

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



2023 RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

- This contest is open only to active members in good standing of NYPA. To be considered in good standing, 2023 and all past dues must be paid in full by December 1, 2023. **Contest participants must email a copy of their 2023 U.S. Postal Statement of Ownership, Management & Circulation form.** (The form you publish in October.) Newspapers without periodicals permits must submit three consecutive weeks of printing bills from the month of October, 2023. Entries will be accepted only from members meeting these criterion. Entrants must have been members prior to, or accepted by, end of November, 2023 to be eligible to participate in this contest.
- The contest year extends from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Entries must be submitted only from print, online newspapers or magazines published during that period.
- Deadline for RECEIPT of entries is close of business Tuesday, January 9, 2024 (Both electronic and/or hard copy). Entries not received by 5:00pm Tuesday, January 9, 2024, will NOT be entered into the contest.

ELIGIBILITY —

- NYPA members, daily, weekly, twice weekly, monthly, magazines and digital may submit entries in any/all contest categories.
- **All Digital-Only Newspapers entries MUST Be Submitted in Division 1**

RULES —

- Circulation divisions will be based on the total average distribution figure taken from your U.S. Postal Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation, line 15-F on form 3526, or from your printing bills, for the year ending September 30, 2023.

- Entries from newspapers will be entered in the circulation division matching the total average distribution of that single newspaper **UNLESS** an entry in a specific contest category actually ran common in multiple newspapers. In those instances, such entries must be entered in the circulation division matching the **COMBINED CIRCULATION** of the papers that the entry appeared in.

PLEASE NOTE —

- There is NO limit on the number of entries newspapers can submit in any category unless specifically indicated. **All entries must be submitted via our online contest system, however, those entries that also require actual hard copy(ies) must be mailed in separate envelopes for each entry in every category.** All entries must be individually marked and each entry will be charged as a separate entry.
- No cover letters are permitted except where noted.
- Contest fee of **\$12.00 per entry.**
- All entries in the “Better Newspaper Contest” become property of the New York Press Association. The Association is not responsible for returning any entries.
- When there are fewer than ten entries in a circulation division, that division will be dropped and those entries will be included in the next highest circulation division.
- First, second, and third-place awards will be made in each category and circulation division. Honorable mention will be awarded at the judges’ discretion.
- Judges’ decisions are final unless it is subsequently discovered that a winning newspaper entered in the wrong category or circulation division.
- Winners will be announced at the New York Press Association Spring Conference, April 26th and 27th.
- All entries must be the work of local staff.
- Upload entries at <https://contest.nynewspapers.com>
- Mail entries to:
New York Press Association
Attn: Better Newspaper Contest
621 Columbia St. Extension, Ste. 100
Cohoes, NY 12047

DEADLINE: JANUARY 9TH

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM

All entries in ALL categories must be submitted via our online contest system, however, those entries requiring hard-copy (displayed in RED) must be placed in separate envelopes for each entry — NOT EACH CATEGORY.

ONLINE ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

All entries must be submitted via our online contest system, however, some categories will require hard copy(ies) to be mailed to the NYPA office.

Below are the directions for submitting your entries. We strongly recommend that you start making your entries early. You do not have to submit all entries at one time. You are able to continue to add more entries up until the deadline date.

Deadline for all entries is January 9, 2024.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact Jill Van Dusen at: jill@nynewspapers.com or call **518-464-6483** ext. 25.

ONLINE ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Go to: <https://contest.nynewspapers.com>
2. Download the BNC Contest Rules and Entry Forms.
3. Click on “Enter Contest Online” in the Member Newspaper Box.
4. Create User Account (you will receive an email with a link that you must click on in order to activate your account).
5. Log into your account.
6. Select your “Newspaper” from the drop-down list. **If your Newspaper does not appear in the list, do not type it in. Please contact jill@nynewspapers.com.**
7. Select the “Category” that you are submitting from the drop-down list. **ALL entries** must be logged into the online system, including entries that require that a hard copy be mailed to NYPA. If you are mailing in hard copy of the entry, you do not need to upload a file for that entry.
8. In the “Article/Photo Description” box, please enter the headline of the article or a description of the photo so that we know what the correct entry is. For online categories, please enter the URL of the page.
9. In the “Author” box, please enter the writer, photographer, or designer’s name.
10. The “Division” box will automatically fill in with your newspaper’s correct division. If the division needs to be changed due to your entry running in multiple newspapers or due to another reason, please over-ride the division number and enter a explanation in the “Reason for Division” box (a separate box will appear).

11. Click on the “Browse” button to upload your pdfs. If the category requires hard copies to be sent to the NYPA office, you can skip this step.
12. Select the file(s) that correspond with your entry. **Please submit only ONE entry at a time (you may select multiple files for that one entry).** Please keep the file size to 15MB or less to aid judges in accessing your entry.
13. For entries that require cover letters and/or headshots, please upload them at the same time.
14. Enter your name in the appropriate box.
15. Click on the “Submit Entry” button. Please allow time for the file to upload. It can take a few minutes for a large file.
16. Your entry will appear in your “cart” at the bottom of the page.
17. Once uploaded, you can view what you just uploaded. If it is not correct, you can click on the “Delete” button to remove that entry.
18. To submit your next entry, go back up to the “Newspaper” name box if you need to change to a different newspaper; otherwise select from the “Category” drop-down list again.
19. You may still add more entries at a later time as you will be able to view what has previously been entered into your shopping chart. If you need assistance, please contact Jill Van Dusen.
20. Once the contest closes on January 9th, you will be sent an invoice for your entries with a link to pay via Stripe.

Completed entry forms can be faxed to 518-464-6489 to the attention of Jill Van Dusen, or email to: jill@nynewspapers.com

PREPARATION OF HARD COPY ENTRIES

For categories 3, 10, 11, 12, 48, 49, 65 and 67 that require hard copies to be sent to NYPA, please put only ONE complete contest entry in an envelope. Please mark in the top right hand corner, your newspaper name, the category name and/or number, and the appropriate division number.

- Mail entries to:
New York Press Association
Attn: Jill Van Dusen / BNC
621 Columbia St. Extension, Ste. 100
Cohoes, NY 12047



EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Newspaper of the Year Award

The Newspaper of the Year Award will be presented to the newspaper which accumulates the greatest number of total contest points.

The Stuart C. Dorman Award for Editorial Excellence

The Stuart C. Dorman Award will be given for editorial excellence, based on the following point system:

Each 1st place award	20 points
Each 2nd place award	10 points
Each 3rd place award	5 points

The paper with the highest point total for categories 3-11; 15-46; and 64 at the end of the contest is the winner.

John J. Evans Award for Advertising Excellence

The John J. Evans Award will be given for best overall newspaper advertising. The winner of this award will be the newspaper which has accumulated the greatest number of points in categories 12; 48-55; 58-60.

Each 1st place award	20 points
Each 2nd place award	10 points
Each 3rd place award	5 points

3. Past Presidents' Award for General Excellence

Attention newspaper groups: Newspapers belonging to a chain or group of newspapers must contain substantially different content if multiple newspapers from the same group enter this category. Judges will have the discretion to disqualify entries if the content is largely common to multiple newspapers.

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000; (2) 6,000+

Submit one complete issue from three separate months within the contest year.

Judging will be on the following basis:

News (coverage; quality of writing; headline language)	20 points
Use of pictures and artwork, reproduction	10 points
Community Engagement	10 points
Editorial page(s)	10 points
Front page	10 points
Family/Life/Feature pages	10 points
Sports Section	10 points
Advertising design and layout; quality and technique of copywriting; handling of classifieds and/or reader ads	10 points
Graphic design & typography	10 points

4. "Rookie" Reporter of the Year

This award is to honor an entry-level staffer who has been employed by the newspaper for eighteen months or less as of December 31, 2018, and who has had no previous employment in the newspaper industry. Submit pdf of pages of five examples of the reporter's work, along with a cover letter specifying when the reporter joined the paper and what his or her responsibilities have been during that time. **Entries must be accompanied by a sworn statement from the publisher certifying the reporter has less than eighteen months of professional experience.** You **must** also upload a headshot (as a high-resolution jpeg) and a biographical sketch of the nominee (as Word.doc or pdf). **Entries received without a headshot and bio will be disqualified.**

5. Writer of the Year

Submit pdf of pages of five examples of the work of one writer. This award is to honor a staff member and to recognize outstanding writing during the contest year. Entrant is to demonstrate versatility in writing both news and feature stories. You **must** also upload a headshot (as a high-resolution jpeg) and a biographical sketch of the nominee (as Word.doc or pdf). **Entries received without a headshot and bio will be disqualified.**

6. Sports Writer of the Year

Submit pdf of pages of five examples of the work of one writer. This award is to honor a staff member and to recognize outstanding writing. Entrant is to demonstrate versatility in writing both sports news and sports feature stories during the contest year. You **must** also upload a headshot (as a high-resolution jpeg) and a biographical sketch of the nominee (as Word.doc or pdf). **Entries received without a headshot and bio will be disqualified.**

7. Photographer of the Year

This award honors a staff member and recognizes outstanding work in photojournalism during the contest year. Entrant is to submit 12 PHOTOS taken during the past year. This will include both news and feature photos of varied topics. Submit a pdf of tearsheet for each picture as proof of publication, as well as a jpeg of each photo. You **must** also upload a headshot (as a high-resolution jpeg) and a biographical sketch of the nominee (as Word.doc or pdf) detailing the photographer's experience with the newspaper. **Entries received without a headshot and bio will be disqualified.**

8. Best Front Page

Two divisions — (1) Tabloid; (2) Broadsheet

Submit pdf of page from three editions, all from separate months within the contest year.

Entries will be judged on the following basis:

Makeup design, typography, general appearance	40 points
Story presentation and writing	30 points
Headline quality and relation to story	15 points
Effective use of photography	15 points

9. Best Editorial Page

Submit pdf of complete editorial page(s) from three issues, all from separate months within the contest year. Entries will be judged on the following basis:

Editorial writing (variety, effectiveness, writing quality)	35 points
Other writing (letters to the editor, columns, commentary, cartoons)	35 points
Makeup design, original art, typography, general appearance	20 points
Headlines	10 points

10. Photographic Excellence

Attention newspaper groups: Newspapers belonging to a chain or group of newspapers must contain substantially different content if multiple newspapers from the same group enter this category. Judges will have the discretion to disqualify entries if the content is largely common to multiple newspapers.

Submit two complete editions from two separate months within the contest year.

Judging will be on the following basis:

Photos (how they are displayed, cropped, etc.)	30 points
Originality and quality of photos	30 points
Local interest	20 points
Repro quality	10 points
Captions	10 points

11. Richard L. Stein Award for Overall Design Excellence

Attention newspaper groups: Newspapers belonging to a chain or group of newspapers must contain substantially different content if multiple newspapers from the same group enter this category. Judges will have the discretion to disqualify entries if the content is largely common to multiple newspapers.

Submit two complete editions from two separate months within the contest year.

Limited to one entry per newspaper. Judging will be on the following basis:

Front page	15 points
Editorial pages	15 points
Typical inside page layout	15 points
Feature, lifestyle, or sports page(s)	15 points
Photography, graphics	15 points
Advertising design	15 points
Headline and text typography, including standing heads	10 points

12. Advertising Excellence

Submit complete edition from two separate months within the contest year. Copy generated by an agency must be marked by writing the word "AGENCY" in bold red letters.

Judging will be on the following basis:

Layout and format of ad pages	30 points
Originality and quality of ad design	30 points
Quality and technique of copywriting	30 points
Classified and/or reader ads	10 points

13. Sharon R. Fulmer Award for Community Leadership

This prestigious award will be presented in recognition of local leadership initiatives which were launched, promoted and encouraged by the newspaper. Leadership actions may have caused something positive to happen or may have prevented something negative from happening. General reports on local government and organizations are not eligible. Any editorials, exhibits, meetings sponsored by the newspaper, house ads, or flyers relating to the effort may be submitted. Cover letter allowed. The project must have either started or ended within the contest period.

14. Best Web Site

Judged on the complete Web site (including blogs, multi-media, audience engagement, advertising, design, ease of navigation, quality of content, email alerts, as well as use of the Web site to drive people to the print product, and vice versa. Provide newspaper Web address (url link) and any login and password if required.

15. Investigative/In-depth Reporting

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000; (2) 6,000 +

Submit pdf of page of a single story or series of stories on the same subject, such as environmental, health, crime or social issues, which could combine elements of news and/or feature writing and which indicate a considerable degree of research and/or investigation. The series must have either started or ended within the contest period. Excellence and depth of research, quality of presentation, and the overall impact of the topic of the story or series will be taken into account by the judges.

You may submit a letter of explanation. (Maximum limit of up to 10 entries per paper)



EDITORIAL COVERAGE

16. Coverage of Local Government

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000; (2) 6,000+

Submit a maximum of five articles from within the contest year. Reporting on governmental affairs must be by members of the newspaper's own staff. Emphasis is on quality coverage of the town or village board or similar local government agencies. Entries will be judged on thoroughness of reporting and enterprise of reporter in uncovering facts not included in government handouts. Focus is on overall coverage, not on one specific article. All stories to be included in this category must be clearly marked.

17. Coverage of Education

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000; (2) 6,000+

Submit a maximum of five articles from within the contest year. Emphasis is on quality coverage of local education, school news, educational matters and school board business. Entries will be judged on thoroughness of reporting and enterprise of reporter in uncovering facts not included in school board and school handouts. Focus is on overall coverage, not on one specific article. All stories to be included in this category must be clearly marked.

18. Coverage of Business, Financial & Economic News

Submit a maximum of five articles from within the contest year. Emphasis is on quality coverage of local business and economic news. Entries will be judged on thoroughness of reporting and the newspaper's enterprise in covering the subject. Focus is on overall coverage, not on one specific article. All stories to be included in this category must be clearly marked. If appropriate, judges may elect to award separate first, second and third place awards to non-business publications.

19. Coverage of the Arts

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000; (2) 6,000+

Submit a maximum of five articles from within the contest year. Emphasis is on quality coverage of local arts. Judges will consider depth and breadth of coverage, packaging, including typography and design, and thoroughness of reporting. Focus is on overall coverage, not on one specific article. Judges may elect to award separate first, second and third place awards if appropriate, to non-arts publications.

20. Coverage of the Environment

Submit a maximum of five articles from within the contest year. Emphasis is on quality of coverage. Entries will be judged on the thoroughness of reporting and the newspaper's enterprise in coverage. Focus is on overall coverage, not on one specific article.

21. Coverage of Health, Health Care & Science

Submit a maximum of five articles from within the contest year. Emphasis is on quality coverage of hospital, health department and health agency news. News of a scientific nature may be included. Entries will be judged on thoroughness of reporting and the newspaper's enterprise in covering this subject. Focus is on overall coverage, not on one specific article.

22. Headline Writing

Submit a maximum of five articles from within the contest year. Emphasis is on quality of headline writing throughout the newspaper. Entries will be judged on how accurately, succinctly and creatively content of stories are conveyed to readers. Focus is on overall headlines, not on one specific headline.

23. Coverage of Crime / Police / Courts

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000; (2) 6,000+

Submit a maximum of five articles from within the contest year. Emphasis is on quality of local coverage of crime, police and courts. Entries will be judged on thoroughness of reporting and quality of writing. All stories to be included in this category must be clearly marked in red.

24. Coverage of Elections / Politics

Submit a maximum of five articles from within the contest year. Emphasis is on quality of local coverage of elections and politics. Entries will be judged on depth of coverage, balance in reporting and quality of writing. Focus is on overall coverage, not on one specific article. All stories to be included in this category must be clearly marked.

25. Historical, Anniversary, or Progress Editions

Any section or edition dealing with an historical or anniversary theme, or with a growth or progress theme qualifies for this category. Judges will take into account quality of editorial content and graphic design. Special consideration will be given to locally prepared editorial and ad content, as well as its particular interest or importance to the community. You may not submit the same entry in category 48 and 49.

26. Coverage of Religion

Submit marked tearsheets from each of two months with entries clearly marked. Emphasis is on quality of coverage. Entries will be judged on thoroughness of reporting and enterprise. Focus is on overall coverage, not on one specific article. Judges may elect to award separate first, second and third place awards to non-religious publications if appropriate.

27. Sports Feature

Three circulation divisions — (1) under 4,000; (2) 4,000-8,000; (3) over 8,000

Submit pdf of page of any feature of local sports subject, item, person or group. If feature is printed in installments, submit tearsheet from each issue in the series.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

28. Solutions Journalism Project

This award recognizes excellence in a solutions, evidence-based journalism project that includes coverage of a widely shared problem, as well as evidence-based solutions reporting with a newsworthy response. Judges will look for rigorous and compelling editorial work that creates awareness and impact on a social problem in the community.

29. Sports Coverage

Submit one set of sports pages or section from each of two months of the contest year. Emphasis is on quality and breadth coverage of local sports. Focus is on overall coverage, not on one specific article. Entries will be judged on thoroughness of reporting, enterprise, and breadth of coverage.

30. Spot News Coverage

Three circulation divisions — (1) under 4,000; (2) 4,000-8,000; (3) over 8,000

Submit pdf of page, showing coverage of a single news event (such as a fire, flood, windstorm, etc.), or any event where the paper has provided extensive coverage. Consideration will be given to deadline pressure and other spot news problems. You may submit a letter of explanation. *(Maximum limit of up to 10 entries per paper)*

31. News Story

Four circulation divisions — (1) under 3,000; (2) 3,000-5,000; (3) 5,001-10,000; (4) over 10,000

Submit pdf of page with story clearly marked. Consideration will be given for timeliness, difficulty in obtaining story, use of sources (including documents), completeness of coverage, sentence and paragraph structure, and impact of lead. You may submit a letter of explanation. *(Maximum limit of up to 10 entries per paper)*

32. Feature Story

Six circulation divisions — (1) under 2,000; (2) 2,000-4,000; (3) 4,001-5,000; (4) 5,001-7,000; (5) 7,001-12,000; (6) over 12,000

Submit pdf of pages of any feature on any local subject, item, person or group. If a feature is covered in more than one issue, submit tearsheet of each installment. Entries will be judged on quality of writing, originality, style, and human interest. *(Maximum limit of up to 10 entries per paper)*

33. Best News or Feature Series

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000; (2) 6,000+

Submit pdf of pages of a series of feature stories or news stories on the same subject, such as people, places, business, recreation, fashion, sports, hobbies, etc. The series must have started and/or ended within the contest period. The emphasis is on writing, breadth of coverage, presentation, and supporting art or photos. *(Maximum limit of up to 10 entries per paper)*

34. Best Obituaries

Submit pdf of obituary pages from two separate issues with entries clearly marked. Emphasis is on quality of writing, reader interest and presentation.

35. Editorials

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 4,000; (2) over 4,000

Submit one editorial from three separate months within the contest year. Editorials may be of any length but must be written by a regular staff member and should explicitly indicate the newspaper's stance or leadership role on local issues. Entries will be judged on subject matter, timeliness, writing ability and effectiveness. You may submit a letter of explanation.

36. Best Column

Three circulation divisions — (1) under 4,000; (2) 4,001-8,000; (3) over 8,000

A locally-written, issues oriented column. It need not appear on a regular basis. Judging will be based on issue treatment, local appeal, originality and writing quality. Each entry will consist of three columns by the same writer.

37. Editorial Cartoon

Submit pdf of the page showing cartoon. It must be locally drawn. Consideration will be given to timeliness and visual impact as well as artistic techniques. Submit name of cartoonist. You may submit a letter of explanation.

38. Best Freedom of Information Award

The Freedom of Information Award will be given to a newspaper that did the most during the previous year to uphold the principles of the First Amendment and to protect the public's right to know. It recognizes an effective job of furthering the cause of Freedom of Information. The award might be for news coverage, an editorial campaign, court actions or community education program designed to open meetings, to open records, etc. A letter may be uploaded to provide any necessary details. Upload PDF(s) of your best editorial or news coverage exemplifying your Freedom of Information coverage from up to five related issues within the contest period. For instance, if you took on a school board records issue, you may submit up to five articles or editorials on that subject. If you also took on a city council issue, that would be a separate entry.

39. Best Distinguished Coverage of Diversity

Submit up to five stories by any author, from any section of the newspaper, including editorial and opinion columns that exemplify the publication's overall coverage of under-represented communities. Each entry should be accompanied by a nomination letter from a senior editor that explains how the entry fits the criteria (below) and describes any change or community reaction generated by the coverage. The entry will be based on accuracy, clarity and style of writing, thoroughness of treatment, originality, insight into historical, cultural and economic factors affecting relationships between communities.

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

40. Feature Photo(s)

Three circulation divisions — (1) under 4,000; (2) 4,000-8,000; (3) over 8,000

Submit pdf of tearsheet showing an unusual event, item or person, or any unusual photo (or photos) of a commonplace event, item or person (as distinguished from a spot news photo). Entries should include the name of the photographer and any technical or other information deemed helpful. You may not submit the same entry in Category 43 (Art Photo). Entry can include more than one photo of the same event. You may submit a letter of explanation.

41. Sports Action Photo(s)

Three circulation divisions — (1) under 4,000; (2) 4,000-8,000; (3) over 8,000

Submit pdf of tearsheet of any single subject photograph(s) of an actual sports event or competition in progress, and in which the action of the event is the prime interest. Entry can include more than one photo of the same event.

42. Sports Feature Photo(s)

Submit pdf of page of any single subject photograph(s) of a sports event, individual competitor or group of competitors, or unusual occurrence in which action is not necessarily the prime interest. Entry can include more than one photo of same event.

43. Art Photo

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000; (2) 6,000+

Submit pdf of page of a local scene or landscape. Entries will be judged on photographic composition and must be of local interest. You may not submit the same entry in category 40 (Feature Photo).

44. Picture Story

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000 (2) 6,000+

Submit pdf of pages of any series of feature pictures that tell a story of other than a breaking news event. Other than an introduction, the only copy should be captions. Include the name of the photographer(s) and any technical or other information deemed helpful.

45. Spot News Photo(s)

Three circulation divisions — (1) under 4,000; (2) 4,000-8,000; (3) over 8,000

Submit pdf of page(s) of actual news event. Judging factors will be timeliness, technique and quality. Entry should include the name of the photographer(s) and any other information deemed helpful. Entry can include more than one photo of same event.

DESIGN AWARDS

46. Graphic Illustration / Infographic

Submit pdf of page of an illustration supporting a single story. Entries may be drawn freehand or be computer-produced. Charts, graphs, maps, line-drawings, digitally manipulated photographs and paintings are all eligible. The entry must be clearly marked.

47. Best Special Section Cover

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000 (2) 6,000+

To be judged on creativity, relation to section, color application and overall eye appeal, produced solely by the newspaper. You may not submit the same entry in category 46 (Graphic Illustration).

If an entry runs common in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the COMBINED CIRCULATION of those newspapers.

SPECIAL SECTIONS

48. Special Sections / Niche Publications - Newsprint

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 8,000 (2) over 8,000

Any section on a special subject or theme printed on newsprint qualifies for this category. Judges will take into account quality of editorial content and graphic design. Special consideration will be given to locally prepared editorial and ad content, as well as particular interest or importance to the community.

If an entry runs common in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the COMBINED CIRCULATION of those newspapers. You may submit a letter of explanation.

49. Special Sections / Niche Publications - Glossy

Any section on a special subject or theme printed on glossy stock qualifies for this category. Judges will take into account quality of editorial content and graphic design. Special consideration will be given to locally prepared editorial and ad content, as well as particular interest or importance to the community.

If an entry runs common in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the COMBINED CIRCULATION of those newspapers. You may submit a letter of explanation.

50. Best Real Estate / Home Section

Any section, regularly published or special edition, devoted to real estate, homes, building, furnishing, decorating, garden, etc. Judges will consider quality of editorial content, graphic design, advertising layout and design, use of color, and overall reader appeal. Special consideration will be given to locally prepared editorial content. You may not submit the same entry in category 48, 49 or 51.

If an entry runs common in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the HIGHEST CIRCULATION of those newspapers.

SPECIAL SECTIONS

51. Best Special Section — Advertising

Multi-advertiser section revolving around a single theme, produced solely by the newspaper. Judged on uniqueness of idea, volume of representation and overall layout. You may not submit the same entry in categories 48, 49, 50 and 55. **If an entry runs common in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the COMBINED CIRCULATION of those newspapers.**

52. Best Advertising Campaign

A series of ads, three or more different ones, conceptualized and executed solely by the newspaper for a single advertiser or a single group of advertisers. **All ads must be created and produced by the newspaper. Emphasis will be on the cohesiveness of the campaign.**

53. Best Large Space Ad

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000 (2) 6,000+

Judges will consider the creativity of layout and copy, along with originality and impact.

Ad must be conceptualized and executed solely by the newspaper. Ads must be a half-page or larger.

All ads must be generated by the newspaper. If an entry runs common in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the HIGHEST CIRCULATION of those newspapers.

54. Best Small Space Ad

Two circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000 (2) 6,000+

Same as Category 53 (Best Large Space Ad), except the ads must be less than half-page. **All ads must be generated by the newspaper. If an entry runs common in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the HIGHEST CIRCULATION of those newspapers.**

55. Best Multi-Advertiser Pages

Multi-advertiser page or pages (not a special section — no cover, and minimal editorial) revolving around a single theme: shopping center, seasonal merchandise, specialty stores, holiday, etc. Judged on uniqueness of idea, volume of representation, and overall layout. **If an entry runs common in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the HIGHEST CIRCULATION of those newspapers.**

56. Best Media Kit/Sales Collateral Material

Recognizes the quality of promotional piece(s) including market books, rate cards, research pieces or pamphlets used to support the sale of advertising in any or all the newspaper's advertising products. Judges will be asked to consider the potential effectiveness of the material as sales ammunition that positions the paper for success.

57. Audience Development Promotion

Entries should consist of marketing/ activities that promote newspaper sales and readership of the paper's print or digital products, including advertising that directly solicits newspaper subscriptions or newsstand purchases and digital product usage/ subscriptions, newspaper-sponsored events, contests, public relations, etc. Judges will be asked to consider originality of the messaging strategy and presentation, as well as results obtained.

58. Best House Ad / Ad Campaign / Sales Promotion

Three circulation divisions — (1) under 6,000; (2) 6,000+

Ad produced by staff to promote an aspect of the newspaper. This may be for circulation, advertising/marketing, editorial positioning or general image enhancement. **If an entry runs common in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the HIGHEST CIRCULATION of those newspapers.**

59. Innovative Ad Project

An innovative project or idea initiated by the a paper's advertising department that resulted in additional revenue for the newspaper. Entries should include a short description of the project or idea, information on actual or projected revenue generated, and the product itself, which may have appeared online, in print, or both.

60. Classified Advertising

Submit classified page(s) from any one issue during the contest 2022 year. Judged on organization, design, readability, and in-house promotion.



DIGITAL AWARDS

61. Best Video

Judges will consider creativity, innovation and impact as well as how effectively the video content delivers the intended message. The video can be either for advertising or news/event coverage.

62. Best Podcast

This category recognizes journalistic storytelling told through a podcast on newspaper websites. Judges will consider quality of subject matter along with production quality. Entries must be an individual episode. Maximum limit of up to 5 entries per paper.

63. Best Newsletter

Recognizing newsletters that grow, support, and enhance news products. Judges will be asked to consider if the product increases audience engagement while sharing value-added content. Submit three (3) editions of your newsletter with a letter describing your strategy, targeted audience, and reader engagement details.

64. Best Online Breaking News

Overall work on a breaking story within 24 hours after the story breaks. Judges will consider the speed with which postings were made, including overall coverage, updates, and supplementary information, such as photographs, video, audio, PDFs or any other form of multimedia. Submit permanent links to the elements, and one screenshot saved as PDF or JPEG. Include a short statement (maximum of 200 words) describing the specific circumstances surrounding the entry. Date of content must be verified by time stamps or a signed statement from the editor.

MAGAZINE AWARDS

65. Overall Magazine Excellence

This is the top award given for magazines. Winners in the Magazine of the Year Award category can be said to be consistently outstanding issue to issue. Magazines will be judged on quality of photography, editorial content, page layout and design, and advertising. Judges will consider design, depth and breadth of local content, photography, advertising. You may submit a letter of explanation describing distribution, staffing, profitability, publication cycle. Submit two complete editions from two separate months within the contest year.

66. Best Personality Profile

Judging will be based on interview subject, style, research, and the overall interview and storytelling. Upload full page PDF with article clearly marked or submit URL link directly to story.

67. Best Themed Issue

Submit one issue per entry. A themed issue is single issue or special supplement devoted to a dominant theme, identified on the front cover and throughout the contents. Judging will be based on originality of the image, creative license, ability to grab the reader's attention, and overall strategy as it relates to the issue and its cover lines. You may not submit the same entry in category 68. Entry name should be the name, caption or specific description of the cover photo or illustration. Upload up to three PDF/JPG of the cover.

FINAL AWARD

68. Bloopers of the Year

Despite our best efforts, bloopers seem to occur. Share yours with your fellow association members.

All entries in ALL categories must be submitted via our online contest system, however, those entries requiring hard-copy (displayed in RED) must be placed in separate envelopes for each entry — NOT EACH CATEGORY — all envelopes packaged in one (or more) box(es).

