

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL 26, 2017:

**Peter St. Cyr Leads Media Panel Discussion on “Fake News” this Sunday
By April M. Brown**

SANTA FE, NM -- On Sunday, April 30, as part of the New Mexico Labor Film Festival, award-winning journalist and open government advocate, Peter St. Cyr, will be leading a panel discussion entitled “Fake News and Alternative Facts: Journalism in the New Age of Oligarchs.” The discussion will take place at the Center for Peace and Justice in Santa Fe from 5 to 6:30 pm.

The panel discussion will give the audience a rare opportunity to hear the media's thoughts on this controversial and timely subject. St. Cyr will be joined by several journalists who will discuss how fake news has impacted and shaped public policy, how the president's voracious attacks on the fourth estate could backfire, and how fake news has ultimately inspired journalists to be more ambitious in their reporting.

St. Cyr believes the topic is highly relevant in today's political landscape stating, “We are swamped these days with purported facts of dubious authenticity from a multitude of sources. Parody parades as fact; politicians spin and have qualms about outright lying, half-truths and even ignoring, or worse hiding, scientific facts to push secret donor agendas. Distortions come at us from numerous sources.”

Panelists will include Kathleen McCleery, PBS News Hour Special Correspondent and Producer; Phaedra Haywood, Courts and Business Reporter for the Santa Fe New Mexican; Joey Peters, Senior Reporter for the New Mexico Political Report; and Tom O'Connell, a Freelance Journalist who has written for such publications as Spin, Entertainment Weekly and Vanity Fair.

St. Cyr grew-up in New Mexico, later moving to California to attend St. Mary's College in Moraga where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. After a 10-year career in public relations for a French manufacturing company, he returned to New Mexico to work as a government watchdog reporter. St. Cyr has recently turned his full focus to government advocacy as Executive Director of the Foundation for Open Government. He also won the William Dixon Award for Journalism just last year.

The New Mexico Labor Film Festival is an annual event that features films, panels and activities designed to inform, educate and celebrate labor through the moving arts and cinematic world. This year, the Festival will be held at the Center for Progress and Justice, 1420 Cerrillos Road in Santa Fe, on April 30 and May 1. The event is sponsored by IATSE Local 480 and the New Mexico Federation of Labor and their volunteers, as well as New Mexico Filmmakers Give Back.

To find out more about this exciting 2-day festival and see a full schedule of events visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1867568890125395/>