



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 2013-2014 Awards for Excellence competition. This year's winners were officially recognized at the Continuing Excellence Banquet and Reception on Wednesday, July 22 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 480 entries submitted by 28 New York State daily newspapers. The judges were: Rosemary Armao, Journalism Professor at SUNY Albany; Debbie Hoffman, Journalism Awards Expert, Owner of debhoffman.net; Susy Schultz, President of Community Media Workshop, Chicago; Jim Ware, Public Safety Editor at the *Star-News*, Wilmington, North Carolina; and Wendy Zang, Former Director of Innovation at McClatchy-Tribune.

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*
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 website 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 Citizen in Auburn won awards in five categories, including **Distinguished Community Service** for "Wealth of Hardship" by staff; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for "2014 Doubledays' Preview" by Jeremy Houghtaling; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for "Heartbreak of Defeat" by Sarah Jean Condon; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for "Prison Graduation" by Sarah Jean Condon; and **Distinguished Online Blog** for "Eye on NY blog" by Robert Harding.

The Daily Messenger in Canandaigua won the awards for **Distinguished Feature Writing** for "The Long Goodbye and One Woman's Journey" by Melody Burri and **Distinguished News Photography** for "Final Salute" by Jack Haley.

The *Observer* in Dunkirk won the award for **Distinguished Headline Writing** for "Kiyak Jumps Ship" by Bill Hammond.

The Evening Tribune in Hornell won the award for **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for "Neil Simon Says" by Neil Simon.

The *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* in Saranac Lake won awards for **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for "Outdoors" by Shaun Kittle; **Distinguished Column Writing** for "Onward Through the Fog" by Melinda Walton; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for "Pond Skimming" by Lou Reuter; and **Distinguished Specialty Publication** for "Embark" by Morgan Ryan, Shaun Kittle, Mike Lynch and Spencer Morrissey.

The Capital District's *The Record/The Saratogian* won awards for **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for "Casino Sites Selected" by staff; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for "Farms Trying to be Competitive" by Paul Post; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for "Athletes and Social Media" by Laura Amato; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for "Covering Saratoga Race Course" by Dave Johnson, Michael Veitch, Jeff Scott and Mike McMahon.

The *Wellsville Daily Reporter* won awards for **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for "Can't Pick Police Chief Behind Closed Doors" by John Anderson and Brian Quinn; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for "Finish the Task" by John Anderson and Brian Quinn; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for "The Great 8" by Adam McHugh; and **Distinguished Newspaper Supplement** for "The Great 8" by John Anderson, Derrick Balinsky, Chris Potter, Paul Jannace and Bill Collmer.

10,000 – 24,999 Circulation Class

The *Finger Lakes Times* in Geneva won awards in seven categories, including **Distinguished Column Writing** for commentary by Mike Cutillo; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for "Sunny Side Down" by Chuck Schading; **Distinguished Community Service** for "Yates County Flood Relief" by staff; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for "Seneca County Casino" by David Shaw, Jim Miller and Mike Cutillo; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for "Hard to Believe" by Chuck Schading;

Distinguished Sports Photography for “Play at the Plate” by Spencer Tulis; and **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Yates County Floods” by Jim Miller and Spencer Tulis.

The Times Herald in Olean won awards for **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Last Man Standing, Final Dal-Tile Employee Leaves Post After Sale” by Christopher Michel and **Distinguished Sports Writing** for articles written by Chuck Pollock.

The *Press-Republican* in Plattsburgh won awards in 11 categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Two Students Die in Wilmington River” by staff; **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Heroin’s Impact on Foster Families” by Joe LoTempio, Denise A. Raymo and Felicia Krieg; **Distinguished Beat Reporting** of the education beat by Ashleigh Livingston; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for editorials by Lois Clermont; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Remembering a Brother’s Service” by Ashleigh Livingston; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia” by Courtney Lewis and Kim Smith Dedam; **Distinguished News Photography** for “AuSable Forks Firefighter Mourns Loss of Childhood Home” by Gabe Dickens; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Mayor’s Cup Parade of Lights” by Gage Dickens; **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Local Kids Talk Stars and Stripes” by Ashleigh Livingston and Rob Fountain; **Distinguished Specialty Publication** for “The Battle of Plattsburgh” by Michael Gallagher; and **Distinguished Specialty Publication Feature Writing** for “The Men Who Mean Everything to Me” by Michael Gallagher.

The *Watertown Daily Times* won the award for **Distinguished Newspaper Supplement** for “Climb to Glory” by staff.

25,000 – 49,999 Circulation Class

The Post-Star in Glens Falls won awards for **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for editorials by Ken Tingley; **Distinguished Column Writing** for commentary by Ken Tingley; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Letters of Love” by Steve Jacobs; and **Distinguished Newspaper Supplement** for “Outlook 2014” by Scott Donnelly and staff.

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* was the biggest winner of the competition, taking home 14 awards, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “St. Francis Hospital Bankruptcy” by staff; **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Killers and Pain” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “IBM East Fishkill Sale” by staff; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Inside the Mind of a Serial Killer” by John Ferro; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for stories about high school athletics by Mike Benischek; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Lyme Disease: Journal gets law passed to get patients relief” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer and John Penney; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Killers & Pain’ Investigation: Doctors Who Deal” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Safety Debated” by Dan Pietrafesa; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Let it Rain” by Darryl Bautista; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Winners” by Darryl Bautista; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Dish ‘n’ That” food blog by Barbara Gallo Farrell; **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** “Overdose Deaths: Faces of Loss” by Chrissie Williams; **Distinguished Specialty Publication** for “Living & Being” by staff; and **Distinguished Specialty Publication Feature Writing** for “Healing Words” by Marji Yablon.

The *Staten Island Advance* won the award for **Distinguished News Photography** for “Mother Mourns” by Bill Lyons.

The *Observer-Dispatch* in Utica won awards for **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for “Cops and Courts” coverage by Rocco LaDuca; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “Red, White, Blue & Bronze” by Fran Perritano; and **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for designs by Peter Franchell.

50,000 – 175,000 Circulation Class

The *Times Union* in Albany won awards for **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Dredging Up the Truth” by Brendan J. Lyons and Jeff Boyer and **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “A Missing Word Says it All” by Jay Jochnowitz.

The *Times Herald-Record* in Middletown won awards in four categories, including **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for “Village of Kiryas Joel” by Chris McKenna; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Inside Army Football” by Sal Interdonato; **Distinguished Specialty Publication** for “Orange Magazine” by staff; and **Distinguished Specialty Publication Feature Writing** for “Beyond Child’s Play” by Steve Israel.

The *Democrat & Chronicle* in Rochester won awards in six categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Slain Rochester Officer and Airplane Crash Deaths of Larry and Jane Glazer” by staff; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Passport to Innovation” by Bennett J. Loudon and Matthew Daneman; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by David Andreatta; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Unite Rochester” by staff; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Up and Over” by Jamie Germano; and **Distinguished Newspaper Supplement** for “AGR: All-Greater Rochester” by staff.

The Post-Standard in Syracuse won awards in eight categories, including **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “The Face of Faith” by Julia McMahon; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “To Whoever Broke Carrie Underwood’s Heart: Thank You” by Chris Baker; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for NCAA investigation by staff; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Syracuse vs. Duke” by staff; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “35,446 - Syracuse vs. Duke” by Tom Schmitt; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “A Kiss for Dad, the Graduate” by Kevin Rivoli; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Michelle Fox’s New Face” by Michelle Gabel; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Winter Storm vs. the Mail” by Lauren Long.

The Journal News in White Plains won awards for **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for articles written by Joseph Spector and Jon Campbell and **Distinguished News Photography** for “Justice for Eric Garner” by Tania Savayan.

Over 175,000 Circulation Class

The Buffalo News won awards in five categories, including **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for “Opiate Epidemic in Buffalo” by Lou Michel; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for feature stories about the Buffalo Bills by Tim Graham; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Sale of the Bills” by staff; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for articles by Tom Precious and **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Here We Go Again” by Leah Samol.

Newsday won awards in 12 categories, including, **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Oheka Castle Shooting” by staff; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Hempstead Schools” by Michael Dobie; **Distinguished Column Writing** for education columns by Anne Michaud; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “This ‘Family’ Enjoys Corn on Macabre” by Jerry Zezima; **Distinguished Community Service** for “The Insiders” by Sandra Peddie and Will Van Sant; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Presidential Face Time” by J. Conrad Williams; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “The Double Lives of Derby Girls” by Thomas A. Ferrara; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “California Chrome” by J. Conrad Williams; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “The Double Lives of Derby Girls” by Thomas A. Ferrara; **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “The Double Lives of Derby Girls” by Thomas A. Ferrara; **Distinguished Newspaper Supplement** for “Bridal Planner” by Newsday Explore LI Staff and **Distinguished Specialty Publication** for “Explore LI: Newsday’s 2014 Fun Book” by Newsday Explore LI Staff.

The Wall Street Journal won awards for **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Deadly Medicine” by Jennifer Levitz, Jon Kamp, Thomas Burton and Joseph Walker and **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Medicare Unmasked” by staff.

The John Peter Zenger Award

The John Peter Zenger Award is named for the 18th century newspaper publisher who stood trial in a landmark case establishing truth as a defense against the charge of libel. It is awarded by the NYNPA to individuals who demonstrate an unyielding dedication to freedom of the press in the state of New York.

Our 2015 Honorees include:

Donna Donovan was named the first female editor of *The Daily Press and Observer-Dispatch* in 1981 and went on to other top jobs with Gannett Co., Inc. before returning to Utica in 1991 as president and publisher. After 40 years, she retired from the newspaper industry in March 2015.

During her career, Donovan was also president and publisher at the *Sioux Falls Argus Leader* in South Dakota and Vermont's *Burlington Free Press*.

In Utica, she guided the newspaper through its change of ownership from Gannett to GateHouse Media.

Donovan said the city will remain her home and she'll spend more time with local volunteer organizations. Just prior to her retirement, Utica Mayor Rob Palmieri honored her by declaring Thursday, March 27, 2014 "Donna Donovan Day."

She also serves on the New York Newspapers Foundation Board of Trustees.

Barry Rothfeld retired as president and publisher of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in June of this year after serving in the position since May 2004. He was honored as Gannett's "Publisher of the Year" in 2009 and is a three-time President's Ring winner for his work.

He has been at helm of the Poughkeepsie Journal Media Group during its time of greatest change, overseeing its transformation from a print-centric operation to one that has embraced digital media.

Prior to that, he was publisher of *The Ithaca Journal*. Before that, he was editor of *the Press & Sun-Bulletin in Binghamton* and was editor of the Poughkeepsie Journal from 1990-94. He also spent 17 years in various reporting and editing roles at Gannett Westchester Rockland Newspapers, now the Journal News, where he started as a reporter and rose to the rank of senior managing editor.

Barry believes that the publisher and the newspaper should be good corporate citizens and has served and continues to serve as an active member of several community supporting organizations in the Dutchess County area.

His honors include the Community Service award from the JCC and the first group of Catharine Street Community Center "Ten Outstanding Men" awards, both in 2011. He was also honored by the Mill Street Loft for his contributions to the community. Barry received the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award from the St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church in 2006.

Active in professional organizations, he is past chair of the New York News Publishers Association Board of Directors and now serves on the New York Newspapers Foundation Board of Trustees.

He and his wife Rita plan to remain in the Poughkeepsie area.

Lisa Robert Lewis, a Cohoes native and Latham resident, joined *The Record* (Troy) staff in 1976, three weeks after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from St. Bonaventure University in Olean. She held various reporting and editing roles at the paper before being named editor in 1999. Most recently, she and fellow honoree Barbara Lombardo worked together in a combined newsroom for the last 18 months to produce *The Record*, *The Saratogian* and the *Community News* (a weekly publication serving Southern Saratoga County).

In early June, Lisa was recognized as Media Person of the Year by the Women's Press Club of New York State.

She volunteers time to various community organizations and sits on the New York Newspapers Foundation Board of Trustees.

The journalism bug bit Barbara Lombardo when she was editor of the Third Grade Gazette at P.S. 190 in Brooklyn, though she didn't recognize it then, nor when she was editor of the Voorheesville High School yearbook and later editor of the weekly newsletter for her group of dorms at SUNY Binghamton. Full-blown symptoms emerged during internships at the *Sun-Bulletin* in Binghamton. She went on to earn a master's in journalism at Ohio State University, after which she was hired as a reporter at *The Saratogian*, where she began her professional career 38 years and one month ago. Her last day is today.

Barbara held various reporting and editing positions at *The Saratogian* before being named managing editor in 1984; in 2014 she was promoted to executive editor of both *The Saratogian* and *The Record* (Troy) in 2014 as those newsrooms were merged under the joint ownership of Digital First Media.

Since 2008 she has also been a journalism adjunct at the University of Albany.

In addition to community volunteer work, Barbara is a past president of the New York State Association Press Association board, a past board member of the Associated Press Managing Editors, and a member of the New York Newspapers Foundation Board of Trustees.

She has won numerous state and national awards for her editorials and columns, and her staff has been consistently recognized for their work, for which she claims at least partial credit.