



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 2011-2012 Awards for Excellence competition. This year's winners were officially recognized at the Continuing Excellence Banquet and Reception on Wednesday, April 10 at The State Room in Albany.

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; 50,000-175,000; and Over 175,000.

Contest judges selected winners from 566 entries submitted by 37 New York State daily newspapers. The judges were: Rosemary Armao, Assistant Professor of Journalism/Communications at SUNY Albany; Michael Killian, Associate Editor of the *Burlington Free Press* in Burlington, Vermont; Mark Mahoney, Associate Director of Media Services & Public Affairs at the New York State Bar Association (formerly the Editorial Page Editor of *The Post-Star* in Glens Falls); Brendan Scott, Sub-editor of the *South China Morning Post* in Hong Kong; and David Washburn, Director of Interactive Marketing for Time Warner Cable (formerly an editor at the *Times Union* in Albany and *The Saratogian* in Saratoga Springs).

Awards were presented in each of 16 traditional print categories:

Distinguished Breaking News Coverage, Distinguished Investigative Reporting, Distinguished Business Reporting, Distinguished Editorial Writing, Distinguished Feature Writing, Distinguished Column Writing, Distinguished Headline Writing, Distinguished Sports Writing, Distinguished Community Service, Distinguished State Government Coverage, Distinguished Sports Coverage, Distinguished Page Design/Presentation, Distinguished News Photography, Distinguished Feature Photography, Distinguished Sports Photography, and Specialty Supplement Feature Writing.

Awards were also presented in each of three online categories:

Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage, Distinguished Online Blog, and Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Breaking News Coverage category reflect effective newspaper response to deadline demands; and clarity, thoroughness, balance and aggressiveness in the coverage of local spot news.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Investigative Reporting category 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/or effectively measure the performance of those institutions against their stated missions.

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*
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 Evening Telegram*
Hornell—*The Evening Tribune*
Hudson—*Register-Star*
Ithaca—*The Ithaca Journal*
Jamestown—*The Post-Journal*
Kingston—*Daily Freeman*
Little Falls—*The Evening Times*
Lockport—*Union-Sun & Journal*
Long Island—*Newsday*
Malone—*The Malone Telegram*
Massena—*Courier-Observer/The Advance News*
Medina—*The Journal-Register*
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*
Ogdensburg—*Ogdensburg Journal*
Olean—*The Times Herald*
Oneida—*Oneida Daily Dispatch*
Oswego—*The Palladium Times*
Plattsburgh—*Press-Republican*
Poughkeepsie—*Poughkeepsie Journal*
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*
Tonawanda—*Tonawanda News*
Troy—*The Record*
Utica—*Observer-Dispatch*
Watertown—*Watertown Daily Times*
Wellsville—*Wellsville Daily Reporter*
White Plains—*The Journal News*

Winning entries in the Distinguished Business Reporting category show effective newspaper coverage of business and the economy, skillful investigative reporting and excellence in writing style, editing, display and other pertinent criteria. The subject matter deals primarily with how business and economic events relate to individuals and the newspaper's community.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Editorial Writing category stress the concern for local community problems, courage in taking a position regardless of the popular view, and originality of viewpoint and style.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Feature Writing category showcase good writing in non-deadline situations. Submissions can include personality profiles, trend stories, narratives and general features, and must demonstrate style, originality and the ability to connect emotionally with the readers.

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

Winning entries in the Distinguished Headline Writing category show clarity, creativity, and the capacity to distill and capture the essence of the story.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Sports Writing category demonstrate quality and clarity of writing, originality, and local appeal.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Community Service category show effort and effect on the part of a local newspaper toward improvement of the community it serves.

Winning entries in the Distinguished State Government Coverage category demonstrate effective coverage of state government as manifested in service to the community, skillful investigative reporting, and excellence in writing style, editing and display, with subject matter dealing primarily with an aspect of state government and how it relates to a newspaper's community.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Sports Coverage category exhibit innovative layout, design and photography, scope of content (variation of local sporting events), writing skill, headline suitability and appeal, and use of local features.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Page Design/Presentation demonstrate strong visual appeal, style and originality, and enhance the written content, making it easy to understand or navigate.

Winning entries in the Distinguished News Photography category stress news value, timeliness, communicative effectiveness, and skill as shown in composition and technical quality.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Feature Photography category demonstrate imagination, communicative effectiveness, appeal to reader interest, and skill in composition, technical quality and cropping.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Sports Photography category 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.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage category demonstrate effective newspaper response to a breaking news story online, while exhibiting clarity, thoroughness, balance and aggressiveness in the coverage of local spot news.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Online Blog category show 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.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation category demonstrate work that incorporates distinguished journalistic storytelling via media other than the print format, while clearly

showing creativity, ease-of-use for the Web site visitor, impact on the community and overall technical execution.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Specialty Supplement Feature Writing category showcase good writing in non-deadline situations, and may include personality profiles, trend stories, narratives and general features. Submissions should demonstrate style, originality and the ability to make readers laugh, cry or feel.

Following is the list of winners:

Under 10,000 Circulation Class

The Recorder in Amsterdam won awards in **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Taking his base: Softball stalwart hit with cancer battles on” by Michael Kelly, and **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “2012 High School Football Guide” by Paul Antonelli, Adam Shinder, Michael Kelly, Dave Wojeski and Mark Perfetti.

The Leader in Corning won the award for **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Blast levels Corning home” by Derrick Ek, Jeffery Smith, John Zick and Eric Wensel.

The Cortland Standard won the award for **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Remembering Smith Corona” by Matt Stafford.

The Evening Sun in Norwich won the award for **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “The Sixth Man” by Patrick Newell.

The Adirondack Daily Enterprise won awards in six categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Trudeau at a tipping point” by Chris Knight and Brian Mann; **Distinguished Community Service** for “A prescription for trouble” by Chris Knight and Peter Crowley; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “State buys former Finch land” by Mike Lynch, Chris Morris and Chris Knight; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Fatal collision” by Jessica Collier; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Tupperpalooza Warrior Run” by Mike Lynch; and **Distinguished Specialty Supplement Feature Writing** for “Mystery of the monument in a marsh” by Joe Hackett.

The Saratogian also won awards in six categories, including **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Boom II: Overshadowed by GlobalFoundries, new rail hub could spur unprecedented growth” by Paul Post; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for editorials by Barbara Lombardo; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Saratoga Race Course: Joy and Agony” by Erica Miller; **Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage** for “Missing teen Jesse Cale’s body found in Hudson River” by Lucian McCarty and Emily Donohue; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Saratoga City Desk” by Lucian McCarty; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Travers Day” by Andrew Champagne, Michael Veitch, Erica Miller, Ed Burke and David Johnson.

The Record in Troy won the award for **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Siobhan Connally.

The Wellsville Daily Reporter won the award for **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “Born (100 years ago) to be wild” by John Anderson and Kathryn Ross.

10,000 – 24,999 Circulation Class

The Citizen in Auburn won awards in **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “New York’s property tax cap math not as simple as 2 percent” by Kelly Voll, and **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Doubledays preview section” by Kristin Wolford, Ben Meyers and Jeremy Houghtaling.

The Daily Messenger in Canandaigua won awards in three categories, including **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Closed for business” by Melody Burri; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “The scoop on local poop” by Mike Murphy; and **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Characters” by Melody Burri.

The *Finger Lakes Times* in Geneva won awards in five categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “INSIDE S-COMM: What it is and what it means for undocumented immigrants in the Finger Lakes” by Heather Swanson; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Mike Cutillo; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “He knew his path from early on” by Chris Marquart; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Around the Finger Lakes in 80 Days” by Staff; and **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Royal reward” by Spencer Tulis.

The Leader-Herald in Gloversville won the award for **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Fund increase should wait” by Rodney Minor.

The *Niagara Gazette* in Niagara Falls won awards in **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Wallenda Watch: Leaders hope 'Wallenda Fever' is contagious” by Michele DeLuca, and **Distinguished News Photography** for “Rescue Turns Tragic” by James Neiss.

The *Press-Republican* in Plattsburgh won awards in four categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Man rescued from submerged tractor-trailer” by Kim Smith Dedam and Lohr McKinstry; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Change of scenery” by Dan Begnoche; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Chazy girls celebrate” by Rob Fountain; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Local kids give advice on love, marriage” by Kelli Catana and Ashleigh Livingston.

25,000 – 49,999 Circulation Class

The *Press & Sun-Bulletin* in Binghamton won the award for **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Why Wasn’t This A Crime?” by Steve Reilly.

The *Star-Gazette* in Elmira won the award for **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Concussions: When does the risk exceed the athletic reward?” by Andrew Legare.

The Post-Star in Glens Falls won the award for **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “New York State Basketball Tournament” by Sports Staff.

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* was the biggest winner of the competition, taking home ten awards, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Marist College fatal fire” by Staff; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “The MTA watchdog” by John Penney; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Prison correction series” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for a design by Eddie Alvarez; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Fatal Fire Series” by Darryl Bautista, Karl Rabe and Spencer Ainsley; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “The Valley’s Light” by Spencer Ainsley; **Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage** for “Marist College fatal fire” by Staff; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Dish 'n' That food blog” by Barbara Gallo Farrell; **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “No Small Thing: Lyme Disease” by Staff; and **Distinguished Specialty Supplement Feature Writing** for “Starting a new life takes work” by Karen Shan.

The *Observer-Dispatch* in Utica won awards in six categories, including **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Agritourism sprouts around the state” by Keshia Clukey; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Who We Are” by Daniel P. Bader, Keshia Clukey, Cassandra Baber and Ron Moshier; **Distinguished Column Writing** for “First-Time Daddy” by Daniel P. Bader; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “Remington fires warning shot” by Fran Perritano; **Distinguished Community Service** for “A 'scary' epidemic” by Amy Neff Roth and Rocco LaDuca; and **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Victory and defeat” by Kathleen Duncan.

50,000 – 175,000 Circulation Class

The *Times Union* in Albany won awards in seven categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Secrets of NXIVM” by James M. Odatto and Jennifer Gish; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “All expenses paid” by Sarah Hinman Ryan and Larry Rulison; **Distinguished Editorial**

Writing for “Occupy Albany” by Jay Jochnowitz; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Upside down” by Staff; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Albany mourns its trailblazer” by Cindy Schultz; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Steeplechase crash” by Skip Dickstein; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Secrets of NXIVM” by James M. Odatto and Jennifer Gish.

The *Times Herald-Record* in Middletown won awards in five categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Gunman shot dead in Middletown courthouse” by Nathan Brown, James Walsh, Heather Yakin and James Nani; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Sports and abuse: A special report” by Staff; **Distinguished Community Service** for “How open is government? Access to info varies widely among towns, schools” by Chris McKenna; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “West Point graduation” by Chet Gordon; and **Distinguished Specialty Supplement Feature Writing** for “Camping with Crimson: Music masters and fans mingle at Full Moon Resort” by Timothy Malcolm.

The Journal News in White Plains won awards in seven categories, including **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “High School Musicals Features” by Peter D. Kramer; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Phil Reisman; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “Woman who saved Elvis all shook up” by Ryan Somers; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Albany Bureau Watchdog Reporting” by Joseph Spector, Jon Campbell, Cara Matthews, Jessica Bakeman and Sean Lahman; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “A district in crisis” by Omar Vega; **Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage** for “4 bodies recovered in fierce Carmel blaze” by Staff; and **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Small Bites” by Liz Johnson.

Over 175,000 Circulation Class

The Buffalo News won awards in eight categories, including **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “The Patel-Motel Phenomenon” by Emma Sapong; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Buffalo Can do Better” by Kevin Walter; **Distinguished Column Writing** for commentaries by Donn Esmonde; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “NFL Preview” by Staff; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Our Bodies, Our Canvas” by Leah Samol; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Wallenda's Historic Walk” by Derek Gee; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Close Encounter” by Charles Lewis; and **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Beads of Sweat” by Mark Mulville.

Newsday on Long Island won awards in **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Burned Houses hit, 500+ acres ablaze in Suffolk” by Newsday Staff, **Distinguished Community Service** for “Hempstead Turnpike 16 Deadly Miles” by Keith Herbert and Jennifer Maloney, and **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Pension Time Bomb” by Newsday Staff.

The New York Times won awards in **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “The Lady Jaguars” by John Branch, and **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Full Count: A Year Behind the Plate” by David Waldstein.

The Wall Street Journal won awards in four categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “The End of Privacy” by Staff; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “Fat Lady Sings for Sheet-Music Store” by Aaron Rutkoff; **Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage** for “Supreme Court Ruling on Health-Care Law” by Staff; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “The London Olympics” by Staff.

In Recognition

NYNPA's immediate-past chairman Roger F. Coleman was honored with a moment of silence at the conclusion of the awards ceremony. The former publisher of Hudson-Catskill Newspapers, Coleman passed away on December 31, 2012.