



JOE DONLON

Anchor (Weekday)

21-Year News Veteran
From WGN-TV (Chicago)
Also Worked in Oregon, Arizona, and Texas

"It's a dream to get the call to work for a legendary station I grew up watching (WGN)... Now, I'll get to launch another ambitious project across the country on WGN America."

Joe Donlon didn't have to travel far to join the team at *News Nation*. He was already in the building. In early 2018, the St. Louis native returned to his Midwest roots to anchor the evening news at "Chicago's Very Own" WGN-TV.

Donlon came to Chicago after 21 years as the main anchor at KGW-TV (NBC) in Portland, Oregon. Before that, he spent 10 years at KVOA-TV (NBC) in Tucson. He started his career at KZTV (CBS) in Corpus Christi, Texas. His reporting has taken him as far away as Kuwait, just days after the end of Operation Desert Storm. There have been conventions, impeachments, Olympics, National Championship football and basketball games, and more. He likes to say he has had an incredibly fortunate front row seat to a lot of history.

Donlon called it a "dream" to get the call to work for a legendary station he grew up watching. "It has been an honor to share the news set with some of the iconic personalities who introduced the nation to WGN as a superstation," Joe says. "Now, I'll get to follow in their footsteps as we launch another ambitious project across the country on WGN America."

Donlon and his wife, Kathleen, have three grown children who are all living in Chicago.

NEWSNATION



MARNI HUGHES

ANCHOR (WEEKDAY)

20-Year News Veteran

Formerly of KCPQ-TV (Seattle)

Also worked in Minnesota, Utah, Indiana, and Ohio

“Building trust is more than just showing up and reporting the news. It’s about listening and learning from one another ... That’s the foundation of News Nation.”

Marni Hughes believes the best journalists are those who stay curious, truly listen, and understand the power of a well-told story. It’s those fundamental values, along with the necessity for impartiality, that attracted her to a career in news more than 20 years ago, and it is those same principles that keep her in constant pursuit of great stories that help people make informed decisions in their own lives.

Prior to joining the *News Nation* team, Hughes anchored the evening news in Seattle where she played a strategic role in the expansion of the nightly broadcasts and launched a health franchise with a focus on wellness and lifestyle. Hughes, along with her team, was honored with an Emmy for a series of stories highlighting the struggles families face raising kids on the autism spectrum. She was also recognized for her reporting on traumatic brain injuries and concussions specific to youth sports safety. Before Seattle, Hughes worked in newsrooms in Minnesota, Utah, Indiana, and Ohio.

*“Building trust is more than just showing up and reporting the news. It’s about listening and learning from one another, good questions, perspective, objectivity and building a relationship that connects us to one another and the communities and world around us. That’s the foundation of *News Nation* and it’s why I am incredibly honored to be part of this talented team of journalists and this important mission.”*

Hughes and her husband, Chris, have three children.

NEWSNATION



ROB NELSON

BREAKING NEWS ANCHOR (WEEKDAY)

20-Year News Veteran
Formerly of WABC-TV (New York City)
Also Worked for ABC News

"Joining News Nation is a chance to help shape and build a show that will stand out in the current landscape of cable news by reflecting bedrock principles of journalism: objectivity, fairness, facts, and lack of opinion."

Rob Nelson's career has spanned 20 years as a professional journalist. He began his career as a reporter at The-Times Picayune, the daily newspaper in New Orleans, covering education, crime, politics and, most memorably, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He unexpectedly jumped into broadcast news in 2007, landing an anchor/reporter position at WWL-TV, the city's CBS affiliate.

After three years, Nelson was hired by ABC News in New York as co-anchor of *World News Now* and *America This Morning*, the nation's top-rated early morning national newscasts. During that time, he anchored several major breaking news stories, including the killing of Osama bin Laden, the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and the movie theater massacre in Aurora, Colorado in 2012. Nelson was eventually promoted to correspondent, reporting for *Good Morning America*, *World News Tonight* and *Nightline*. In January 2014, Nelson joined WABC-TV, the nation's most watched local station, serving as weekend morning co-anchor and general assignment reporter.

About joining the *News Nation* team, Nelson says, "It's one of those rare times in your career when you can be there at the ground level for the launch of something entirely new. It's a chance to help shape and build a show that will stand out in the current landscape of cable news by reflecting bedrock principles of journalism: objectivity, fairness, facts and lack of opinion. And to launch this show during such an extraordinary, riveting and critical news cycle for the nation makes this opportunity that much more exciting, and deeply important."



ALBERT RAMON

CHIEF METEOROLOGIST

15 Years Studying Weather
From KVUE-TV (Austin)
Native of Texas, Working in Corpus Christi and
Austin

“Being a meteorologist means providing accurate and timely weather information, but more importantly being there for people during great times of need. The News Nation Weather Center will have the resources from hundreds of meteorologists across Nexstar Nation to cover every weather event.”

Albert Ramon is the Chief Meteorologist at WGN America’s *News Nation*.

A native of Texas who got a degree in Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University and a degree in Communication in Media Studies from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Ramon has earned the Seal of Approval from both the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association.

Ramon spent the last decade at KVUE-TV in Austin, Texas where he served as Chief Meteorologist, covering severe weather at all hours – whether it be from the station or from his home studio. Before that, Ramon was t KZTV CBS 10 in Corpus Christi for four years.

*“Being a meteorologist means providing accurate and timely weather information, but more importantly being there for people during great times of need. The *News Nation Weather Center* will have the technology and the resources from hundreds of meteorologists across Nexstar Nation to cover every weather event, big or small, with the goal to inform and protect without hype. It’s the honor of a lifetime to lead this effort and work alongside some of the most talented individuals in the industry.”*



RUDABEH SHAHBAZI

ANCHOR (WEEKEND)

14-Year News Veteran

From WFOR-TV (Miami)

Also Worked in California, Washington, and Arizona

“My responsibility as a journalist is to listen to, understand, and report all sides of a story fairly, accurately, and without bias. These values are at the very heart of News Nation’s mission, at a time when viewers are seeking straightforward, honest, dependable news.”

Rudabeh Shahbazi is a three-time Emmy award winning anchor and reporter who has covered and broken-in news markets across the country, as well as in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Mexico, and Cuba.

Most recently, Shahbazi was the main anchor at CBS Miami for five years, where she anchored live continuous coverage of the Pulse nightclub and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport shootings, the Parkland school massacre, Hurricanes Matthew, Irma, and Maria, and the day Cuban dictator Fidel Castro died.

Shahbazi was previously a reporter and fill-in anchor at KABC-TV in Los Angeles and KNXV-TV in Phoenix. She has also worked at KEPR-TV in Pasco, Washington, and KTVU-TV in Oakland, California. She has a BA in journalism from Pepperdine University and an MA from the University of California, Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.

“My responsibility as a journalist is to listen to, understand and report all sides of a story fairly, accurately, and without bias. These values are at the very heart of News Nation’s mission, at a time when viewers are seeking straightforward, honest, dependable news. I couldn’t be more excited to join a company committed to devoting resources into bringing the very best product to our audience, with a talented team journalists from around the country, who understand the communities and issues they are covering.”



NICHOLE BERLIE

ANCHOR (WEEKEND)

14-Year News Veteran
From WCVB-TV (Boston)
Also Worked in Indiana, Nebraska, and Missouri

"I'm thrilled to be a part of the exciting endeavor that is News Nation. Fair, unbiased, non-partisan news is vital to our democracy. People deserve to consume news, without being influenced on how to feel about that news."

Nichole Berlie comes to *News Nation* from Boston, where she was a weekend evening co-anchor and general assignment reporter for WCVB Channel 5.

Berlie joined WCVB-TV in 2016 from KSDK-TV in St. Louis where she was a weekday morning anchor. Prior to that, Berlie spent five years as a weekday morning anchor at Hearst's KETV-7 in Omaha, Nebraska.

Berlie holds a master's degree in broadcast journalism from the Newhouse School of Journalism at Syracuse University. She earned a bachelor's degree in broadcasting from the University of Nebraska. Berlie was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"I'm thrilled to be a part of the exciting endeavor that is *News Nation*. Fair, unbiased, non-partisan news is vital to our democracy. People deserve to consume news, without being influenced on how to feel about that news."



AARON NOLAN

BREAKING NEWS ANCHOR (WEEKEND)

15-Year News Veteran

From KARK-TV (Little Rock, AR)

Also Worked in Missouri and Arizona

"I am pumped to be on the ground floor of what will be a ground-breaking news program. We will be telling news the way it should be, unbiased and without opinion. As excited as I am to bring Breaking News to Americans every weekend, I'm equally excited to be a part of a team that will push the digital envelope by getting unbiased news to folks where they are, on tablets, phones and desktops. "

Aaron Nolan is the Weekend Breaking News Anchor for *News Nation*. He will also play an integral role in development of WGN America.com and the digital footprint for *News Nation*.

Nolan has been chasing stories for 15 years with *News Nation's* parent company, Nexstar. He has been the co-anchor of KARK 4 Today in Little Rock, AR, as well as the anchor of Newsfeed Now, a daily digital news segment. In addition to on-air responsibilities, he has covered two Olympic Games: Rio de Janeiro and PyeongChang.

Earlier in his career, Nolan spent four years at KARK as a sports anchor and reporter for the "Razorback Nation." Previously, Nolan had served as a general assignment reporter at KNWA-TV in Fayetteville. He joined KOLR/KOZL in 2012.

Nolan has won multiple awards, including an Edward R. Murrow regional award for Innovation for NewsfeedNow.

A native of Maumelle, Nolan graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with a degree in Telecommunications.

Nolan is from Arkansas and is married to Ashley Ketz. The couple has two children. When not in the newsroom, you'll likely find Nolan playing with his daughters or playing golf.



GERARD JEBAILY

METEOROLOGIST (WEEKEND)

10+ Years as a Storm Chaser and Covering Weather
On-Air
From KSHB-TV (Kansas City)

"I am thrilled to become part of a brand-new vision that will bring balanced, accurate, and innovative news and weather coverage to a nationwide audience."

Gerard Jebaily's passion for meteorology began at the age of six when Hurricane Hugo devastated his community and home state of South Carolina. It ignited a fire of fascination and love of all things weather.

Jebaily pursued his dream by attending The University of Oklahoma and then The University of North Carolina at Charlotte for an education in Meteorology where he focused on severe weather. While in school, Jebaily built his own personal storm chasing vehicle and learned to storm chase professionally.

With over 20+ years of chasing, Jebaily has witnessed and documented numerous significant and historical weather events across the central and southern United States, including record flooding, hurricanes, massive and deadly tornadoes, and blizzards.

Jebaily has over ten years of broadcasting, and has been on the air in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; Albany, Georgia; and most recently in Kansas City, Missouri.

"I am thrilled to become part of a brand-new vision that will bring balanced, accurate, and innovative news and weather coverage to a nationwide audience. The Dream Team being assembled is the best and we will provide the best to our viewers in a way that has never been seen before."



TOM NEGOVAN

NEW YORK BUREAU CORRESPONDENT

31-Year News Veteran

From WGN-TV (Chicago)

Also Worked in North Dakota, Philadelphia, and Canada

"It's such a thrill to start something new and exciting with the team I've worked with from Day One. They've sent me on assignment from New York to Afghanistan; always putting the story first and making sure we got it right. I can't wait for viewers to see what this team can do with a national platform."

Tom Negovan likes to be where the story is. Over a nearly 15-year career at WGN-TV, he reported from all over the U.S. and beyond. In fact, if there was a major breaking story anywhere in the nation, chances are Negovan was there—anchoring extended coverage from the scene for viewers in Chicago at all hours of the day and night.

Negovan has covered political conventions, campaigns, hurricanes, the Boston bombings, riots in Ferguson, mass shootings in Sandy Hook, Las Vegas, Orlando...even war. He has worked as an embedded correspondent in both Iraq and Afghanistan, along the way picking up 19 Emmy awards and nominations. Before WGN, Negovan was an anchor at KYW-TV in Philadelphia and part of a small team that launched the station's award-winning investigative unit.

"After 15 years at Chicago's Very Own, it's such a thrill to start something new and exciting with the team I've worked with from Day One. They have sent me on assignment from New York and Washington to Afghanistan; always putting the story first and making sure we got it right. I can't wait for viewers to see what this team can do with a national platform."



NANCY LOO

LOS ANGELES BUREAU CORRESPONDENT

34-Year News Veteran
From WGN-TV (Chicago)
Also Worked in New York, China, and Japan

"The straightforward mission of News Nation is exactly what I was trained to do in journalism school - to relay as many sides as possible to every story."

Nancy Loo is an Emmy Award-winning journalist who joins *News Nation* from WGN-TV where she was a reporter and fill-in anchor. She brings an extensive background of international reporting, having worked as a reporter and anchor in Hong Kong, Tokyo, New York City, and Chicago. Loo's career took her on news assignments to England, China, Japan, Taiwan, North and South Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Before moving to Chicago in 2001, Nancy was an anchor/reporter for WABC-TV in New York, where she earned three Emmy Award nominations. Born in Hong Kong and raised in Northern California, Nancy earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism at the University of Oregon. She speaks Cantonese and has studied German, Japanese, and American Sign Language. She previously served as Co-President of the Asian American Journalists Association and remains active in AAJA and other organizations close to her core.

"The straightforward mission of News Nation is exactly what I was trained to do in journalism school - to relay as many sides as possible to every story in a succinct and understandable way. For me to report from the West Coast where I grew up is icing on the cake!"



MARKIE MARTIN

DALLAS BUREAU CORRESPONDENT

8-Year News Veteran
Formerly Of KOCO-TV (Oklahoma City)
Also Worked in Virginia and Texas

"The chance to work for a network newscast that provides the trustworthy, local-news journalism that I have an immense adoration and respect for is an unparalleled opportunity."

Markie Martin will be the Dallas-based correspondent for *News Nation*. Prior to her recent return home to Texas, she was the weekday morning anchor for KOCO 5 News in Oklahoma City. Martin has extensive experience with breaking news and wall-to-wall coverage. She was on air and in the field for devastating tornado aftermath, the Oklahoma teacher walkout, memorial coverage of the Oklahoma City bombing and her continual unpacking of a cold case that gripped the state for decades. Her broadcast career began at KTEN News in Denison, Texas, where she anchored and reported.

Martin graduated from the University of Richmond with a degree in Journalism and Latin American and Iberian Studies. Following her collegiate studies, she worked press advance for a presidential campaign and at National Journal in Washington, DC.

"The chance to work for a network newscast that provides the trustworthy, local-news journalism that I have an immense adoration and respect for is an unparalleled opportunity. My professional decision to leave Oklahoma City was one of the toughest I've made, so it goes without saying that I am forever grateful to have landed in the kind of position that I prayed was waiting for me on the other side. I am eager to get started, get creative, and meet the team!"



BRIAN ENTIN

MIAMI BUREAU CORRESPONDENT

13-Year-News Veteran

From WSVN-TV (Miami)

Also Worked in Missouri, Georgia, and Florida

“There are so many important stories happening around the country that don’t get the coverage or national spotlight they deserve. I’m so excited to join News Nation and shine a light on issues that truly impact people in the communities where they live.”

Brian Entin is joining *News Nation* from WSVN-TV in Miami. While at WSVN-TV, Entin covered several major hurricanes, including Dorian from The Bahamas, Irma in the Florida Keys, and the rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

Entin spent much of the first 100 days of the Trump presidency in Washington, DC. He has won Emmy Awards for his coverage of the aftermath of the Fuego Volcano eruption in Guatemala and his coverage of the death of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro.

Prior to working in Miami, Brian was a reporter at WPTV-TV in West Palm Beach, WTOG-TV in Savannah, and KTVO-TV in Kirksville, Missouri. He graduated from the University of Missouri.

*“There are so many important stories happening around the country that don’t get the coverage or national spotlight they deserve. I’m so excited to join *News Nation* and shine a light on issues that truly impact people in the communities where they live.”*



JENNIFER LYONS

**Vice President of News,
WGN America**

Jennifer Lyons is an award-winning television news executive with 30 years of experience, more than 26 in Chicago, the 3rd largest television market in the United States.

Lyons currently serves as of Vice President of News for WGN America and is tasked with building a new newsroom and *News Nation*, a live daily three-hour national newscast launching September 1, 2020. Since 1993, Lyons has worked in a variety of capacities at Chicago's WGN-TV. Previously, she was Director of News and Content from 2014 to 2020 and Assistant News Director from 2008 to 2014.

An innovative and industry leading journalist, Lyons led the conversion of the traditional broadcast newsroom into a successful multi-platform digital operation by enabling and organizing the distribution of content to a variety of digital outlets.

Lyons led the charge of expanding multiple hours of news at WGN. The station now produces more local news than any other Chicago TV station with 75.5 hours, and can be seen on WGN-TV, WGNTV.com and the WGN-TV News app. Prior to her current role at WGN, Ms. Lyons was Executive Producer of the WGN Morning and Midday News. She began her career in Davenport and Des Moines Iowa, working as a photographer, live truck operator and producer for KWQC-TV and WHO-TV.

Lyons earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Iowa State University in Journalism and Mass Communication. Awards include Chicago/Midwest Emmy and Silver Dome awards and was awarded News Director of the Year in 2017 from Broadcasting & Cable. This year, Lyons will be inducted into the Silver Circle Award for over 30 years of significant contributions to Chicago broadcasting. She is active in The Mercy Home for Boys and Girls Leader Council and is a member of The Chicago Network.



SANDY PUDAR

News Director

Sandy Pudar serves as News Director of *News Nation* on WGN America. She joins the prime-time newscast from WGN-TV in Chicago, where she mostly recently served as Assistant News Director.

Since 2014, Pudar has helped lead the expansion of WGN to 12.5 hours of local programming a day – more than any other station in Chicago. A 20-year veteran of WGN News, she has worked in a variety of capacities at the station.

In February 2009, Pudar became executive producer of *WGN Morning News*. During that time, the show expanded to a full six hours and became the #1 rated morning news show in Chicago, beating *Good Morning America* and *TODAY*.

Prior to her EP duties, Pudar held various producer and writing positions at the station.

She began at WGN as an intern, and before that, worked at CNN as an intern for Larry King Live.

Pudar received her Bachelor of Science degree in journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.