

RULES GOVERNING THE COLORADO CAPITOL PRESS ASSOCIATION

1. Establishment

As of January 1, 2008, there is hereby established the Colorado Capitol Press Association, consisting of full-time correspondents of bona fide news organizations whose duty consists of covering the Colorado General Assembly. Administration of the Association shall be vested in a Standing Committee of Correspondents. The Standing Committee shall consist of five members drawn from organizations that have full-time, Capitol-based coverage of the Legislative session. Any member of the Standing Committee may petition for an organization's removal from the committee for failure to maintain Capitol coverage for one year. A majority of the members of the Standing Committee must vote both on the removal of current members or the addition of new members of the Standing Committee.

2. Purpose

The Association exists to make recommendations on press credentialing to the Speaker of the House, Chief Clerk of the House, President of the Senate and Secretary of the Senate for the purpose of granting media access to the House and Senate floors. The Association may also serve as a forum for discussion of other matters related to newsgathering at the Colorado State Capitol.

3. Applying for membership

Persons desiring membership in the Association shall make application to its Standing Committee of Correspondents. Membership will be granted to applicants on a majority vote of the Standing Committee's membership.

4. Criteria for membership

Access to the chamber floors is not open to the general public. It is a privilege that has been granted to reporters in order to improve news coverage of the General Assembly. Legislative leadership can and has barred floor access to persons or groups of persons whose presence on the floor is, in leadership's eyes, disruptive to the work of the General Assembly.

The Standing Committee shall limit its recommendations for access to the chamber floors to bona fide correspondents of repute in their profession, under such rules as the Standing Committee shall prescribe.

An applicant for Association press credentials must establish to the satisfaction a majority of the Standing Committee members that he or she is a full-time, paid correspondent who requires chamber floor access to legislative members and staff. Correspondents must be employed by a news organization that is:

- (a) A legal publication that has been published for at least 52 weeks consecutively and has a second-class periodical mailing permit from the post office, as described in Colorado Revised Statutes 24-70-102 to 103; or
- (b) A radio or television station with regularly scheduled news programming; or
- (c) A news outlet whose principal business is the daily dissemination of original news and opinion of interest to a broad segment of the public, and which has broadcast or published (online or in print) continuously for 52 weeks. The media outlet must require state Capitol coverage on a continuing basis and must be owned and operated independently of any government, industry, institution, association, lobbying or political organization. The media outlet must (1.) be operated for profit and supported chiefly by advertising or by subscription, or (2.) meet the conditions in this paragraph but be

operated by a nonprofit organization that, first, works independently of any government, industry, or institution and, second, does not engage, directly or indirectly, in any lobbying, political activity or other activity intended to influence elections or any matter before the General Assembly or before any independent agency, or any department or other instrumentality of the Executive branch. House organs are not eligible. Applicants shall state in writing the names of their employers and their additional sources of earned income; and they shall declare that, while a member of the Association, they will not act as an agent in the prosecution of claims, and will not become engaged or assist, directly or indirectly, in any lobbying, promotion, advertising, or publicity activity intended to influence elections, legislation or any other action of the General Assembly, nor any matter before any independent agency, or any department or other instrumentality of the Executive branch. Applicants must not be engaged in any lobbying or advocacy, advertising, publicity or promotion work for any individual, political party or movement, corporation, organization, or agency of the U.S. or Colorado government, or in prosecuting any claim before the General Assembly or Colorado government, and must not do so while a member of the Colorado Capitol Press Association. Applicants must demonstrate to the Standing Committee of Correspondents that they and their employing media outlets meet all the above criteria. Failure to provide information to the Association for this determination, or misrepresenting information, can result in the denial or revocation of credentials.

5. Freelancers and interns

Freelancers and interns must apply through a sponsoring publication, broadcast outlet or web site that meets the above criteria, by submitting a letter on original letterhead from a supervisor affirming the applicant's freelance or intern status. Freelancers and interns must abide by all Association rules, including those regarding lobbying, political advocacy, etc.

6. Temporary press credentials

Reporters who come to the Capitol for one-time or sporadic coverage can see a member of the Standing Committee of Correspondents and, if they can demonstrate they meet all of the above criteria, be granted a 24-hour press pass by any Standing Committee member. The press pass constitutes a recommendation from the Standing Committee to House and Senate leadership that the journalist be granted access to the chamber floors. Anyone holding a temporary press pass is expected to follow all Association rules.

7. Final say

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House have the final say on who may enter their respective chambers, notwithstanding any positive or negative recommendation from the Standing Committee of Correspondents.

8. Rules of the House and Senate

Members of the Colorado Capitol Press Association shall obey all security regulations when entering the Capitol and its office buildings. Association members also are expected to follow the rules of each chamber while working on the floor (i.e. dress codes, remaining quiet during third reading debates, staying on the perimeter of the chambers). Association members must follow the directions of the Sergeants-at-Arms in each chamber.

9. Use of credentials

Credentials must be used only in the course of reporting for the credentialed organization. Credentials may not be used to gain access to chamber floors when working for non-news clients or media outlets that were not listed on the journalist’s application form, or for other purposes unrelated to news coverage.

Members of the families of correspondents are not entitled to the privileges of the chamber floors.

10. Association rule changes

The Colorado Capitol Press Association shall adopt no changes in these rules except upon a two-thirds vote of the Standing Committee of Correspondents.