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National Speakers Association

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**Release Date:**

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

For Immediate Release

National Speakers Association Announces Founding Charter Group for Certified Emcee Professional™ Designation

September 23, 2026 – The National Speakers Association (NSA) is proud to announce the founding Charter Group of the Certified Emcee Professional™ (CEP™) designation, a new professional credential recognizing excellence in event hosting, facilitation, audience engagement, and event leadership.

These five professionals were instrumental in helping shape the foundation of the CEP program and will be recognized as the pioneers who helped bring the designation to life.

Launching November 1, 2026, the Certified Emcee Professional designation establishes professional standards for emcees who demonstrate advanced skill, professionalism, audience engagement, adaptability, and commitment to the craft. The Charter Group participated in the initial application and review process, provided valuable feedback, and helped refine the program ahead of its public launch.

NSA is honored to recognize the founding Charter Group:

Quinn Conyers, CEP

Rob Ferre, CSP, CEP

Jason Hewlett, CSP, CEP, CPAE

Tom Pesce, CEP

Dr. Genie Snyder, CSP, CEP

“These five individuals believed in this program before it had a track record,” said Jaime Nolan, CEO/President of the National Speakers Association. “Their willingness to go first, share their expertise, and help shape the process has created a strong foundation for a designation designed to elevate professional emceeing across the industry. We are incredibly grateful to our Charter Group.”

NSA congratulates the founding Charter Group on this milestone and recognizes their contributions to the development of the Certified Emcee Professional designation and the professional emceeing community.

NSA will also host the inaugural **How to Earn Your CEP** informational event on **October 22, 2026**.

Additional information will be announced soon.

Applications for the inaugural **Class of 2027** will be accepted **November 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027**.

For more information about the Certified Emcee Professional designation and how to apply, visit nsaspeaker.org/cep.

About the National Speakers Association:

The National Speakers Association® (NSA) is the leading organization for professional speakers. NSA's thousands of members include experts in a variety of industries and disciplines, who reach audiences as trainers, educators, humorists, motivators, consultants, authors, and more. Since 1973, NSA has provided resources and education designed to help anyone become a better speaker and build a better speaking business. Visit NSAspeaker.org.

About the Certified Emcee Professional:

The Certified Emcee Professional (CEP) designation is awarded by the National Speakers Association to recognize professional excellence in event hosting, facilitation, and audience engagement. The designation recognizes professionals who demonstrate advanced event leadership, professionalism, adaptability, and commitment to creating successful audience experiences.

The CEP program launches November 1, 2026, with applications for the inaugural Class of 2027 accepted through January 31, 2027. Learn more at nsaspeaker.org/cep.

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