Meet the New Press Club Board Members

Four new Press Club Board members were installed at The Press Club of Cleveland's annual meeting and Holiday Party Dec. 15 at Nighttown in Cleveland Heights. We take a closer look at these new board members and enthusiastically welcome their service.

Dave Johnson is completing his second year as the public relations director for Cleveland Medical Mart & Convention Center, overseeing the development and implementation of a strategic communications plan, along with serving as the primary media contact for the project.

He is a member of the Cleveland City Planning Commission and the Urban League. Johnson is also a planning committee member at The City Club and an elder at Old Stone Church.

Johnson came to MMPI, the developer of Cleveland Medical Mart & Convention Center, after spending 22 years with the University of Illinois. Johnson spent six years on the Champaign (Illinois) County Board, including two years as Chair of the Human Services Committee, and served for one year as the District 5 representative on the Champaign (Ill.) City Council.

A veteran broadcaster, Johnson was the executive producer of the 65-station Illini Sports Radio Network and has been a producer and associate producer for ABC, NBC, ESPN, SportsChannel Ohio, and Bud Sports, including Cincinnati Reds baseball, the U.S. Olympic Festival, and ABC's "Baseball Night in America." He also produced the award-winning "Illinois Law" television show on WCIA-TV 3.

A Cleveland Hts. High School graduate, Richard Stewart earned a broadcast journalism degree from Kent State University in 1993. Stewart then helped found and eventually co-owned a video production company, but his sights were set on becoming a TV news reporter. In 1999, he made good on that dream by becoming a reporter for WECT Wilmington, North Carolina and later an investigative reporter for WFTX Fort Myers, Florida and WAVY TV Norfolk, Virginia.

Homesick, Stewart returned to Cleveland in 2002, where he met his bride, Virginia. They married in 2006. Virginia, also a Kent State grad, has built a successful career at American Greetings, Arrow International and KeyBank.

After consulting and freelancing at Tri-C in an on-air capacity, as well as promoting its journalism program to Cleveland high-school students, Richard joined Broadcast Media Ideas (BMI) as an Executive Producer. He produced a video documentary on Cuyahoga County's foreclosure crisis entitled, "Don't Borrow Trouble" that won BMI's first-ever Emmy award.

Today, Stewart is president, owner and operator of DigiZoom Media LLC, a full-service video production company. In his spare time, he participates in the Urban Journalism Workshop, an 8-week, Saturday-only seminar held at John Carroll University. Stewart joined Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Cleveland in 2008 and has been a mentor to a 12-year-old boy for more than two years.

Kathleen Osborne has spent much of her professional life as a freelance writer, editor, and public relations specialist and operated her own consulting firm for 10 years, with clients ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 companies.

Osborne’s work has appeared in print and online for a number of regional and national publications, including IndustryWeek, The Plain Dealer, The Columbus Dispatch, Cleveland Magazine, Northern Ohio Live, Ohio Magazine and Inside Business.

She also served as police and education beat reporter for The Morning Journal in Lorain.

Osborne joined Hathaway Brown in 2008 after a brief stint at The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Today, as Hathaway Brown's chief external communications officer, Osborne handles all media relations functions, oversees the school website, coordinates large-scale events and is editor of the alumnae magazine.

Her varied career has included positions in mental health services at a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed adolescents and in the psychiatric intensive care unit of an inner-city hospital. She also has been a customer service trainer for an insurance company.

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