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Paul Beachnau, Executive Director of the Gaylord Area Convention and Tourism Bureau was the recipient of the 2023 AGLOW Golden Glow Individual Award. Beachnau was honored at the 68th annual conference of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers held this year in Bemidji, Minnesota. The Golden Glow Award is the highest award that is bestowed upon an individual that is not an active media member of the association, who has shown selfless dedication to our natural resources, the promotion of education, conservation and participation in the traditional outdoor sports, by supporting the improvement of our craft as outdoor content creators.

“Paul became involved with AGLOW nearly two decades ago, when the Gaylord Area Convention and Visitors Bureau first joined our association” said AGLOW Board Chairman, Ken Perrotte “He completely immersed himself in our organization and through his skilled and passionate representation of the Gaylord area, won the bid for the 2009 annual conference.” Perrotte went on to say, “A decade later he launched another successful bid for a conference, but COVID had other ideas. Paul overcame seemingly unsurmountable planning and operational difficulties to host a much smaller meeting in 2020 and a full conference in 2021 without missing a beat.”

Mark Smith, AGLOW Executive Director said, “The complications from the COVID pandemic has seen many of our sister organizations nationwide struggle and even completely fold. AGLOW has come through not merely surviving, but thriving and that credit is due in no small part to the extraordinary efforts made by Paul Beachnau to make sure we had a presence in 2020, at the height of the COVID chaos, and followed that with a stellar annual conference in 2021.”

“For as long as I can remember Paul Beachnau has been there for the association and for many of our individual members.” Said AGLOW president Trent Marsh “Not only has he sponsored events at nearly every conference, he has welcomed many individual members with content assignments that needed information or even a place to stay. He is a true friend to many of us and a wonderful ambassador for our association as a whole, always willing to help other destinations from all over the country get the most from their membership.”

The Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers is a professional outdoor media association that was founded in 1956 and is comprised of outdoor media content creators from every communication genre, representatives of the tourism, product manufacturers and regional and national conservation organizations. The association is not confined to the Great Lakes region as the name might suggest, boasting members from 44 states and 2 Canadian provinces.