



National Association of  
Government Communicators

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## **NAGC Installs New Officers** *Kathryn Stokes Sworn in as President*

**July 13, 2016 (Falls Church, Va.)** – The National Association of Government Communicators installed new officers during its annual business meeting held in conjunction with the 2016 NAGC Communications School, in Washington, D.C.

Assuming the role of president is **Kathryn Stokes**, who is the strategic affairs officer for the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. She has served NAGC in many roles including serving as treasurer 2011-2013. She was elected as president-elect in 2014. Past President John Verrico swore in Kathryn.

Also sworn in were the following officers who were named in the most recent election:

- **President-Elect Chris O’Neil.** He will assume the role of president in 2018 following Kathryn Stokes’ tenure. O’Neil is director of public affairs, Office of Safety Recommendations and Communications, National Transportation Safety Board.
- **Communications Director Scott Thomsen.** He is senior strategic advisor, communications, Seattle City Light, Seattle, Washington.
- **Competitions Director Sabra J. Brown.** She is deputy director of communication/public policy, Department of Defense.
- **Membership and Volunteer Director John Nixon.** He is marketing and communications manager, Austin Parks and Recreation, Austin, Texas.

All newly installed Board members will serve a term of two years.

Continuing on the Board of Directors are:

- **Immediate Past President John Verrico**, chief of media relations, Science & Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.
- **Treasurer Donna M. Harris**, public information representative, U.S. Postal Inspection Service.
- **Marketing Director Wendy Smith-Wagner**, senior writer-editor, Office of Financial Research, U.S. Department of the Treasury.
- **Education Director Maria VanderKolk**, communications manager, City of Arvada, Colorado.
- **Professional Development Director Bethany Hornbeck**, marketing and planning administrator, AECOM.

*The National Association of Government Communicators is dedicated to advocating, recognizing and promoting excellence in government communication in federal, state, local and tribal government.*

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***NAGC: Good Communication ... Good Government***