

As the Ohio Valley Chapter of NATAS strives to recognize the television professionals who have made an enduring contribution to the vitality of the television industry in the chapter's markets, the very embodiment of that vitality can be found in the well-known and beloved Columbus reporter, anchor and host, Gail Hogan. I respectfully ask the Ohio Valley Silver/Gold Circle committee to select Gail as a 2022 Silver Circle inductee.

Gail's service to the television industry, to NATAS, to her community and to those working in or training for careers in television is extensive. I'm one of many people who can attest personally to her support of those working in the industry. Gail was serving as an anchor at WCMH-TV when I joined the staff there; I had just left an on-air position at the ABC affiliate in Toledo. As not only a seasoned and accomplished journalist but also an empathetic colleague, Gail approached me immediately to let me know how pleased she was for me to join the WCMH team, sharing that her family in Toledo had watched and enjoyed my work there. Her genuine happiness in welcoming me and willingness to always be a valued collaborator with and mentor to her colleagues never fade, as evidenced by her enduring friendship some 25+ years later.

Her service to the television industry reveals not only the Silver Circle's requisite 25 years of distinguished service, but a level of dedication, perseverance and resilience that is exceptional even among Silver Circle inductees. Gail's work evolved over years, and not along a simple straight line. She developed a rare ability to serve in and pivot between diverse positions, from entertaining host to trusted journalist; from accomplished anchor to the developer and executive producer of a new style of program that today enjoys great popularity... allowing compelling stories to be shared by non-profits and advertisers. Gail did not simply achieve the status of anchor and serve a career in that capacity; she explored new roles and forged a unique path. In what may be one of her most poignant career lessons to the rest of us in this field, she has shown that the greatest way to serve the industry is to cultivate an ability to adapt to its changing needs over time.

Not surprisingly, Gail's many years of television accomplishments also allowed for significant interaction with NATAS and the Ohio Valley chapter in particular. She was an Emmy nominee four times and a recipient in 1985. Over the past 30 years, she has been involved in NATAS workshops, Emmy entry judging, and was honored on multiple occasions to serve as a presenter in the Ohio Valley's Emmy Awards Ceremonies. Her dedication to the betterment of the television industry is also augmented by years of often simultaneous service in local radio newsrooms. In an age when it's now clear that all parts of the broadcast industry must support each other in the effort to uphold high standards and continue to be relevant, it's no surprise that a broadcaster of Gail's skill has engaged in work stretching across both these sectors.

But these examples of her significant and distinguished work don't even begin to touch on the greater service Gail continues to provide to her community. As she worked in the WCMH newsroom in 1988, Gail – then 32 years old – went into cardiac arrest and was saved when coworkers rushed to perform CPR. Electing to share her experience and help others, Gail has spent more than 30 years working for the Central Ohio Chapter of the American Heart Association. Her work with the organization is extensive. Gail was part of the Columbus Women's Heart Health initiative, bringing attention to women's heart

issues in the 1990's. That local project, in part, led to the national Go Red for Women campaign, now a nationwide American Heart Association program. Gail has also been involved as a volunteer for the local heart walk, the annual Go Red luncheon, Ohio American Heart Association communication outreach, is a CPR advocate, a community speaker on heart health issues and past board member with the Central Ohio Chapter of the American Heart Association. Gail currently works as a lay representative with the National AHA Research and Science Committee. Being a heart disease survivor, Gail is passionate about educating the public on heart disease prevention and CPR training. A [February 2021 article](#) from WCMH focusing on Gail's journey with heart disease shows the importance of her work.

In 2016, Gail worked to help pass Ohio House Bill 311 to require CPR training for all Ohio high school students. She was awarded the Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Heart Association's five-state Great Rivers Affiliate for her advocacy work. She also received the Leadership Legacy Award from the Great Rivers Affiliate for her many years of service. Currently she is the Committee Chair for the Ohio Advocacy Committee.

Her amazing story might lead you to believe that Gail can be defined by the combination of her work in television and her personal advocacy for heart health. But we've not yet touched upon her service as past board member of Alvis House. That non-profit organization works on family-focused re-entry programs to transition individuals back into the community after being involved in the criminal justice system or incarcerated for non-violent offenses. We've not yet considered that Gail is also a mother of three and found time to be actively involved in her children's schools over the years. That included service on the board of Immaculate Conception Elementary School and 7 years in the Watterson High School Mother's Club, with primary duties working on fundraising projects for the school. Gail is also active in her church, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Columbus, and served a 3-year term on a renovation committee planning the expansion of the church and school. Gail just completed a 3-year term as Immaculate Conception Parish Council President.

Today, Gail does not rest upon all these accomplishments. She is a sought-after media trainer, consultant and the founder of her own business, GMH Media, Ltd. If I were asked to identify one colleague who represents the best example of what our industry can be; a person who exemplifies extensive success and ability but also the importance of balance, empathy and strength; a person who offers enduring contributions and standards of achievement we can all hope to emulate... that person would be Gail Hogan. She will represent Ohio Valley NATAS in exceptional fashion as a member of our Silver Circle.

Submitted by Holly Hollingsworth; April 15, 2022