



# Society of Professional Journalists

*Improving and protecting journalism since 1909*

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## The Society of Professional Journalists – Detroit Chapter announces Journalist of the Year finalists and more than 250 finalists in the 2024 Excellence in Journalism competition

Celebrate the award-winning journalists at our annual banquet on May 14; tickets on sale [here](#)

DETROIT (April XX, 2025) – [The Society of Professional Journalists – Detroit Chapter](#) announced the finalists for its 2024 Journalist of the Year and Young Journalist of the Year honors:

### Journalist of the Year

- **Ron French and Robin Erb**, *Bridge Michigan*
- **Steve Neavling**, *Detroit Metro Times*
- **Kristen Jordan Shamus**, *Detroit Free Press*

### Young Journalist of the Year

- **Malachi Barrett**, *BridgeDetroit*
- **Adam Yahya Rayes**, *Michigan Public*
- **Andrea Sahouri**, *Detroit Free Press*

The chapter also announced finalists for its annual Excellence in Journalism competition. The complete list of more than 250 journalists can be found [here](#).

This exceptional group of journalists will be celebrated at the chapter's Excellence in Journalism awards banquet from 5:30-9 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, at the San Marino Club, 1685 E. Big Beaver Rd. in Troy, Michigan. Award details and the winners in each category will be announced at the event.

"The Excellence in Journalism competition is a celebration of the best in Michigan journalism, and the quality of the entries we received from our colleagues across the state makes us proud of our profession," said Marty Fischhoff, SPJ Detroit president. "Come join us at the ceremony to help give them the tribute they deserve. And it's one of the best networking opportunities of the year."

The names of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award honorees will be announced later this month, and the winners of the Larry Laurain Scholarships will be recognized at the banquet.

Tickets and additional information are available at [spjdetroit.org](http://spjdetroit.org).

The evening will include the popular silent auction, the proceeds of which support the Scholarship Fund for college journalism students.