



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 2012-2013 Awards for Excellence competition. This year's winners were officially recognized at the Continuing Excellence Banquet and Reception on Wednesday, April 9 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 567 entries submitted by 34 New York State daily newspapers. The judges were: Anne Coburn-Griffis, Managing Editor, *Putnam County Sentinel* in Ottawa, Ohio; Tom Curran, Associate Editor, *The Star-Ledger* in Newark, New Jersey; Kirk Dougal, Publisher, *Van Wert Times Bulletin* in Van Wert, Ohio; James Flachsenhaar, Managing Director of Content & Audience Development, *Asbury Park Press* in Neptune, New Jersey; and Alan Wooten, Editor, *The Daily Dispatch* in Henderson, North Carolina.

Awards were presented in each of 22 categories:

Distinguished Breaking News Coverage, Distinguished Investigative Reporting, Distinguished Business Reporting, Distinguished Beat 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, Distinguished Online Photo Gallery, Distinguished Online Blog, Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation, Distinguished Newspaper Supplement, Distinguished Specialty Publication, and Distinguished Specialty Publication Feature Writing.

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.

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.

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 Beat Reporting** category demonstrate sustained and knowledgeable coverage of a particular subject or activity of local interest.

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 Photo Gallery** category consist of a series of photographs which enhance the story to which the gallery is attached, while demonstrating the highest standards of photojournalism.

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 Newspaper Supplement** category demonstrate imaginative layout and design; creative use of headlines; solid, staff-written features; and high-quality photos. The entries also demonstrate knowledge of and connection with the newspaper's community, and contain primarily locally-produced content.

Winning entries in the **Distinguished Specialty Publication** category demonstrate imaginative, almost magazine-quality, layout and design; solid, staff-written features; and high-quality photos. The entries also demonstrate knowledge of and connection with the newspaper's community.

Winning entries in the **Distinguished Specialty Publication Feature Writing** category showcase good writing in non-deadline situations, and may include personality profiles, trend stories, narratives and general features. The entries 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 the award for **Specialty Publication Feature Writing** for "Being Amsterdam" by Adam Shinder.

The Citizen in Auburn won awards for **Distinguished Community Service** for "Everyone's Battle" by Samantha House, Kelsey Durham, Sarah Jean Condon, Robert Harding and Staff; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for "Playoff Heartbreak" by Sarah Jean Condon; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for "Naturist Festival" by Sarah Jean Condon; and **Distinguished Online Blog** for "Eye on NY blog" by Robert Harding.

The *Cortland Standard* won the award for **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for "Centennial" by Larry Seil.

The *Observer* in Dunkirk won the award for **Distinguished Headline Writing** for "All Fired Up: Fuse Lit Between Cannon and Ball" by Katie Atkins.

The *Evening Telegram* in Herkimer won the award for **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for "Unimaginable Situation" by Todd Dewan, Donna Thompson, Rob Juteau, Jon Rathbun and Nichole Grant.

The *Register-Star* in Hudson won the award for **Distinguished News Photography** for "Oil Truck Crash Shuts Roads, Stores" by David Lee.

The *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* won awards in seven categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for "Punishment for Praise" by Chris Knight; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for "Nursing Homes in the Red" by Chris Knight; **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for "Outdoors beat" by Mike Lynch; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for "A Phone Call, and a Thank-You, Just in Time" by Chris Knight; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for "Daffest Derby" by Lou Reuter; **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for "Indian Lake's Adirondack Challenge" by Mike Lynch and Chris Knight; and **Distinguished Specialty Publication** for "Embark" by Staff.

The Saratogian won awards in **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for local editorials by Barbara Lombardo; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for "Casino Legislation" by Paul Post; and **Distinguished Newspaper Supplement** for "Nano Tech Valley: The Future is Now" by Staff.

The Record in Troy won awards in **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by John Gray; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for "Game Changer: Coaches Must Adapt, Walk Fine Line with Today's

Student Athletes” by Laura Amato; and **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “UAlbany Goes to the Big Dance” by Andrew Santillo and Danielle Sanzone.

10,000 – 24,999 Circulation Class

The Daily Messenger in Canandaigua won the award for **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for courtroom coverage by Erinn Cain.

The Finger Lakes Times in Geneva won awards in nine categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Waterloo Man Charged with Murder in Hit-and-Run” by Mike Hibbard and Spencer Tulis; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “Decent Exposure” by Mary Schoonover; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Going the Distance” by Scott Porter; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “SAFE Act” by Mike Hibbard, Jim Miller and Chris Kenyon; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Jim Boeheim’s Road to the Final Four Started in Lyons” by Josh DeSain and Mike Cutillo; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Hard Rain” by Spencer Tulis; **Distinguished Newspaper Supplement** for “JumpStart” by Jennifer Taylor and Brad Taylor; **Distinguished Specialty Publication** for “Indulge!” by Staff; and **Distinguished Specialty Publication Feature Writing** for “Artistry in a Cup” by Emily McFaul.

The Ithaca Journal won awards for **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “\$1.2M Price Tag/ Tompkins Legislature’s New Chambers” by Andrew Casler, Joanne Walsh and Simon Wheeler; and **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for designs by Joanne Walsh.

The Niagara Gazette won awards for **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Pregnancy Latest Miracle for Town of Niagara Family” by Timothy Chipp; and **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Michele DeLuca.

The Press-Republican in Plattsburgh won awards in four categories, including **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Young Professionals Offer Suggestions for Growing Area” by Kelli Catana; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “City Action on Test Unethical” by Lois Clermont; **Distinguished Community Service** for “After Dark, Use Headlights and Your Head” by Felicia Krieg and Rob Fountain; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “After Dark, Use Headlights and Your Head” by Felicia Krieg and Rob Fountain.

The Watertown Daily Times won awards for **Distinguished News Photography** for “Dexter MVA” by Justin Sorensen; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “A Rapid Falling Out” by Amanda Morrison; and **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Civil War” by Jason Hunter.

25,000 – 49,999 Circulation Class

The Post-Star in Glens Falls won awards for **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “A Long Goodbye” by Meg Hagerty; and **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “Tech the Halls: Falalalala” by Danielle Johnson and Scott Donnelly.

The Poughkeepsie Journal was the biggest winner of the competition, taking home 16 awards, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “No Small Thing” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Spyros Panos Investigation” by Sarah Bradshaw; **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for selections by Sarah Bradshaw; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Justice” by John Penney; **Distinguished Column Writing** for selections by Sean McMann; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Playing Through” by Phil Strum; **Distinguished Community Service** for “No Small Thing” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer, John Ferro, Chrissie Williams, Chris Cusumano and Photo staff; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Shocked Into Submission: Tasers and Force” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer and Vinayak Balasubramanian; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Let it Bee” by Karl Rabe; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Soaring” by Karl Rabe; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Superstorm Sandy Hits Valley” by Spencer Ainsley, Darryl Bautista and Karl Rabe; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Dish ‘n’ That” by Barbara Gallo Farrell; **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Giving Birth at Home” by Chrissie Williams; **Distinguished Newspaper Supplement** for “Business & Industry” by Staff; **Distinguished Specialty Publication** “Living & Being magazines” by Dugan Radwin;

and **Distinguished Specialty Publication Feature Writing** for “Vegan Living: New Cookbook is Designed for Beginners” by Marji Yablon.

The *Staten Island Advance* won the award for **Distinguished News Photography** for “Hurricane Sandy hits Staten Island” by Bill Lyons.

The *Observer-Dispatch* in Utica won awards for **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “It Can Happen Anywhere” by Staff; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Boilermaker Road Race” by Staff; and **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for designs by Muranda Hartness.

50,000 – 175,000 Circulation Class

The *Times Union* in Albany won awards for **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for selections by Brendan Lyons; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “A Sermon on a Different Mount” by Mike Jarboe; and **Distinguished Newspaper Supplement** for “Hooves and History” by Staff.

The *Democrat and Chronicle* in Rochester won awards in ten categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Blossom South” by Patti Singer; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “KodakNext: Out of Bankruptcy, Into a New Era” by Matthew Daneman and Diana Carter; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Grateful for the Game” by Jim Mandelaro; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Unite Rochester” by Staff; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “2013 PGA Championship” by Staff; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for selections by Joanne Sosangelis; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Sealing the Win” by Jamie Germano; **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “KodakNext Responsive Design Site” by Staff; **Distinguished Specialty Publication** for “Rochester Magazine” by Staff; and **Distinguished Specialty Publication Feature Writing** for “The Abduction” by Melissa Pheterson and Mark Liu.

The *Post-Standard* in Syracuse won awards for **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Brad Hulett’s Taser Arrest: He Deserves an Apology and the Public Deserves an Explanation” by Steve Carlic; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Eye on the President” by Kevin Rivoli; and **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “The Wanderers: Be Thankful You Don’t Have to Walk a Mile in Their Shoes” by Kevin Rivoli.

The *Journal News* in White Plains won awards in six categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Hurricane Sandy” by Staff; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “‘Our Town’ in Sing-Sing” by Peter Kramer; **Distinguished Column Writing** for local columns by Phil Reisman; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Rebuilding New York’s Economy” by Joseph Spector, Jon Campbell, Jessica Bakeman and Haley Viccaro; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Unimaginable” by Frank Becerra Jr., Seth Harrison, Tania Savayan, Ricky Flores and Matthew Brown; and **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Small Bites” by Liz Johnson.

Over 175,000 Circulation Class

The *Buffalo News* won awards in six categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Today’s Mental Health Squad” by Matthew Spina; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Depressing and Hopeful, Scathing Report on Buffalo Schools Also Contains the Seeds of Vital Change” by Kevin Walter; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for selections by Tom Precious; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “A Big Family of Greek Restaurants” by Leah Samol; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Prep Talk” by Keith McShea; and **Distinguished Specialty Publication** for “2013-14 NHL Preview” by The Buffalo News team.

Newsday won awards in **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Sandy’s Wrath” by Newsday Staff; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “No Free Launch” by Paul Benoit and Goodwin Anim; **Distinguished Community Service** for “2012 Voters Guide” by Newsday Staff; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Superstorm Sandy” by Newsday Staff; and **Distinguished Newspaper Supplement** for “Fanfare” by Explore LI Staff.

The New York Times won awards in six categories, including **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Snowfall” by John Branch; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Born to Run” by Barry Bearak; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Lance Armstrong coverage” by Juliet Macur, Wayne Kamidoi and Sam Manchester; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Beyond the Finish Line” by Josh Haner; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “The Jockey” by Chang Lee; and **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Beyond the Finish Line” by Josh Haner.

The Wall Street Journal won awards for **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Inside Game” by Susan Pulliam, Rob Barry, Michael Siconolfi and Jean Eaglesham; **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for “Hedge Fund coverage” by Jenny Strasburg; **Distinguished Column Writing** for “Capital Journal” by Gerald Seib; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “The New State of Health Care” by Staff.