduction AMBER Alert along with the Tennessee Bureau of investigation; coordinates the TAB Job Bank, referrals and website applications; TAB's intern and scholarship programs, education and training programs, career fairs, seminars and conventions. Among Whit's honors are the American Advertising Federation of Nashville – President's Trophy 1984, Silver Medal Recipient 1992 and served as their Past Vice President and

Committee Chairman on their Board of Directors. He also served as President of the National Alliance of State Broadcast Associations in 2006. Whit served as the National Alliance of State Broadcaster Association (NASBA) President and their Co-Chairman on the National Association of Broadcasters/ EAS Summit Committee for six years. Whit currently serves as the State Legislative Chairman, of the American Advertising Federation's 7<sup>th</sup> District. A graduate of MTSU, he holds a graduate degree in economics and finance.



**PHILLIP L. BELL**  
**National Trustee, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Owner, BellMedia**

Phil's career in the television industry has included a variety of assignments as a news anchor, reporter, producer and manager for major network affiliates in Tennessee, Florida, Illinois and Iowa.

As a reporter and news producer for two decades, Phil covered many nationally significant stories: the first space shuttle launch; the Cuban refugee flotilla from Mariel Harbor; and Hurricane Hugo as it struck Charleston, South Carolina. Phil has also extensively reported on Tennessee's political scene and on the state correctional system. He organized and produced NewsChannel 5's award winning election coverage for more than eight years.

In September 1996, Phil was named as founding director of Nashville's first local all news cable channel – NewsChannel 5+. He brought a wealth of experience as a broadcast journalist and extensive first-hand knowledge of the Nashville market to the job, including more than five years as Executive Producer of News at Nashville's CBS affiliate, WTVF/NewsChannel 5 Network. He was also the Executive Producer of the popular and highly rated *Talk of the Town* program on WTVF/NewsChannel 5.

Phil joined Earnhardt Pirkle in 2004, where he produced documentaries, specials, and corporate videos. He now devotes full time to his own company, BellMedia, which he opened in 2002, where he produced a two-day pay-per view special for DirecTV.

The awards Phil has received include the National Cable Ace Award; four Emmy® Awards; Society of Professional Journalists – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Documentary award; Unity in Media Award from the Lincoln University of Missouri; and the National Coalition of Communities for Justice's *Jerry Thompson Communicator Award*.

Phil is past president of NATAS Nashville/Midsouth. As National Trustee, he was elected to the Nominating Committee in 2001, appointed to the Constitutional Review Committee, elected to the National Awards Committee for 2006-08, and appointed to the National Rules Committee in 2011.

Phil has served on the advisory board to the Department of Communications at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and the board of the Society of Professional Journalists Mid-South Chapter. He currently serves on the History Project Committee of the Brooks Fund of the Community Foundation, on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union-Tennessee, and on the board of their foundation.



**RACHEL ANNE BOYNTON, ESQ.**  
**Legal Counsel, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**

Most recently, Rachel was Contracts Manager at L.E.K. Consulting. Prior to that she served as Assistant Counsel/Human Resources Manager at Scientia Advisors, and as Contract Attorney at State Street Bank and Trust Company, all in the Boston area/ She has also been Volunteer Attorney in the Office of the Legal Advisor, Summer Intern at the Boston Police Department, Winter Legal Intern at Shames & Litwin, Winter Legal Intern at Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, and Judicial Intern at Suffolk County Juvenile Court. Rachel holds a Juris Doctorate from the School of Law at Northeastern University and a Bachelor of Arts from Stonehill College. She is a member of the State Bar of Massachusetts and a Trained Mediator



**GENEVA M. BRIGNOLO**  
**Executive Director, Nashville/Midsouth Chapter**  
**The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences**

After Boston University, Geneva conducted economic research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. She went to WGBH, public television in Boston in 1969, where she worked in the programming department, particularly on Rockefeller Artists in Residence, then on *ZOOM!*, *Masterpiece Theatre*, and *The Advocates*.

In 1975, Geneva joined the syndicated *Good Day!* Show at WCVB Boston. She relocated to Los Angeles in 1980 to produce syndicated motor sports coverage and how-to series, which led to TNN's award-winning *American Sports Cavalcade*, and a move to Nashville in 1983. Subsequently she produced live national NASCAR television coverage.

In 1985, during a trip to Europe, she visited the BBC. For a lark in 1991, she traveled to Budapest to work on *Live from Dracula's Castle*, starring George Hamilton, and was there when Hungary declared its independence from the former Soviet Union.

In 1994, Geneva became Executive Director of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Nashville/Midsouth Chapter. She has produced the live telecast of the Midsouth Regional Emmy® Awards, seen on Nashville Public Television, on UNC-TV in North Carolina, and throughout the region since 1992. Geneva has also produced the Midsouth Regional Student Television Award for Excellence, honoring high school production, since its inception in 2003.

In addition to her Emmy® Awards, her honors include two national Cable Ace Awards. She received the academy's Governors' Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2012. Geneva was a founding member of both the Boston/New England and Nashville/Midsouth Chapters of NATAS. She is past president of NATAS/Nashville, has served on the advisory boards of Watkins Institute, and Nashville CARES, and on the board of FilmNashville. From 2002-2008, she was chairman of the NATAS National Administration Committee, and was reappointed in 2010. She also serves on the NATAS Education Committee and as an advisor to the Job Bank Committee.



**AMY BURKETT**  
**Regional Vice President, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**General Manager, WTVI**

After 23 years in television Amy's still passionate about the business. She joined WTVI PBS Charlotte, a service of Central Piedmont Community College, in May 2013 as its general manager. She is a past president of the NATAS Mid-Atlantic Chapter and a former national trustee.

Before arriving in the Tarheel State, Amy spent 14 years at WLVT PBS39 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania as Executive Vice President and Station Manager. Prior to that she spent nine years in commercial television working at CBS and NBC affiliates in Ohio and North Carolina. She went to Pennsylvania in 1995 to work at Medstar Television a national syndicator of medical news where she traveled the country writing, reporting and anchoring television news.

She has lead teams to four national public television awards, eight Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters Awards, 31 regional Emmy® nominations, six regional Emmy® Awards and a regional Edward R. Murrow Award .

Amy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism from Bowling Green State University in Ohio.



**DAVID DITMORE**  
**Governor, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**News and Special Projects Producer, WZTV Fox 17**

David has been working in television for more than 22 years. Starting in master control and working his way into news, David has done a variety of jobs at WHTN, WTVF, WKRN and WZTV. He has been a news and special projects producer at WZTV Fox 17 for the past 15 years. During that time he launched morning news at FOX 17 with the one-hour entertainment based show *Mornings with Ralph Emery*, which has grown into the four and a half hour morning news show *Fox 17 This Morning*. David also launched FOX 17's 10pm newscast and served as special projects producer for the stations live coverage of the *CMA Music Fest*, *Bonnaroo*, *CMA Music Awards*, *American Country Music Awards*, *Town Hall Debate*. He has produced election coverage and specials on the station's Waste Watch Investigations, Saving You Money reports, American Idol coverage, Road Trippin' series and Severe Weather.

David has been nominated for 10 Midsouth Regional Emmy® Awards, winning in 2007 for Breaking News. He also appears in front of the camera as an actor, notably on ABC's *Nashville*, in the feature film *Boulevard* with Robin Williams, and *Deadline* with Eric Roberts, as well as short films and music videos.



**JENNIFER DUCK**  
**Governor, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Producer, CNN**

Jennifer is a National Emmy® award-winning producer, currently with CNN's *Anderson Cooper 360*.

Prior to CNN, Jen worked for Katie Couric's syndicated show in New York. One of her most memorable productions at *Katie* was surprising Magic Johnson by flying in Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for a competitive game of "pop-a-shot" (Magic won by a buzzer-beater). On a more serious note, she will never forget working with the filmmakers and subjects in the documentary, *The Invisible War*, which highlighted the epidemic of sexual assaults in the military.

Jen was also fortunate to work with another talk show legend, Oprah Winfrey. As part of the talent and development team that launched Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), Jen established relationships with guests and hosts and helped create shows

from the ground up including *Our America with Lisa Ling*, *Suze Orman's Money Class*, *The Gayle King Show*, and *Ask Oprah's All Stars*.

Jen began her career at ABC News in Washington, D.C. She spent five years covering politics, working her way up to become ABC's White House Producer. One of the perks of that job was seeing the world aboard Air Force One with President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush. It was at ABC that Jen mastered the lifelong skill of how to live for weeks with just a carry-on bag, which was also a prerequisite for covering President Barack Obama and Senator John McCain on the campaign trail in 2008. Additionally, Jen produced educational and awareness campaigns in collaboration with the Gates Foundation and worked as a local reporter in Bakersfield, California. One of her favorite "pet" projects was collaborating on the book, "A Letter to My Dog," which published personal letters from celebrities and non-famous dog lovers to benefit the Humane Society.

Born and raised in Ohio, Jen is thrilled to call Nashville her home with her husband Quinn, her daughter Nicolette, and their two dogs, Hank and Gracie.



**NICHOLAS E. DUGGER**  
**Vice President and Student Awards Chairman, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Founder/Owner, TNDV: Tennessee Digital Video**

A Jackson, Tennessee native, Nic has been working in television since the age of 12. He began his television career in Jackson where he worked for TRTV Channel 6 (Total Reach Television, Local Cable) for 5 years, assisting with over one hundred live sports broadcasts, the Miss Tennessee pageant, and many other annual projects. Nic worked his way up from cable puller to camera operator, tape operator, editor, and master control operator.

He went on to Middle Tennessee State University, and became the student television station manager (Murfreesboro Channel 10) in his freshman year. His experience there included work on every production that the MTSU mobile unit was assigned, and countless productions with MTTV student channel 10.

While still in college, Nic worked as a freelance producer and editor for production of live regional election returns, four Midsouth Regional Emmy® Award live telecasts, and several documentaries, events, and training videos. Nic was nominated for two Student Production Awards by the Nashville/Midsouth Region of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He also took part in the international JASON Project broadcasts with Titanic discoverer Dr. Bob Ballard for several years.

After graduation, Nic's experience with the JASON Project took him to Media Arts, Inc. in Seattle, Washington. This project allowed him to be a part of milestones for the Discovery Channel and National Geographic, such as the first live multi-camera production from an active volcano, the first ever live broadcast from the heart of the Peruvian rain forest, and the first live underwater ocean to ocean broadcast.

Nic returned to MTSU in 2001 for a teaching opportunity in the Mass Comm Department. In 2002, he joined The Holland Group of Tennessee to develop and manage a new media production department, serving as executive producer and director for over 200 corporate, promotional, and training videos for such companies as Whirlpool, Tupperware, Tyco, and Pillsbury.

Nic founded Tennessee Digital Video in October of 2004, and completed the construction of his own all-digital mobile television production truck. To get his company started, TNDV provided part of the mobile TV facilities for the 2005 Presidential inauguration in Washington D.C., and Governor Bredesen's 2005 State of the State address, broadcast on NPT and PBS station across Tennessee. Currently TNDV hosts a fleet of seven mobile units. They provide facilities for productions as small as a flypack and as large as 23 cameras. Their credits include the *Final 4 Concert Series*, *Country at the White House*, *CMT Hot20*, multiple seasons of the Emmy® Award winning *Bluegrass Underground*, and multiple seasons of the *Grand Ole Opry Live*.

Among his honors, Nic has received five regional Emmy® Awards, the Rising Star Award, and the MTSU Mass Comm Wall of Fame.



**EDIE EMERY**  
**Governor, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Sr. Director of Strategic Marketing and Publicity, SESAC**

Prior to SESAC, Edie was senior director of communications at the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum in Nashville, where she managed the communications surrounding the museum's many exhibitions and programs. She was also responsible for oversight of the museum's website, social media outreach and publicity efforts. Also operated by the museum, Emery oversaw the communications of Historic RCA Studio B and Hatch Show Print, one of the oldest working letterpress shops in America.

Previously, Edie was senior director of public relations for CNN, where she was responsible for the development and implementation of public relations plans for Washington-based programs and special political programming which included Election night, political conventions, network presidential debates, and caucus and primary coverage. In addition, she managed the execution of CNN special events for the Washington correspondents' dinner.

Before joining CNN in 2003, she was senior account director for Goodman Media International, where she was responsible for overseeing national media relations initiatives for ABC Radio Networks, including ABC News Radio, ESPN

Radio, *The Sean Hannity Show*, and *The Tom Joyner Morning Show*. Emery also spearheaded and implemented strategic public relations campaigns for *U.S. News & World Report* and Maryland Public Television. Other accounts included Feld Entertainment, The Discovery Channel, Animal Planet and Americans for the Arts.

Prior to joining Goodman Media in 2000, Edie spent five years at the Radio-Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) as director of external relations.

A native of Nashville, Edie earned a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Tennessee.



**JAMES A. FORD, JR.**  
**Regional Vice President NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**News Production Director, WRAL**

After graduating from Heritage High School in Lynchburg, VA with the Class of 1981, James attended Shaw University in Raleigh, NC as a scholarship recipient and graduated in 1985 with a BA degree in Radio – TV Mass Communications and a minor in Biology. He was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and was an active participant in student government, holding positions as Treasurer, and Vice President. He was voted unanimously as President of the graduating Class of 1985. A member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, James maintains a life membership within the organization. He was inducted into the Alpha Epsilon Rho honorary Broadcasting society, and inducted into Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

James began his professional career with WRAL-TV, a Division of Capitol Broadcasting, in October 1984. He has held the following positions within the company: Intern, Production Crew, Studio Specialist, Associate Director, Newscast Director, Senior Director, Supervising Director and currently News Production Manager. He is a 26-year employee and manager of a 23-person technical staff.

The awards and recognitions James has received include: seven Emmy® Awards and 32 Emmy® Award nominations from the Midsouth Region; Best Newscast 1993 – Associated Press; Director: World's First All High - Definition Newscast – WRAL-TV October 2000; Gus Witherspoon Community Recognition Award for Achievement in the Area of Media in 2010, presented by the National Pan-Hellenic Council of the Greater Raleigh Area; 2010 recipient of the Founders Award for outstanding leadership, presented by The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Iota Iota Chapter, Raleigh NC; and 2010 recipient of the Founders Award for outstanding leadership, presented by the 6<sup>th</sup> District of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



**JESSICA B. FROST**  
**Governor, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Director of Business Development/Licensing, BMI**

Based in the organization's Nashville office, Jessica began working for BMI in 1999 as a Customer Relations Executive. She was promoted to Account Representative in 2000, and then was named Account Executive in 2001. She became Assistant Manager, Industry Development in 2003, and was promoted again in 2007 to Associate Director, Business Development. She became Director of Business Development/Licensing in 2009. Her responsibilities include business communications with various trade associations representing radio stations, restaurants, bars, clubs, hotels, retail stores, fitness centers, bowling centers and other businesses which use BMI music across the United States. Jessica is responsible for managing cooperative partnerships, which educate member business owners about copyright, music licensing and the service that BMI provides to all businesses and organizations that use music publicly. Founded in 1939, BMI operates as a non-profit-making performing right organization that represents more than 500,000 songwriters, composers and music publishers in all genres of music and more than 7.5 million musical works. Frost attended the University of Florida and received her B.A. in 1996.



**AARON GANT**  
**Governor, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Vice President of Production, Warner/Chappell Production Music**

Aaron is VP of Production for Warner/Chappell Production Music, a production music company with worldwide broadcast credentials. He is currently recording, mixing, and producing music heard by millions of people every day through local and national News Music, Films, Film Trailers, TV Shows and Promos as well as music for advertising and Warner/Chappell Production Music's growing library.

Aaron has mixed custom projects for NBC's *Today Show*, *Nightline*, CNBC, SPEED TV, WGN, and hundreds of local TV stations as well as produced music placed in films and trailers such as "Spider-Man", "Land of the Lost", "Meet Dave", and "Watchmen". He has produced over 400 Production Music Library titles working on all aspects of recording, mixing, editing, and work with metadata tagging, watermarking, and digital fingerprinting.

In 2009, Aaron co-produced, recorded and mixed 3 out of the 5 songs nominated for a Daytime Emmy™ award in the category "Outstand Original Song" and in 2010 a song he co-produced, recorded, and mixed for NBC's *Today Show* won the award.

Previously, Aaron was an engineer at L.A. East studios where he worked on recording the orchestral film scores for over 400 movies as well as over 100 film trailers.



**LISA HARLESS**  
**Vice President II , NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Senior Vice President, Entertainment and Sports Division,**  
**Regions Private Banking**

Lisa is responsible for assisting clients with their financial and banking needs while providing services which focus on estate planning, retirement planning, investment management, education planning, and personal insurance needs. As a 26-year veteran of the bank, she oversees the daily operations of the bank's Entertainment and Sports Division in Nashville.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Speech Communication from Lipscomb University, and has completed her Series 6, 63, and 7 licenses and holds her Insurance License.

Lisa was a member of the Leadership Music Class of 1995, is a past President and is now board member of W. O. Smith Nashville Community Music School. She also holds board positions with The Recording Academy/NARAS, the T.J. Martell Foundation, serves on the Advisory Board of Belmont University's Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business, and is an advocate for MusiCares. Lisa was named the 2012 recipient of the Stephen Foster Award, granted by the Nashville Songwriters Association International, which is given in recognition of outstanding support to songwriters, the music industry, and the NSAI.



**CLIFTON HUNT**  
**National Trustee and NATAS Nashville/Midsouth President**  
**Sky 5 Reporter/Photographer**  
**and Producer/Director, Creative Services Commercial Production,**  
**WTVF NewsChannel 5 Network**

A veteran of over 30 years of Nashville television, Clifton has been recognized with nine Emmy® Awards.

He began his career at WTVF NewsChannel 5 in 1980 as a news photographer, then became director/photographer of Talk of the Town in 1985. He was reporter/photographer of Off the Beaten Path from 1989-1994. He was a Team-based Management Coach/Change Agent from 1994-1997. From 1997-1999, Clifton was Executive Producer of NewsChannel 5+ Cable Channel 50. Presently, he is a Producer/Director in the station's Creative Services Department, specializing in Local Commercial Production.

Clifton holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications, with Minors in Speech/Theater and Marketing Management from Middle Tennessee State University.

In addition to his Emmy® Awards, Clifton's honors include Tennessee Associated Press Best Spot News Photography – 1982; Southeast Chapter Society of Professional Journalism-Sigma Delta Chi; and Excellence in Journalism-Feature Reporting-1982.



**JOHN HUSSEY**  
**Governor, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Senior Producer, Director and Editor, PK Pictures**

John has been director, editor and senior producer has been with PK Pictures since 1995. He feels that wearing many different hats keeps things interesting and rewarding. An eleven time regional Emmy® Award winner, John has garnered the honor for Editing, Sound Design, and Producing/Directing of both Children's and Informational/ Instructional Programming. A Geffen Records recording artist in the 1980's, John's band Little America toured in support of two top ten singles and MTV airplay. His musical background infuses every project with a natural sense of timing relating both to music and the rhythm of the spoken word.



**JANET IVEY**  
**Governor, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Creator of Janet's Planet**

The mission for Janet and Janet's Planet is to encourage young people to stand in their magnificence and to inspire future generations to use their innate intelligence and creativity to create a better future via science and space exploration. With more than 24 years in the media, she has captivated Nashville and beyond with her work, receiving 12 Regional Emmy® Awards, 5 Gracie Allen Awards, a Buzz Aldrin ShareScience Ambassador, and a STEMFLORIDA Award for the "Exploring Microgravity," educational video about gravity and microgravity that wrote and produced for Space Florida.

In early 2015, Janet's Planet was asked by Chief Principal Investigator Alan Stern of the NASA's New Horizons Mission to do educational outreach for the endeavor. Janet's Planet created the #DearPluto project and garnered international attention and amazing letters from around the world. Currently Janet is working on a book that will feature the letters from the children, alongside New Horizons' scientist's commentary. She presents two live shows in performing art centers, "Tour of the Solar System" and "Exploring Microgravity" which are 21st century theatre where students are fully engaged in the experience. On November 5, 2016, Rick Tumlinson's New Worlds Institute, honored Janet with the Inaugural "Permission to Dream" STEAM Educator of the Year Award for her dedication to sharing space and science and encouraging students to dream beyond their desktops.

Recently named to the Board of Governors for the National Space Society and the spokesperson for Enterprise in Space, Janet will carry the mission of educating young people about the solar system, planetary science and forever tell GIRLS that SMART is the most beautiful thing you can be.

Launching in 2017, Janet will also be ambassador and spokesperson for the Children's Television Network, CTN, which is designed to play throughout a children's hospital bringing positive, inspiring and entertaining programming for children and their caregivers.

Janet is also leading the charge to bring a Challenger Learning Center to Middle Tennessee and she and her planning committee have submitted their MOU to the Adventure Science Center to be the umbrella under which the Challenger Learning Center would be administered and built.

**JENNIFER LANE**  
**Treasurer, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Principal, Decosimo/Vaden**



Jennifer is a Certified Public Accountant and Principal at Decosimo/Vaden's Nashville regional public accounting and advisory firm. She serves many of country music's biggest names, and is an essential part of the entertainment practice

She has more than 20 years experience in public accounting specializing in multi-state taxation, Canadian entertainment taxation, tax planning and royalty accounting for artists, songwriters, athletes and other professionals in the music and sports industries.

Jennifer is a graduate of Portland State University and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants, and a member of the ACM, NSAI, Source, Inc.

**HEATHER MIDDLETON**  
**Governor, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Vice President of Public Relations, Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp**



Heather is Vice President of Public Relations for the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp. She leads the charge to bring the stories of Music City to the national and international media for Nashville's \$5 billion tourism industry. Previously, Heather was Vice President, Director of Corporate Communications for The Buntin Group, Tennessee's largest brand communications firm. She was responsible for the agency's new business outreach, publicity, communications and community relations efforts. Her more than 20 years of professional experience includes entertainment, sports and tourism marketing and PR for companies including Warner Bros Records Nashville, USA Networks and HBO in New York City.

Heather graduated from New Jersey City University with a B.A. in Media Arts and a concentration in film and television production.



**DR. LINDA DEMARCO MILLER**  
**Education Chairman. NATAS Nashville/MidSouth**  
**Metro/Nashville Public Schools**

Born in Bogotá, Colombia, where her father served in the U.S. Embassy, Dr. Miller is a magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, graduate of Mount Holyoke College. She received her M.A. and Ph. D. from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Miller is presently Vice Principal of Head Middle Magnet School. She was previously Principal of Neely's Bend Middle School, Vice Principal of Croft Middle School, and Principal of McKissack Professional Development School-Design Center & Creswell Professional Development School- Design Center of Metro-Nashville Public Schools. She has also been Curricular Director of Williamson County Schools, Principal of Franklin High School and Fairview Middle School. Earlier in her career, Linda was Senior Research Associate at the Learning Technology Center, Vanderbilt University, and Director of Schools Center at the Leonard Bernstein Center for Education through the Arts.

Before moving to Nashville, Dr. Miller was Principal of the Kerr Elementary School., which was awarded the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 1994. Her other awards include First Prize in Choreography, American College Dance Festival, and the Helen E. Patch Prize in French Literature.

Linda serves on the board of the Tennessee Arts Academy, an innovative summer teacher-training program of the Tennessee Department of Education



**EMILY PEARCE**  
**Secretary, NATAS Nashville/MidSouth**  
**Director, Vanderbilt Video**

As Director of Vanderbilt Video and Executive Producer of VUStar of the Vanderbilt University News Service, Emily oversees video projects, coordinates live television interviews with networks and cable networks from the campus broadcast facility, and works with national, international and local media.

A 15-year veteran of television news, She spent six years at ABC-TV owned stations in San Francisco and New York and served as executive producer of Special Projects at WSB-TV in Atlanta.

As a veteran special projects producer/executive producer, Pearce has planned and overseen live news coverage of events ranging from the Super Bowl to Presidential trips to elections. She spent five years at the University of California San Francisco, one of the top medical schools in the country, where she handled international, national and local media. She joined Vanderbilt in January 2000.

Emily has won numerous broadcasting awards including a national Ohio State Merit Award, nine Emmy® Awards, and AP and UPI broadcast awards.



**GENE POLICINSKI**  
**NATAS Nashville/MidSouth Executive Committee**  
**Chief Operating Officer, The Newseum Institute**  
**and The First Amendment Center**

Gene is chief operating officer of the Newseum Institute and of the Institute's First Amendment Center. A veteran multimedia journalist, he also writes, lectures and is interviewed regularly on First Amendment issues.

A founding editor of **USA Today**, he oversees all programs of the Newseum Institute and also is a longtime proponent of diversity in journalism as an essential characteristic of a free press. He speaks and writes regularly on news gathering and reporting, newsroom diversity and on journalism ethics. Gene co-writes the weekly, nationally distributed column, "Inside the First Amendment." He is host of

the online news program "Journalism/Works," produced by the Newseum and was host of several radio programs airing since the mid-1990s, including news and sports talk programs on "USA TodaySky Radio" and "Newseum Radio," which aired on NPR worldwide from 1998 to 2002. He is a contributor to the recent American Bar Association book, "Whistleblowers, Leaks and the First Amendment," providing a section on First Amendment issues and a free press.

In 1996, he began working at the Freedom Forum, the foundation that is the principal funder of the Newseum and Newseum Institute. Gene has worked in print, TV, radio and online. In addition to his work in radio, he was executive producer of the public television program "Speaking Freely," which aired from 2001 to 2004 — a program later recognized with a special Emmy® Award" by the MidSouth chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Holding a Certified Journalism Educator designation from the Journalism Education Association, Gene is an adjunct faculty member at Winthrop University in South Carolina and is a member of the board of advisors for the Institute for Media, Culture, and Ethics at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky. He has served as a national trustee for the National Academy of Television and Arts and Sciences (NATAS); a trustee of the United States Sports Academy; a trustee of the Newspaper Association of America Foundation; and a member of the board of trustees of the Association of Opinion Journalists Foundation. He was co-chair of the 2012 national convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Gene served briefly as president of the Freedom Forum's Diversity Institute, now a part of the programs of the Newseum Institute. A graduate of Ball State



University, he attended classes at the Nashville School of Law. He was awarded membership in 2012 to Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, through its chapter at the University of North Georgia.



**ELLEN JONES PRYOR**  
**National Trustee Alternate, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Director of Communications, The Frist Center for the Visual Arts**

Ellen is Director of Communications at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. She was involved in the earliest days of the creation of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in the early 90s, serving as an advisor to the founders. Since the Frist Center opened in April 2001, she has been associated with the organization in a number of capacities and now serves as Director of Communications, working with local, regional and national broadcast, print and online outlets.

In addition to the arts, her professional experience includes work in video, television and film production, government, tourism, politics, banking, journalism, the music business (including classical, jazz, country and world music) and book publishing.

Ellen serves on the Keyboard of the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University, the Community Advisory Board of NPT: Nashville Public Television, and the Brooks Fund of the Community Foundation.



**MICHAEL J. SCHOENFELD**  
**Regopmal Vice President, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Vice President Public Affairs and Government Relations,**  
**Duke University**

Mike joined Duke in 2008, where he oversees Duke's communications, government relations and external affairs and serves as the university's chief spokesperson.

Before Duke, he was Vice Chancellor at Vanderbilt University, where he created and led an award-winning comprehensive public affairs program that was recognized nationally as advancing the university's mission. In addition, he led Vanderbilt's legislative agenda at the local, state and federal levels on issues that include research funding, higher education policy and health care, and was widely credited with rebuilding Vanderbilt's relationship with the Nashville community.

Mike currently holds leadership roles with the National Academy for Media Arts and Sciences, the Public Relations Society of America, the Association of American Universities, and previously served on the board of the National Association of College and University Business Officers. He currently serves on a number of local and regional boards, including the Durham Public Library System and the Chamber of Commerce.

He was previously senior vice president for policy and public affairs at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in Washington, D.C. He started his career as a broadcaster at the Voice of America and rose to chief of staff. A 1984 Duke graduate, Schoenfeld earned a master's degree in public policy from the Harriman School at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.



**RICH STONE**  
**Program Chairman, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**President and Director of Photography, Stone Productions**

Rich has won 12 of television's most coveted award, the Emmy®, which include Camera, Lighting Director- Location and Feature stories. The segments detail the roll-out of the space shuttle Discovery, Nashville's Fan Fair, and winter backpacking in the mountains of East Tennessee. Over the past 22 years, Rich has traveled to a dozen countries, shooting events ranging from the famine in Somalia, to an art show in Tokyo, to the British portion of Garth Brooks' first European tour. His most exciting trip was aboard the USS John F. Kennedy (aircraft carrier), profiling pilots and sailors during war games at sea. The most unforgettable trip came when ABC News sent Rich to cover the horrific events of 9/11 in New York. Rich also traveled to Macedonia in 1999, where he toured refugee camps with country singer Collin Raye. In October 2000 and 2001, he was part of the Prize Patrol for Publisher's Clearing House.

In April 2002, Rich worked with a British production company shooting two segments of the show *Heavy Metal*, which airs on the History Channel. They shot interviews with Black Hawk pilots (including Micheal Durrant, Black Hawk Down), and M1-A Abrams tank crewman. That was followed by reenactment footage and generic b-roll of the the Black Hawk and Abrams.

Rich also jetted around the world for the nationally syndicated television show *Travel and Adventure*. As Director of Photography for the program, Rich documented action such as whitewater rafting on the Colorado River, rock climbing in the Pyrenees Mountains of Spain, and alligator wrestling in the Everglades.

In addition to his Emmy® awards, Rich has won numerous National Press Photographers Association national and regional awards, Radio and Television News Directors Association awards, plus state Associated Press and United Press International awards for photography.



**SHARON M. TINSLEY**  
**Regional Vice President, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**President, Alabama Broadcasters Association**

Sharon is a graduate of the University of Alabama with a degree in Broadcast and Film Communication where she was named Outstanding Senior in Broadcast and Film. In the early nineties, Sharon produced *Top O' the Morning* at WVTM-TV in Birmingham. Prior to that, she had worked for Alabama Public Television and Group W Cable. After leaving WVTM-TV, Sharon worked for Jim Owens & Associates in Nashville where she produced several programs for TNN and launched the syndicated *Crook & Chase* with Multimedia. Overall, she was engaged in TV programming and production from 1983 through 1996.

Beginning in 1997, Sharon was employed by Broadcast Music, Inc. where she served the last few years as Senior Director of Media Licensing. Sharon has attended an average of ten different state broadcasters association conventions each of the last few years. Sharon served as a board member of the associations in Florida, Louisiana and West Virginia.

Sharon has been active in numerous professional, civic and charitable organizations over the years. She was a member of Alabama Media Women (now Alabama Media Professionals) prior to moving to Nashville. In Nashville, she started a chapter of American Women in Radio & Television and served as President for two years.

Sharon received extensive training for non-profit board management by the Young Leaders Council in Nashville. She looks forward to applying that experience and knowledge acquired from her work with other state associations for the benefit of the ABA.



**DOREEN WADE**  
**Governor, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Vice President and General Manager, WSMV**

**Doreen** is Vice President and General Manager of WSMV-TV, the NBC affiliated station in Nashville, owned by Meredith Corporation. Prior to assuming her current role, she was Senior Vice-President and President of Freedom Broadcasting, overseeing a portfolio of eight television stations comprised of five CBS affiliates, two ABC's and one CW. She also managed three of the Freedom television stations: WLNE (Providence, RI), WRGB (Albany, NY) and WPEC (West Palm Beach, FL) prior to overseeing the entire group.

With more than thirty years of experience in broadcast sales, station management and executive leadership, her career with Freedom spanned over twenty-five years. She has been actively involved in the broadcast industry and is Past-Chair of the *CBS Network Television Affiliates Association* board. She also served on the *National Association of Broadcasters* and *Television Bureau of Advertising* boards. While on the NAB board, she was actively involved in the NAB Mentor program, helping women and minorities advance in their broadcast careers.

Doreen has been the recipient of several awards including the *1996 Person of The Year* by the Rhode Island Ad Club and the *2002 Athena Award*. In 2004, she was chosen as the Businessperson of the Year and given an EVIE Award by the Professional & Business Forum in West Palm Beach, FL. In addition, she was recognized by the October 14, 2002 issue of *Electronic Media* as one of the "Ones to Watch" in their feature article, *The Most Powerful Women in Television*, and was selected as a *2003 Woman of Distinction* by the March of Dimes.

Currently, she is a member of the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters, NAB, NATPE and TVB. She also serves on the board of the NBC Affiliates Association.

**She was chosen to be a member of the 2016 Leadership Nashville.**



**PETE WEBER**  
**Governor, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Sportscaster, The Nashville Predators**

Emmy® Award winning sportscaster, Pete Weber has demonstrated his versatility, calling the action in the NHL, NFL, NBA, the Winter Olympics; and Triple A baseball, along with college hockey, football, and basketball.

Pete's hockey credits include his current post as voice of the Nashville Predators (1998-present). He also spent two as radio play-by-play man for the Buffalo Sabres and three as color commentator on the Los Angeles Kings' radio and TV teams. Pete had a voice role in the 1981 ABC-TV movie *Miracle on Ice*. He traveled to Sarajevo, Yugoslavia to cover the 1984 U.S. Olympic team for the Mutual Broadcasting System, and worked as host for the Buffalo Sabres' cablecasts. A frequent guest on area talk shows, he is a regular contributor as the *Western Conference Insider* on Sirius/XM Radio's NHL Home

Ice channel.

Pete worked as color commentator on the Buffalo Bills radio network, served five seasons as host of Bills Pre- and Post-Game shows, and for three seasons anchored *Buffalo Bills Magazine* on cable.

Pete's baseball experience was highlighted by thirteen seasons as Voice the Buffalo Bisons. He broke into baseball with the Albuquerque Dukes in 1981, and spent three seasons in the Rochester Red Wings' broadcast booth.

In basketball, Weber's record includes a season of television play-by-play for the Seattle SuperSonics, plus color commentary for the legendary Chick Hearn on the Lakers broadcasts when Pat Riley left to join the coaching ranks. Pete was Mutual Broadcasting's analyst for the 1980 NBA Championship Series between the Lakers and the Philadelphia 76ers, and handled play-by-play for the CBA Albuquerque. He covered college basketball with the University at Buffalo and St. Bonaventure basketball on the Empire Sports Network.

Pete holds a Master of Arts degree in Communications from Notre Dame, and was inducted into the Buffalo Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999. He was named Tennessee Sportscaster of the Year in 2012 by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.



**BETH TUCKER WOMACK**  
**Awards Chairman and "Voice of the Academy", NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**Metro/Nashville Public Schools**

Beth is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, where she studied mass communications and music. Beth's career began in 1984 in Bowling Green at WLBJ Radio. She then became News Director at WBGW Radio, and moved to television as morning Anchor/Producer at WBKO. In 1988, she became Anchor/Producer of the 6 PM and 10 PM newscasts.

Beth joined WTVF Nashville in 1992, where she was the Anchor of *NewsChannel 5 This Morning*. Her awards include the AP Broadcast Award for Best Newscast, and the Emmy® Award for Daytime Newscast.

In 2001, Beth became Public Information Officer at the Tennessee Department of Safety, and has been with Metro Nashville Public Schools since 2005.

Beth has been the Voice of the Midsouth Regional Emmy® Awards live telecast since 1997, and is now the Announcer/Host.



**ADAM YEOMANS**  
**Governor, NATAS Nashville/Midsouth**  
**The Associated Press Bureau Chief**

Adam is the Associated Press bureau chief for Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi. Before coming to Nashville in 2005, he was the assistant bureau chief in AP's Miami bureau from 1998 to 2004, and news editor for Florida from 1996 to 1997. He joined the AP in Tallahassee, Fla., in 1993 as a reporter after working for The Orlando Sentinel, where he covered tourism and economic development.

At AP, he helped supervise coverage of the Elian Gonzalez custody fight and helped oversee the AP vote tabulation system that was crucial to reporting the outcome of the 2000 Florida presidential balloting. He led coverage of the Sept. 11 terrorists' connection to Florida, the slaying of Gianni Versace, Florida's \$13 billion settlement with the tobacco industry and other major news events. In Tennessee, he helped supervise AP's coverage of the Nashville flooding disaster in May 2010.

Adam serves on the boards of the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government, the Tennessee AP Broadcasters, the Kentucky AP Broadcasters and the Mississippi AP Broadcasters, and on the government relations committee of the Tennessee Press Association. He's a member of the SPJ, ONA and PRSA. He is a native of Fort Myers, Fla., and a graduate of the University of Florida