

Black NSA Awards Process

Background

The BlackNSA Awards are a great way to acknowledge speakers in our community. The awards are given to amazing and deserving speakers who have dedicated the time and effort to growing their businesses.

These award winners have shown through their spirit of giving, their spirit of resilience and their spirit of community that they are focused on leaving the greatest impact possible!

Each award has been named in honor of exemplary members of NSA who have made a significant impact on the BNSA community.

- ❖ The Thelma Wells Trailblazer Award
- ❖ The George Curry Vision Award
- ❖ The Greg Smith Strength Award
- ❖ The Les Brown Motivator Award
- ❖ The Lenora Billings-Harris Leadership Award

Nominations Process

- Call for Nominations
 - Open nominations will be advertised on NSA & BNSA social channels
 - People can nominate people who they feel meet the criteria, or they can self-nominate
 - Link to a google form will be supplied for nominations
 - Awardees must be members of NSA. Special consideration will be given to nominees who are members of the BNSA virtual chapter also.
- Pre-Qualifying
 - The Influence committee team will utilize a scoring sheet to ensure nominees meet the qualifications for each award.
- Final Voting
 - The nominees who make it through pre-qualifying will be sent to the BNSA Board of Directors for final selection.

Award Descriptions

The Thelma Wells Trailblazer Award

The Thelma Wells Trailblazer award recognizes a BlackNSA member who has dedicated significant time, effort and resources to building the BlackNSA community. This honoree has not only built a speaking business but has taken on leadership roles, participated in building the organization and continues to shine a light on others who are growing their message as well as their business.

Thelma Wells was a stalwart who saw a need and created the space for what we now know as BlackNSA. BlackNSA has gone from an informal meeting, to an expected event, to a community group and now an official virtual chapter because of the foundation laid by Thelma Wells.

The honoree is someone who:

- Has served BlackNSA in a leadership capacity
- Shares their knowledge through education
- Believes in the foundation and goals of our organization
- Creates and participates in the growth of others

The George Curry Vision Award

The George Curry 'Vision' Award recognizes the BlackNSA member who understands where you are at this moment is important but where you need to be in the future is what will provide a long, successful career.

George Curry was a trailblazing journalist who believed in paving the way and shaping the minds of the next generation. He understood that impact didn't occur if information stopped with him.

The honoree is someone who:

- Exhibits through their efforts and speaking business the power of being a visionary in their industry and/or their area of focus.
- Has been recognized via awards, features in publications or other platforms for their trailblazing efforts.

The Greg Smith Strength Award

The Greg Smith 'Strength' Award is presented to the BNSA member who exudes and symbolizes a resilient mindset and positive attitude while facing challenging situations in their professional or personal life.

Greg Smith was known as America's wheelchair dude with the Winning Attitude. He dedicated himself to increasing disability awareness but also showing that no obstacle is too great to keep you from success.

The honoree is someone who:

- Faces challenges with a “kick butt” attitude and is not deterred but keeps moving, like Greg did.
- Takes risks with the mission of enhancing lives.

The Les Brown Motivator Award

The Les Brown Motivator Award recognizes the BlackNSA member who exudes the energy, commitment and action needed to create a long lasting speaking career and assists others in developing theirs.

Les Brown has for many years been not only an icon in the professional speaking industry but for many the model of what it is to be called a motivational speaker.

The honoree is someone who:

- Motivates and mentors or sponsors others to enter and become successful in the speaking business.
- Models as a motivational speaker the professional skills, ethics and craft that inspires his/her audience members to make a difference.

The Lenora Billings-Harris Leadership Award

The Lenora Billings-Harris Leadership Award is presented to the BNSA member who creates new paths, chooses to take leadership roles in their professional career and actively supports the growth of their speaking colleagues.

The honoree is someone who:

- Has held leadership positions at the chapter and/or national level of NSA and/or BNSA
- Has garnered honor and respect within the professional speaking community

Timing

- Nominations Open 6/10/24
- Nomination Close 6/24/24
- Finalists Sent to BOD 7/1/24
- Winners Determined 7/8/24