



# New York News Publishers Association, Inc.

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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*  
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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 2016 Awards for Excellence competition. This year's winners were officially recognized at the Continuing Excellence Banquet and Reception on Wednesday, July 19 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 436 entries submitted by 23 New York State daily newspapers. The judges were: Heather Henline, Publisher of *The Telegraph* in Nashua, New Hampshire; Deb Hoffman, former Awards Coordinator for *The Wall Street Journal*; Carolyn Levin, Journalism Program Director at Long Island University; Stuart Shinske, former Executive Editor for the *Poughkeepsie Journal*; and Jim Ware, Public Safety Editor for StarNews Media in Wilmington, North Carolina.

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

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**

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**

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**

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**

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 in four categories, including **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for "All about the revenue" by Robert Harding; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for "Portraits of high school athletic stars" by Kevin Rivoli; **Distinguished Online Blog** for "Eye on NY" by Robert Harding; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for "Elwyn's final salute" by Kevin Rivoli.

*The Daily News* in Batavia won in four categories, including **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Scott DeSmit; **Distinguished News Photography** for "Carriage House Fire" by Mark Gutman; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for "Lightning over the city" by Mark Gutman; and **Distinguished Sports Photography** for "Hit by pitch" by Mark Gutman.

*The Daily Messenger* in Canandaigua won in three categories, including **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for "Was city's heart in pesticide ban?" by Sean McCrory; **Distinguished Sports Column Writing** for "The Point Is ..." by Robert Chavez; and **Distinguished Community Service** for "Finger Lakes Gaming and Race Track coverage" by Melody Burri.

The *Observer* in Dunkirk won in three categories, including **Distinguished Feature Writing** for "Major fame, quiet life" by Mary Ann Herrington; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for "Number two is number one problem at Silver Creek beach" by Rebecca Cuthbert; and **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for "900 jobs" by John D'Agostino.

*The Leader-Herald* in Gloversville won in **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for "Bedbugs: A community problem" by Jason Subik.

*The Evening Tribune* in Hornell won in three categories, including **Distinguished Business Reporting** for "History Made" by John Anderson, Jason Jordan, Neal Simon, Brian Quinn and Ryan Papaserge; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for "Julio walks on football field again" by John Anderson; and **Distinguished News Supplement** for "Back to the Future Progress Edition" by Brian Quinn, John Anderson, Kathryn Ross, Jason Jordan and Jasmine Willis.

*The Palladium-Times* in Oswego won in **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Judge King upholds Thibodeau conviction” by Benjamin Kail, Seth Wallace and Andrew Poole.

The *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* in Saranac Lake won in **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Helicopter shocker” by Chris Knight.

The *Wellsville Daily Reporter* won in **Distinguished Live Sports Coverage** for “Back-to-back for Wellsville” by Chris Potter.

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

The *Finger Lakes Times* in Geneva won in five categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Two dead in city murder-suicide” by Mike Hibbard and Spencer Tulis; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Mike Cutillo; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Tragedy on the Lake” by Spencer Tulis; **Distinguished Sports Supplement** for “Football 2016” by Alan Brignall, Mike Cutillo, Josh DeSain, Spencer Tulis and Mary Beth Thorpe; and **Distinguished Feature Supplement** for “Indulge!” by Mary Schoonover, Steve Buchiere, Marissa Enzinna, Susan Clark Porter and Spencer Tulis.

*The Post-Star* in Glens Falls won in 12 categories, including **Distinguished Live Sports Coverage** for “State Basketball Tournament” by Greg Brownell, Diana Nearhos, Will Springstead, Pete Tobey and Steve Jacobs; **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “What’s wrong with our water?” by Will Doolittle, Michael Goot and Kathleen Moore; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Mixed Results” by Scott Donnelly; **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for “Public Safety” by Don Lehman; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Government transparency” by Ken Tingley; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Amish in Whitehall” by David Blow; **Distinguished Sports Column Writing** for columns by Ken Tingley; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “They gave a hoot” by Bob Condon; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Home of champions” by Adam Colver; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Triplets and childcare” by Steve Jacobs; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Police Blog” by Don Lehman; and **Distinguished News Supplement** for “Outlook 2016” by Scott Donnelly and Staff.

The *Press-Republican* in Plattsburgh won in four categories, including **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “She was tenacious” by Joey LaFranca; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Drug Deaths” by Staff; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Hoop Harmonies” by Alvin Reiner; and **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Dodgeball, Hold The Dodge” by Gabe Dickens.

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

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* won in 12 categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Inferno” by Staff; **Distinguished Live Sports Coverage** for “Walkway Marathon” by Staff; **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Poughkeepsie School Board spending” by Nina Schutzman; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Investigation into rooftop solar restrictions” by John Ferro and Alex Wagner; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “City of Poughkeepsie editorials” by John Penney; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “The Enigmatic Life of Anthony Monaco” by John Ferro; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “Girl power on the gridiron” by Stephen Haynes; **Distinguished Column Writing** for “Our Turn” by Sharon Rhodes; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Heroin Forum” by Staff; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Dish ‘n’ That” by Barbara Gallo Farrell; **Distinguished Sports Supplement** for “Get Outdoors!” by Staff; and **Distinguished Feature Supplement** for “Enjoy!” by Staff.

The *Staten Island Advance* won in three categories, including **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for “City Hall, from an Island perspective” by Anna Sanders; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Cop of the Month” by Jan Somma-Hammel; and **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Celebration” by Bill Lyons.

The *Observer-Dispatch* in Utica won in five categories, including **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “State pulling plug on new hospital?” by Matt Becker; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Saying goodbye to Will Smith” by Ron Johns; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Tense standoff”

by Tina Russell; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Little Falls wrestler” by Tina Russell; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “ ‘Potato Hill killer’ still claims innocence” by Tina Russell.

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

The *Times Union* in Albany won in three categories, including **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Shoppportunist” by Shannon Fromma; **Distinguished News Supplement** for “Women@Work” by Staff; and **Distinguished Feature Supplement** for “518Life” by Staff.

The *Times Herald-Record* in Middletown won in nine categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Car Dealer Preyed on Buyers” by Heather Yakin; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Where Are the Jobs?” by Chris McKenna; **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for “Crime and Courts” by Heather Yakin; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Heather Yakin; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Unsolved Homicides” by Heather Yakin; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Funeral for slain firefighter” by Kelly Marsh; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Liberty Football” by William Montgomery; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Unsolved Homicides” by Kelly Marsh; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Preserving Hudson Valley History” by Erik Gliedman and Gittel Evangelist.

The *Daily Gazette* in Schenectady won in **Distinguished Sports Column Writing** for columns by Mike MacAdam.

*The Post-Standard* in Syracuse won in 10 categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “6 die in Syracuse explosion, fire” by Staff; **Distinguished Live Sports Coverage** for “Syracuse men's and women's team make Final Four on same day” by Staff; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Tom Connellan's lenient punishment did not fit the crime” by Marie Morelli; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “End of Genius: As Scott Keane drank himself to death, friends refused to let go” by Marnie Eisenstadt; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “The struggle to rescue ex-Syracuse football linebacker Luke Cain: Could anyone save him?” by Nate Mink; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “We Get The Drift” by Mark Libbon; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Bid rigging, corruption and waste in NY taxpayer-funded projects” by Tim Knauss; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for front pages by Sean McKeown-Young; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Supermoon” by Dennis Nett; and **Distinguished Sports Supplement** for “Hearts of Orange” by Mark Libbon, Sue Santola, Tom Schmidt, Roury Williams and Keith Thompson.

### **Over 75,000 Circulation Class**

*The Buffalo News* won in five categories, including **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “NHL Concussions” by John Vogl; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Sean Kirst; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “From Burma to Buffalo” by Vince Chiamonte; **Distinguished News Photography** for “From Burma to Buffalo” by Derek Gee; and **Distinguished Sports Supplement** for “NHL Draft Preview” by Mike Harrington and John Vogl.

*Newsday* on Long Island won in eight categories, including **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “The Curious Case of Robert Macedonio” by Gus Garcia-Roberts and Will Van Sant; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “The New Entrepreneurs” by Aisha Al-Muslim; **Distinguished Beat Reporting** for “Power Players \$1.4M Tax Debt” by Scott Eidler; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Questions of Oversight” by Michael Gormley; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Slush Puppy” by J. Conrad Williams; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Goal” by J. Conrad Williams; **Distinguished Online Photo Gallery** for “Doubly Devoted: The Tardif Twins” by Thomas A. Ferrara; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Street Racer: The Culture of Speed on Long Island” by Staff.

The *Democrat and Chronicle* in Rochester won in eight categories, including **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Assemblyman commits suicide” by Staff; **Distinguished Live Sports Coverage** for “Buffalo Bills coverage” by Sal Maiorana, Leo Roth, Marc Dovi, Ryan Miller and Jamie Germano; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Defending the public's right to know” by Julie Philipp;

**Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Golden Voice” by Jeff DiVeronica; **Distinguished Sports Column Writing** for columns by Leo Roth; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Unite Rochester Challenge” by Julie Philipp, Len LaCara and Sheila Rayam; **Distinguished News Supplement** for “Wegmans 100th Anniversary” by Staff; and **Distinguished Feature Supplement** for “Remarkable Rochesterians” by Matthew Leonard, Cynthia Benjamin, Sheldon Sneed and Dawn Donofrio.