

**Rocky Mountain Emmy® Awards Tap Anchorman, Office Alum David Koechner as 2015 Event Host; Emmys to be Awarded October 17 at Talking Stick Resort**

The Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) is pleased to announce it has tapped actor, writer and producer David Koechner – best known for his roles as Todd Packer on “The Office” and Champ Kind from “Anchorman” – to host the 2015 Rocky Mountain Emmy® Awards, which will take place on Saturday, October 17 at Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale. Tickets, which start at \$100 for individual seating and \$1100 for tables of 10, are available at [RockyMountainEmmy.org](http://RockyMountainEmmy.org). Sponsorships are also available.

An alumnus of Chicago’s Second City Theater, Koechner got his first break as a cast member on “Saturday Night Live” and since has become an instantly recognizable face appearing in more than 130 films and television shows. Additional notable film credits include “Waiting,” “Out Cold,” “Talladega Nights,” “Get Smart,” “Extract,” “Thank You for Smoking” and “A Haunted House.” When not filming, Koechner performs live stand-up comedy across the country and creates original content videos for his YouTube channel, “[Full On Koechner](#).”

“Each year we strive to make the event a night to remember for the hardworking members of our media community. The addition of a celebrity host, the amazing Talking Stick Resort venue and other exciting details provide this year's attendees with the opportunity to celebrate the excellent, impactful work being created in our region - and have some fun,” said Suzanne Guery, Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter second vice-president and event chairman.

During the 2015 event, Emmy® Awards will be awarded in more than 90 television, production and creative communications categories. The full list of 2015 nominees will be announced live on Thursday, September 10 during simultaneous Rocky Mountain Emmy nominations parties in Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, Tucson, Ariz. and Flagstaff, Ariz. In Phoenix, the party will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Aunt Chilada’s, which is located at 7373 North Dreamy Draw Drive in Phoenix. The event is free, and the entire media and communications community is welcome to attend.

“The Rocky Mountain Emmy® Awards is not a competition in the traditional sense. Entries do not compete against each other. Rather, each is judged individually on its own merit against a standard of excellence,” said Theresa Maher, president of the Rocky Mountain Southwest chapter of NATAS. “There is no greater honor the Chapter can bestow on its members. The Emmy statuette symbolizes the excellence for which we all strive.”

The Rocky Mountain Emmy® Awards will also induct new members of the Silver and Gold Circle Societies, respectively, during the evening.

The 2015 Silver Circle recipients being honored are:

Ron Hoon, Fox10, Phoenix  
Jude LaCava, Fox10, Phoenix  
Carey Olson, (Retired) KRQE Albuquerque  
Mark Reda, Fox Sports Arizona, Phoenix  
Donna Rossi, CBS5 KPHO, Phoenix  
Abbie Smith, The List, Phoenix

The chapter established its Silver Circle Society in 1992. To be eligible for the Silver Circle honor, individuals must have served in the broadcast industry for a minimum of 25 years with the majority being in our chapter's region, and have significantly contributed to our industry and community. Nominations are accepted from broadcast journalism, talent, creative, technical, administrative, as well as TV commercial production and TV education.

The 2015 Gold Circle recipient being honored is:

Bill Miller, Magic Dust Television, Phoenix

To be eligible for the Gold Circle, individuals must have served in the industry for a minimum of 50 years, and significantly contributed to the field and/or community within the same categories as the silver circle. The Gold Circle Society was established in 2005.

Each year, the chapter also looks to recognize an entity for going above and beyond its telecommunications mission with the Governors' Award. Past recipients have ranged from technical innovations to public service programs. This year, "Read Today" and "Hooked" will share the honor of the 2015 Governor's Award. "Read Today" is a massive literacy campaign headed by KSL in Salt Lake City and is credited with raising reading scores at schools across the state. The "Hooked" project is joint partnership between the Arizona Broadcasters Association and Cronkite News, the News Division of Arizona PBS at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism including a documentary about the heroin epidemic in Arizona and associated community outreach.

For more information about the Rocky Mountain Emmy® Awards or to purchase tickets, please visit [RockyMountainEmmy.org](http://RockyMountainEmmy.org).

***NATAS is a professional service organization dedicated to the advancement of the arts and sciences of television and the promotion of creative leadership for artistic, educational and technical achievements within the television industry. The Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter, formed in 1959, represents Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and El Centro, Calif.***