



# New York News Publishers Association, Inc.

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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*

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ALBANY, NY – The New York News Publishers Association has announced the winners of its 2015 Awards for Excellence competition. This year's winners were officially recognized at the Continuing Excellence Banquet and Reception on Wednesday, July 20 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; 50,000-75,000 and Over 75,000.

Contest judges selected winners from 482 entries submitted by 26 New York State daily newspapers. The judges were: Janis Barth, publisher of *New York Horse Magazine* and former managing editor of *The Post-Standard*, Syracuse; Renee Gadoua, freelance writer and editor, and former reporter and editor for *The Post-Standard*; Michael Kilian, executive editor for Delmarva Media Group, Salisbury, Maryland; Lisa Lewis, retired editor of *The Record*, Troy and *The Saratogian*, Saratoga Springs, and current executive news editor for the *Times Union*, Albany; and Barbara Lombardo, retired executive editor of *The Saratogian* and *The Record*

Awards were presented in each of 23 categories:

### 1. Distinguished Breaking News Coverage

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

### 2. Distinguished Live Sports Coverage (new category)

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

### 3. Distinguished Investigative Reporting

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

### 4. Distinguished Business Reporting

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

### 5. Distinguished Beat Reporting

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

## **6. Distinguished Editorial Writing**

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

## **7. Distinguished Feature Writing**

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

## **8. Distinguished Sports Writing**

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

## **9. Distinguished Column Writing**

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

## **10. Distinguished Sports Column Writing (new category)**

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

## **11. Distinguished Headline Writing**

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

## **12. Distinguished Community Service**

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

## **13. Distinguished State Government Coverage**

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

## **14. Distinguished Page Design/Presentation**

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

## **15. Distinguished News Photography**

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

## **16. Distinguished Feature Photography**

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

## **17. Distinguished Sports Photography**

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

## **18. Distinguished Online Photo Gallery**

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

### **19. Distinguished Online Blog**

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

### **20. Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation**

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

### **21. Distinguished News Supplement (new category)**

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

### **22. Distinguished Sports Supplement (new category)**

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

### **23. Distinguished Feature Supplement (new category)**

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

Following is the list of winners:

#### **Under 10,000 Circulation Class**

*The Citizen* in Auburn won awards in five categories, including **Distinguished Live Sports Coverage** for "Skaneateles Hockey Wins State Title" by Jeremy Houghtaling; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for "Tough Times For The Fingerlakes Mall" by David Wilcox and Greg Mason; **Distinguished Community Service** for "Losing Connection;" **Distinguished Online Blog** for "Eye on NY" by Robert Harding; and **Distinguished Sports Supplement** for "2015 Doubledays preview section" by Jeremy Houghtaling and Greg Mason.

*The Daily News* in Batavia won awards in four categories, including **Distinguished Sports Column Writing** for columns by Bill Bruton; **Distinguished News Photography** for "Working in the shadows" by Mark Gutman; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for "Thrill of a lifetime" by Mark Gutman; and **Distinguished Sports Photography** for "Dusty run" by Mark Gutman.

*The Daily Messenger* in Canandaigua won awards in two categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for "Coverage of the 2015 South Bristol election for town supervisor" by Julie Sherwood; and **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for "Police beat reporting" by Aaron Curtis.

The *Observer* in Dunkirk won the award in **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for "Area Hit by Major Floods" by John D'Agostino.

*The Evening Tribune* in Hornell won the award in **Distinguished Headline Writing** for "B-I-N-G-No" by Neal Simon and Jason Jordan.

The *Register-Star* in Hudson won the award in **Distinguished Sports Writing** for "Out Of The Shadows: A Look Inside Cus D'Amato's KO Boxing Gym" by Brian Radewitz, Tim Martin and Vince Ginardi.

The *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* in Saranac Lake won awards in four categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for "End of the Road for David Sweat" by Chris Knight, Matthew Turner, Tom Salitsky, Brittany Proulx and Peter Crowley; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for "Renaming Paul Smith's College" by Peter Crowley; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for "LGBT in the Park" by Tom Salitsky,

Matthew Turner and Chris Knight; and **Distinguished Column Writing** for “View from the Porch” by Paul Willcott.

The *Wellsville Daily Reporter* won awards in three categories, including **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Sailor, Home From Navy, Reunites with Family” by John Anderson, Brian Quinn and Nick Anderson; **Distinguished News Supplement** for “Main Street Music Fest” by Caitlin Murphy, Amelia Kibbe, John Anderson, Kathryn Ross and Christianna Walter; and **Distinguished Feature Supplement** for “Greatest in High School Sports” by John Anderson, Chris Potter, Sean Curran, Bill Collmer and Christianna Walter.

### **10,000 – 24,999 Circulation Class**

The *Finger Lakes Times* in Geneva won awards in three categories, including **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for “Crime & Courts coverage” by Mike Hibbard; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Hobart’s Once and Future King” by Mike Cutillo; and **Distinguished Feature Supplement** for “Indulge!” by Emily McFaul, Mary Schoonover, Marisa Enzinna and Spencer Tulis.

*The Post-Star* in Glens Falls won awards in ten categories, including **Distinguished Live Sports Coverage** for “Saratoga Shocker” by Will Springstead, Steve Jacobs, Diana Nearhos, Rhonda Triller and Greg Brownell; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for editorials by Will Doolittle; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “All in God’s Plan” by Rhonda Triller; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Vietnam War Stories” by Meg Hagerty and Joseph Tingley; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Thriller” by Shannon MacCue; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Growing Up” by Steve Jacobs; **Distinguished Online Blog** for blog entries by Greg Brownell; **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Growing Up” by Rhonda Triller and Steve Jacobs; **Distinguished News Supplement** for “Outlook” by Scott Donnelly and Staff; and **Distinguished Sports Supplement** for “Kickoff 2015” by Pete Tobey, Diana Nearhos, Steve Jacobs, Ashleigh Abreu and Greg Brownell.

The *Niagara Gazette* in Niagara Falls won awards in two categories, including **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Michele DeLuca; and **Distinguished Feature Photography** for photos by James Neiss.

*The Times Herald* in Olean won the award in **Distinguished Sports Column Writing** for columns by JP Butler.

The *Press-Republican* in Plattsburgh won awards in three categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Prison break coverage;” **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Prison break coverage” by Joe LoTempio; and **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “Deja Two” by Ricky St. Clair.

The *Watertown Daily Times* won awards in three categories, including **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Running a Dairy Farm: Blend of Hard Work and Rewards” by Susan Mende, Ted Booker and Leslie Sheldon; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Dad departure” by Justin Sorensen; and **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Jump ball!” by Justin Sorensen.

### **25,000 – 49,999 Circulation Class**

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* won awards in 17 categories, including **Distinguished Live Sports Coverage** for “Lourdes Fights to Finish in Final Loss;” **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Money Wise: Surviving Tough Times;” **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for “Tax Dollars at Work — or Wasted?” by Nina Schutzman; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Mason’s Legacy” by John Penney; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “A Mother, a Cop and a Baby’s Lost Grave” by John Ferro; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Keeping the Players Safe” by Stephen Haynes; **Distinguished Column Writing** for “John Rolfe: On the Rails” by John Rolfe; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “A Mother, a Cop and a Baby’s Lost Grave” by John Ferro; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Prison Guards Unchecked” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer, Amanda Fries and Amanda Purcell; **Distinguished News Photography** for “In Tribute: Funeral for a Firefighter” by Patrick Oehler; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Sprawling save” by Patrick Oehler; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Fight to the finish” by Patrick Oehler; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Dish ‘n’ That” vegetarian food blog by Barbara Gallo Farrell; **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “A Mother, a Cop and a Baby’s Lost Grave” by Alex

Wagner; **Distinguished News Supplement** for “Business & Industry;” **Distinguished Sports Supplement** for “High School All-stars section;” and **Distinguished Feature Supplement** for “Enjoy!”

The *Staten Island Advance* won the award in **Distinguished Community Service** for “Staten Island's drug crisis.”

The *Observer-Dispatch* in Utica won awards in four categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Word of Life Church murder coverage” by Alissa Scott and Courtney Potts; **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Problems in the ER” by Amy Neff Roth; **Distinguished Sports Column Writing** for columns by Ron Moshier; and **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “A Night of Remembrance” by Tina Russell.

### **50,000 – 75,000 Circulation Class**

The *Times Union* in Albany won awards in ten categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “A Danger That Lurks Below” by Brendan J. Lyons; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “America's Gun Conversation” by Jay Jochnowitz; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Mom Sure Could Use a Date” by Jennifer Gish; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Thomas Battled to the End” by Pete Iorizzo; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Chris Churchill; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Dark Money” by Casey Seiler and Chris Bragg; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Spirit Guide designs” by Tyswan Stewart; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Icebreaker” by Paul Buckowski; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Capitol Confidential” by Casey Seiler; and **Distinguished Sports Supplement** for “Travers section.”

The *Times Herald-Record* in Middletown won awards in seven categories, including **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Health Care System In Flux” by Hema Easley; **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for “Kiryas Joel beat” by Chris McKenna; **Distinguished Sports Column Writing** for columns by Kevin Gleason; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “Quid Pro Cuomo?” by Michael Levensohn; **Distinguished Community Service** for “How Narcan is Saving Lives” by Leonard Sparks; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Islamic Center celebration” by Allyse Pulliam; and **Distinguished Feature Supplement** for “Ulster Magazine.”

The *Journal News* in White Plains won awards in four categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Fatal Metro-North railroad crash in Valhalla;” **Distinguished News Photography** for “At Least 7 Die as SUV, Train Collide” by Albert Conte, Frank Becerra Jr., Seth Harrison and Carucha L. Meuse; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Reversal of fortune” by Seth Harrison; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “L'Dor Vador - From Generation to Generation” by Seth Harrison.

### **Over 175,000 Circulation Class**

The *Buffalo News* won awards in five categories, including **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Bangladeshis Transform Buffalo, One Block at a Time” by Emma Sapong; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Becoming Rex” by Tim Graham; **Distinguished Sports Column Writing** for columns by Jerry Sullivan; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “The Franchise” by Jason Baum; and **Distinguished Sports Supplement** for “NHL Preview.”

The *Democrat and Chronicle* in Rochester won awards in eight categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Neglected and Rejected” by Justin Murphy; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Riding the Wave” by Jeff Spevak; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by David Andreatta; **Distinguished Community Service** for “D&C Helps Bike Program Recover From Theft;” **Distinguished News Photography** for “Justice for a fallen officer” by Jamie Germano; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Hey, let me see!” by Tina MacIntyre-Yee; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “All About Health” by Patti Singer; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Riding the Joywave” by Jeff Spevak, Max Schulte and Angie Nassar.

The *Post-Standard* in Syracuse won awards in nine categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “The NCAA Punishes Syracuse University Basketball;” **Distinguished Live Sports Coverage** for “Syracuse Football Coach Fired;” **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for “The weather beat in

America's snowiest city" by Glenn Coin; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for editorials by Marie Morelli; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for "MLB Doesn't Let Utley Slide" by Jackie Domin; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for "New York's Broken Restitution System" by Douglass Dowty; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for "WWE superstar Ryback" by Dennis Nett; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for "House of Hair" by Michael Greenlar; and **Distinguished Feature Supplement** for "Empire Magazine."

### **The John Peter Zenger Award**

The New York News Publishers Association presented the **John Peter Zenger Award** to Ira Fusfeld, who served as publisher of the *Daily Freeman* of Kingston, N.Y., from 1987 to 2012.

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 to individuals who demonstrate an unyielding dedication to freedom of the press in the state of New York.

While at the *Freeman*, Mr. Fusfeld rose through the ranks from sports writer, to sports editor, to editor, to general manager and finally to publisher in a career that began in 1970. He was named publisher emeritus in 2012 before retiring in 2014.

Mr. Fusfeld also served as publisher of *Las Noticias*, a Spanish-language weekly newspaper based in Kingston, and the Taconic Press weekly newspaper group headquartered in Millbrook. In 2001, he was named Publisher of the Year by the Journal Register Company.

Mr. Fusfeld is a past chairman of the Board of Directors of NYNPA and was chairman of its legislative committee. He also served on the Board of Trustees for the New York Newspapers Foundation. He has also been a member of numerous other civic and professional organizations.

A New York City native, Mr. Fusfeld graduated in 1970 from the State University of New York at New Paltz. He later was a member of its College Council and chairman of its Foundation. In 1994 he was named to the State University of New York Alumni Honor Roll, and in 2006 he was named Alumnus of the Year by the SUNY New Paltz School of Business.

Mr. Fusfeld is a regular panelist on WAMC Northeast Public Radio's "The Media Project" and "The Roundtable."

He and his wife, Eileen, live in Woodstock. They have two grown sons and three grandchildren.