



New York News Publishers Association, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALBANY, NY – The New York News Publishers Association has announced the winners of its 2019 Awards for Excellence competition. This year's winners will be officially recognized at the Continuing Excellence Awards Banquet on Thursday, September 17 at the Hearst Media Center in Loudonville.

The annual contest recognizes journalistic excellence among the association's member newspapers.

Newspapers competed against one another in five circulation classes:
Under 10,000; 10,000-24,999; 25,000-49,999; 50,000-75,000 and Over 75,000.
Contest judges selected winners from 358 entries submitted by 19 New York State daily newspapers.

The judges were:

Chip Minemyer, Regional Editor for CNHI, Editor of The Tribune-Democrat in Johnstown, Pa.
Dennis Murphy, Communications Professor and Journalist
John Ferro, Communications, Editorial & Marketing Strategist, Omega Institute, Rhinebeck, NY
Rosemary Armao, Journalism Professor at Albany University, Albany, NY
Teresa Buckley, Times Union City Editor, Albany, NY

Awards were presented in each of 23 categories:

1. Distinguished Breaking News Coverage

Winning entries demonstrate effective newspaper response to deadline demands; and clarity, thoroughness, balance, and aggressiveness in the coverage of local spot news.

2. Distinguished Live Sports Coverage

Winning entries demonstrate effective newspaper response to deadline demands as related to live sporting events; and clarity, thoroughness, balance, and aggressiveness in the coverage of local live sports.

3. Distinguished Investigative Reporting

Winning entries demonstrate thorough, thoughtful, fair, and resourceful reporting of local stories that reveal corruption or malfeasance or inherent flaws in the functioning of society's institutions; and effectively measure the performance of those institutions against their stated missions.

4. Distinguished Business Reporting

Winning entries demonstrate effective newspaper coverage of business and the economy, skillful investigative reporting and excellence in writing style, editing, display and other pertinent criteria; and deal primarily with how business and economic events relate to individuals and the newspaper's community.

Diane Kennedy
President

Albany—*Times Union*
Amsterdam—*The Recorder*
Auburn—*The Citizen*
Batavia—*The Daily News*
Binghamton—*Press & Sun-Bulletin*
Buffalo—*The Buffalo News*
Canandaigua—*The Daily Messenger*
Catskill—*The Daily Mail*
Cold Spring—*Highlands Current*
Corning—*The Leader*
Cortland—*Cortland Standard*
Dunkirk—*The Observer*
Elmira—*Star-Gazette*
Geneva—*Finger Lakes Times*
Glens Falls—*The Post-Star*
Gloversville—*The Leader-Herald*
Herkimer—*The Times Telegram*
Highland—*Highlands*
Hornell/Wellsville—*The Spectator*
Hudson—*Register-Star*
Ithaca—*The Ithaca Journal*
Jamestown—*The Post-Journal*
Kingston—*Daily Freeman*
Lockport—*Union-Sun & Journal*
Long Island—*Newsday*
Malone—*The Malone Telegram*
Massena—*Courier-Observer/The Advance News*
Middletown—*The Times Herald-Record*
New York City—*The New York Times*
New York City—*The Wall Street Journal*
Niagara Falls—*Niagara Gazette*
Norwich—*The Evening Sun*
Olean—*The Times Herald*
Oneida—*Oneida Daily Dispatch*
Oswego—*The Palladium Times*
Plattsburgh—*Press-Republican*
Poughkeepsie—*Poughkeepsie Journal*
Ravena—*The Ravena News-Herald*
Rochester—*Democrat and Chronicle*
Rochester—*The Daily Record*
Rome—*Daily Sentinel*
Salamanca—*Salamanca Press*
Saranac Lake—*Adirondack Daily Enterprise*
Saratoga Springs—*The Saratogian*
Schenectady—*The Daily Gazette*
Staten Island—*Staten Island Advance*
Syracuse—*The Post-Standard*
Troy—*The Record*
Utica—*Observer-Dispatch*
Watertown—*Watertown Daily Times*
White Plains—*The Journal News*

5. Distinguished Beat Reporting

Winning entries demonstrate sustained and knowledgeable coverage of a particular subject or activity of local interest.

6. Distinguished Editorial Writing

Winning entries demonstrate a genuine concern for local community problems; courage in taking a position regardless of the popular view and/or against the newspaper's own self-interest; originality of viewpoint and style; and other pertinent criteria.

7. Distinguished Feature Writing

Winning entries showcase good writing in non-deadline situations, and may include personality profiles, trend stories, narratives and general features; and demonstrate style, originality and the ability to make readers laugh, cry or feel.

8. Distinguished Sports Writing

Winning entries demonstrate effective coverage of the people, institutions or trends in the local sports community employing thorough, thoughtful, fair, and resourceful reporting as well as quality writing.

9. Distinguished Column Writing

Winning entries demonstrate originality, insight, wit, the capacity to illuminate character, and the capacity to enhance the reader's understanding of persons and events in the community served by the newspaper.

10. Distinguished Sports Column Writing

Winning entries demonstrate originality, insight, wit, the capacity to illuminate character, and the capacity to enhance the reader's understanding of persons and events in local or national sports.

11. Distinguished Headline Writing

Winning entries demonstrate clarity, creativity, and the capacity to distill and capture the essence of the story.

12. Distinguished Community Service

Winning entries demonstrate effort and effect on the part of the local newspaper toward the improvement of the community served, as well as an effort on the newspaper's part to engage the community through both traditional and new media.

13. Distinguished State Government Coverage

Winning entries demonstrate effective newspaper coverage of state government as manifested in service to the community; skillful investigative reporting and excellence in writing style, editing, display, and other pertinent criteria; and deal primarily with an aspect of state government - the legislature, executive branch, a specific state agency, etc. - and how it relates to the community.

14. Distinguished Page Design/Presentation

Winning entries demonstrate strong visual appeal, style and originality; and should enhance the written content, making it easy to understand or navigate.

15. Distinguished News Photography

Winning entries demonstrate news value, timeliness, communicative effectiveness, and skill as shown in composition and technical quality.

16. Distinguished Feature Photography

Winning entries demonstrate imagination in the handling of feature subjects; communicative effectiveness; appeal to reader interest; and skill in composition, technical quality, and cropping.

17. Distinguished Sports Photography

Winning entries sharply capture the drama inherent in human athletic competition and draw the reader's eye to peak action, capturing the moment and communicating it on an emotional level with a high degree of technical skill, composition and quality.

18. Distinguished Online Photo Gallery

Winning entries consist of a series of photographs which appeared on a newspaper's website in a single gallery; and enhance the story to which the gallery is attached, while demonstrating the highest standards of photojournalism.

19. Distinguished Online Blog

Winning entries demonstrate timeliness, originality, insight, reader interaction and the capacity to enhance the reader's understanding of persons and events in the community served by the newspaper.

20. Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation

Winning entries demonstrate work that incorporates distinguished journalistic storytelling via media other than the print format; and may consist of web-based interactive graphics and displays, videos, photo galleries and audio slideshows, or any combination of all of these elements.

21. Distinguished News Supplement

Winning entries demonstrate imaginative layout and design; creative use of headlines; solid, staff-written articles; and high-quality photos relating to a breaking news event; and show knowledge of and connection with the newspaper's community and must contain primarily locally produced content.

22. Distinguished Sports Supplement

Winning entries demonstrate imaginative layout and design; creative use of headlines; solid, staff-written articles; and high-quality photos relating to a local or national sporting event; and show knowledge of and connection with the newspaper's community and must contain primarily locally produced content.

23. Distinguished Feature Supplement

Winning entries demonstrate imaginative layout and design; creative use of headlines; solid, staff-written articles; and high-quality photos relating to a common feature; and show knowledge of and connection with the newspaper's community and must contain primarily locally produced content.

Following is the list of winners:

Adirondack Daily Enterprise		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	Feature Supplement (Celebrating 125 Years)	Staff
Under 10,000	Headline Writing (Well. Well. Well?)	Griffin Kelly
Under 10,000	Beat Reporting (Arts Beat)	Griffin Kelly
Under 10,000	Sports Photography (Escapes from a bunker)	Lou Reuter
Under 10,000	Column Writing (The Inseide Dope)	Bob Seidenstein
Under 10,000	State Government Coverage (High Peak Hiker Crunch)	Elizabeth Izzo
Under 10,000	Editorial Writing (Hiking Crunch)	Peter Crowley
The Citizen, Auburn		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	News Photography (Car Carrier Fire)	Kevin Rivoli
Under 10,000	Online Blog (Eye on NY)	Robert Harding
Under 10,000	Online Photo Gallery (Home Sweet Home)	Kevin Rivoli
Under 10,000	Live Sports Coverage (Skaneateles wins hockey title)	Justin Ritzel
Under 10,000	Sports Writing (The next arm epidemic)	Justin Ritzel
Under 10,000	Feature Photography (Planetarium opens again)	Kevin Rivoli

The Daily News, Batavia		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	Breaking News Coverage (Good Samaritan dies in city slaying)	Jessica Dillon
Under 10,000	Community Service ("Owner of Mooney's, former employee clash over rats")	Scott DeSmit, John Anderson, Brian Quinn
The Highlands Current		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	Investigative Reporting (The Extremist Next Door)	Chip Rowe
Under 10,000	Sports Column Writing (Out There)	Brian PJ Cronin
Under 10,000	Business Reporting (Living on the Edge)	Victoria Shannon
The Ithaca Journal		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	Feature Writing (Light in the Dark: A beloved trans woman was brutally murdered by her boyfriend. Her story reveals a nationwide problem)	Katie Sullivan Borrelli, Anthony Borrelli
Observer, Dunkirk		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	Page Design/Presentation (Striving to reach her goals to walk)	John D'Agostino
Finger Lakes Times, Geneva		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
10,000 – 24,999	Feature Supplement (Indulge!)	Marisa Enzinna, Mary Schoonover, Spencer Tulis, Erica Wells, Krista Gleason, David Diehl
10,000 – 24,999	Sports Supplement (Football 2019)	Alan Brignall, Pete Lambos, Matt Meckley, Spencer Tulis
10,000 – 24,999	Sports Photography (Mustangs rumble to win)	Spencer Tulis
10,000 – 24,999	Feature Photography (Birds of a Feather)	Spencer Tulis
10,000 – 24,999	Investigative Reporting (Local Motel's Secrets Exposed)	Spencer Tulis
Press Republican, Plattsburgh		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
10,000 – 24,999	Page Design/Presentation (Give 'em Pumpkin)	Kayla Breen
10,000 – 24,999	Feature Writing ("It brought me very close to God")	Robin Caudell
Press & Sun Bulletin, Binghamton		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
10,000 – 24,999	Sports Writing (They were dealt a 'death sentence')	Kevin Stevens
10,000 – 24,999	Beat Reporting (Orlando Tercero tried in Nicaragua for Birmingham murder)	Anthony Borrelli
10,000 – 24,999	Business Reporting (Wind farms in Upstate NY)	Jeff Platsky

The Post Star, Glens Falls		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
10,000 – 24,999	News Supplement (Outlook 2019)	Bob Condon, Don Lehman, Michael Goot, Kathleen Moore, Kathleen Phalen-Tomaselli, Evan Lawrence
10,000 – 24,999	Multi-Media Presentation (Glens Falls Champions)	Ellis Williams, Greg Brownell, Pete Tobey, Will Springstead, Erin Reid Coker
10,000 – 24,999	Online Blog (Don Lehman’s Blog)	Don Lehman
10,000 – 24,999	Community Service (What is Glens Falls Hospital Hiding?)	Kathleen Moore, Will Doolittle, Ken Tingley
10,000 – 24,999	Online Photo Gallery (Adirondack Balloon Festival)	Gwendolyn Craig, Adam Colver, Shawn LaChapelle, Jenn March, Mel Auffredou
10,000 – 24,999	Headline writing (Families: Even after death, rent still due)	Will Doolittle
10,000 – 24,999	Sports Column Writing (Ellis Williams Commentary)	Ellis Williams
10,000 – 24,999	Column Writing (Will Doolittle)	Will Doolittle
10,000 – 24,999	Breaking News Coverage (Pair Charged in Stabbing Death)	Gwendolyn Craig
10,000 – 24,999	Live Sports Coverage (State Basketball Tour)	Greg Brownell, Ellis Williams, Will Springstead, Pete Tobey, Erin Reid Coker, Shawn LaChapelle, Ken Tingley, Kathleen Phalen-Thomas
10,000 – 24,999	Editorial Writing (Will Doolittle)	Will Doolittle
Observer Dispatch, Utica		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
25,000 – 49,999	Sports Photography (Welcome Home)	Alex Cooper
25,000 – 49,999	Feature Photography (Safety with a Smile)	Sarah Condon
25,000 – 49,999	Headline Writing (Digging out, demanding action)	Ron Johns
25,000 – 49,999	News Photography (Powerful Floodwater)	Sarah Condon
25,000 – 49,999	Editorial Writing (Council should not stifle public)	Dave Dudajek
25,000 – 49,999	Business Reporting (A Business Melting Pot)	Amy Neff Roth
Poughkeepsie Journal		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
25,000 – 49,999	Sports Column Writing (Poughkeepsie’s championship about more than basketball)	Stephen Haynes
25,000 – 49,999	Sports Writing (Coaches, Families Sacrifice Together)	Stephan Haynes
25,000 – 49,999	Investigative Reporting (Creating a Cleaner Culture)	Ryan Santistevan

Staten Island Advance		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
25,000 – 49,999	Multi-Media Presentation (Activist to Specialist)	Alexandra Salmieri
25,000 – 49,999	Community Service (#fyiSI)	Kristin Dalton
25,000 – 49,999	Column Writing (Tom Wrobleski)	Tom Wrobleski
25,000 – 49,999	Feature Writing (A Mother's Grief)	Paul Liotta
25,000 – 49,999	Beat Reporting (The Food Beat)	Pamela Silvestri
25,000 – 49,999	Breaking News Coverage (Disappearance of Jeanine Cammarata)	Kyle Lawson, Joseph Ostapiuk, Frank Donnelly, Maura Grunlund, Shane DiMaio, Alexandra Salmieri, Irene Spezzamo, Irene Spezzamonte, Eddie D'Anna
The Post Standard, Syracuse		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
50,000 – 75,000	Sports Writing (Chris Gedney's Struggle)	Nate Mink
50,000 – 75,000	Multi-Media Presentation (Drunk with Power: Inside a rogue Syracuse AA group)	Christa Lemczak, Lauren Long, Katrina Tulloch, Marnie Eisenstadt, Patrick Lohmann, N. Scott Trimble, Dennis Nett
50,000 – 75,000	Live Sports Coverage (An Emotional Syracuse-Duke Game)	Mike Waters Chris Libonati, Donna Ditota, Brent Axe, Dennis Nett, Scott Schild, Hank Domin
50,000 – 75,000	Community Service (Syracuse's unfair property tax system)	Tim Knauss, Michelle Breidenbach
50,000 – 75,000	Online Photo Gallery (Rare Look Inside a NY draft horse auction)	Michael Greenlar
50,000 – 75,000	Beat Reporting (Government Beat)	Chris Baker
50,000 – 75,000	Feature Writing (Zyeres Last Prayer)	Catie O'Toole
Times Herald-Record, Middletown		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
50,000 – 75,000	Headline Writing (Hire Straits)	Staff
50,000 – 75,000	Feature Photography (West Point Graduation)	Kelly Marsh
50,000 – 75,000	News Photography (Final tribute to forgotten soldiers)	Kelly Marsh

Times Union, Albany		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
50,000 – 75,000	Sports Photography (Out of the gate)	Paul Buckowski
50,000 – 75,000	Page Design/Presentation (Impeached)	Tom Palmer
50,000 – 75,000	Sports Supplement (High School Sports Awards)	Staff
50,000 – 75,000	State Government Coverage (Friends in High Places)	Chris Bragg
50,000 – 75,000	Feature Supplement (Essential Restaurants)	Staff
50,000 – 75,000	Column Writing (Chris Churchill)	Chris Churchill
50,000 – 75,000	Business Reporting (The Shuttering of Clifton)	Michael Williams
50,000 – 75,000	Investigative Reporting (Gov. Cuomo Friends in high places)	Chris Bragg
50,000 – 75,000	Breaking News Coverage (Shuttering of Clifton)	Michael Williams
50,000 – 75,000	News Supplement (Capital Region Gives)	Staff
The Daily Gazette, Schenectady		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
50,000 – 75,000	Editorial Writing (Criminal Justice Reform)	Mark Mahoney
50,000 – 75,000	Online Blog (Your Right to Know)	Mark Mahoney
50,000 – 75,000	Sports Column Writing (Mike McAdams)	Mike McAdams
Democrat & Chronicle, Rochester		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
75,000 – and over	Editorial Writing (Holding leaders accountable)	Julie Phillip
75,000 – and over	Breaking News Coverage (3-year-old boy dead after falling into grease trap at Tim Hortons)	Marcia Greenwood, Sean Lahman, Tina MacIntyre-Yee
75,000 – and over	State Government (The Downfall of Robert Freeman)	Joseph Spector, Jon Campbell

	Newsday	
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
75,000 – and over	Sports Photography (Head Over Heels)	J. Conrad Williams Jr.
75,000 – and over	News Photography (Remembering Khaseen)	Alejandra Villa Loarca
75,000 – and over	Feature Photography (Spell “Pressure”)	Thomas A. Ferrara
75,000 – and over	Investigative Reporting (Long Island Divided)	Staff
75,000 – and over	Online Photo Gallery (Unstoppable)	Alejandra Villa Loarca
75,000 – and over	Business Reporting (Dumping Ground)	Paul LaRocco
75,000 – and over	Beat Reporting (Climate of Fear)	Victor Manual Ramos, Will Van Sant
75,000 – and over	Feature Writing (In the Shadow)	Victor Manual Ramos
75,000 – and over	Community Service (Long Island Divided)	Staff
75,000 – and over	Multi-Media Presentation (Long Island Divided)	Staff