



# New York News Publishers Association, Inc.

252 Hudson Ave, Albany, New York 12210 – Phone/Fax (518) 449-1667 – [www.nynpa.com](http://www.nynpa.com)

**Diane Kennedy**, President

Albany—Times Union  
Auburn—The Citizen  
Batavia—The Batavian  
Batavia—The Daily News  
Binghamton—Press & Sun-Bulletin  
Brooklyn—Brooklyn Daily Eagle  
Buffalo—The Buffalo News  
Canandaigua—The Daily Messenger  
Cold Spring—Highlands Current  
Dunkirk—The Observer  
Elmira—Star-Gazette  
Geneva—Finger Lakes Times  
Glens Falls—The Post-Star  
Herkimer—The Times Telegram  
Hornell—The Evening Tribune  
Huntington—Huntington NOW  
Ithaca—The Ithaca Journal  
Jamestown—The Post-Journal  
Kingston—Daily Freeman  
Lockport—Union-Sun & Journal  
Long Island—Newsday  
Malone—The Malone Telegram  
Massena—Courier-Observer/  
Advance News  
Mendon-Honeoye Falls Lima Sentinel  
Middletown—The Times Herald- Record  
New York City—The New York Post  
New York City—The New York Times  
New York City—The Wall Street Journal  
New York City—City Limits  
Niagara Falls—Niagara Gazette  
Norwich—The Evening Sun  
Olean—The Times Herald  
Oneida Daily Dispatch  
Oswego—The Palladium Times  
Plattsburgh—Press-Republican  
Poughkeepsie—Poughkeepsie  
Journal  
Ravena—Ravena News-Herald  
Red Hook—The Daily Catch  
Riverhead-Riverhead LOCAL  
Rochester—Democrat and Chronicle  
Rochester—The Daily Record  
Rochester—Rochester Business Journal  
Salamanca—Salamanca Press  
Saranac Lake—Adirondack Daily  
Enterprise  
Saratoga Springs—The Saratogian  
Staten Island—Staten Island Advance  
Syracuse—The Post-Standard  
Syracuse—Central Current  
Troy—The Record  
Utica—Observer-Dispatch  
Watertown—Watertown Daily Times  
Wellsville—Wellsville Daily Reporter  
White Plains—The Journal News

May 29, 2025

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional information, contact:

Margaret McDermott, Development Director  
(518) 449-1667 ext. 703 or [mmcdermott@nynpa.com](mailto:mmcdermott@nynpa.com)

ALBANY, NY – The New York News Publishers Association has announced the winners of its 2024 Awards for Excellence competition. The annual contest recognizes journalistic and advertising 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 365 entries submitted by 19 New York State daily newspapers.

## EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

The judges were:

- **Rob Brill**, retired editor of the *Times Union*, Albany
- **Diana Bean**, retired editor of Binghamton University Magazine
- **Teresa Buckley**, retired senior editor of the *Times Union*, Albany
- **Mike Spain**, former Associate Editor of the *Times Union*, Albany
- **James M. Odat**, investigative reporter; former editor of the *Adirondack Explorer*, Albany

Following is the list of news winners:

	<b>Adirondack Daily Enterprise</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
Under 10,000	Distinguished Beat Reporting	Aaron Marbone, Sydney Emerson, Elizabeth Izzo, Parker O'Brien
Under 10,000	Distinguished Sports Writing	Parker O'Brien
Under 10,000	Distinguished State Government Coverage	Sydney Emerson
	<b>Finger Lakes Times, Geneva</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
Under 10,000	Distinguished Live Sports Coverage	Pete Lambos
Under 10,000	Distinguished Headline Writing	Louise Hoffman Broach
Under 10,000	Distinguished Sports Photography	Spencer Tulis
Under 10,000	Distinguished News Supplement	Steve Buchiere, Louise Hoffman Broach, Tahlia Fischer, David Shaw, Pete Lambos, Alan Brignall, Mike Cutillo, Anne Allis, Mary Beth Thorpe, Susan Clark Porter
Under 10,000	Distinguished Sports Supplement	Pete Lambos, Nick Felice, Alan Brignall, Anne Allis, Mary Beth Thorpe
	<b>Highlands Current, Cold Spring</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
Under 10,000	Distinguished Feature Writing	Joey Asher
Under 10,000	Distinguished Business Reporting	Leonard Sparks
Under 10,000	Distinguished Investigative Reporting	Richard Kreitner
Under 10,000	Distinguished Column Writing	Brian PJ Cronin
Under 10,000	Distinguished Sports Column Writing	Joey Asher
Under 10,000	Distinguished Community Service	Brian PJ Cronin
Under 10,000	Distinguished Page Design/Presentation	Pierce Strudler
Under 10,000	Distinguished Feature Photography	Ross Corsair
	<b>The Citizen, Auburn</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
Under 10,000	Distinguished News Photography	Kevin Rivoli
Under 10,000	Distinguished Online Blog	Robert Harding
Under 10,000	Distinguished Online Photo Gallery	Kevin Rivoli
	<b>The Cortland Standard</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
Under 10,000	Distinguished Editorial Writing	Todd R. McAdams

	<b>The Daily Catch, Red Hook</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
Under 10,000	Distinguished Breaking News Coverage	Emily Sachar, Grace Molenda
Under 10,000	Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation	Peyton Pusey, Annie Kacin, Theresa Klemm
	<b>The Daily News, Batavia</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
Under 10,000	Distinguished Feature Supplement	Staff
	<b>City Limits, NYC</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Feature Writing	Emma Whitford, Patrick Spauster, Chris Janaro
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Beat Reporting	Tatyana Turner
	<b>Democrat &amp; Chronicle, Rochester</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Sports Writing	Emily Barnes
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Business Reporting	Robert Bell
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Column Writing	Justice Marbury
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished State Government Coverage	Thomas C. Zambito
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Page Design/Presentation	Mick Hangland-Skill
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation	Staff
	<b>Poughkeepsie Journal</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Online Photo Gallery	Patrick Oehler
	<b>Press-Republican, Plattsburg</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Editorial Writing	Staff
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished News Photography	Ben Rowe
	<b>The Journal News, White Plains</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Investigative Reporting	Thomas Zambito, Noah Ram
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Live Sports Coverage	Eugene Rapay
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Breaking News Coverage	Gary Stern, Phil Strum, Seth Harrison, Alexandra Rivera
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Community Service	Peter Kramer
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Feature Photography	Frank Becerra Jr.
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Sports Photography	Frank Becerra Jr.

	<b>Staten Island Advance</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Editorial Writing	Brian Laline, Tom Wroblewski
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Community Service	Paul Liotta, Erik Bascome, Jessica Jones-Gorman, Tracey Porpora, Tom Wroblewski, Jillian Delaney
	<b>Buffalo News</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Sports Writing	Lance Lysowski
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Feature Writing	Samantha Christmann
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Business Reporting	Matt Glynn, Stephen T. Watson
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Column Writing	Sean Kirst
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Sports Column Writing	Mike Harrington
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished State Government Coverage	Robert Gavin
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Feature Photography	Joshua Bessex
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Sports Photography	Joshua Bessex
	<b>The Post-Standard/Syracuse.com</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Beat Reporting	Marnie Eisenstadt
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Investigative Reporting	Michelle Breidenbach, Rylee Kirk, Jesus Feliciano- Batista, Fernando Alba
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Live Sports Coverage	Mike Waters, Scott Trimble, Donna Ditota, Chris Carlson, Brent Axe
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Breaking News Coverage	Tim Knauss, Marnie Eisenstadt, Rylee Kirk, Jon Moss, Timia Cobb, Christa Lemczak, Doug Dowty, Steve Billmyer, Michelle Breidenbach, Don Cazentre
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Headline Writing	Don Cazentre
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished News Photography	Dennis Nett
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Online Photo Gallery	Dennis Nett
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Online Blog	Katrina Tulloch
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation	Michelle Breidenbach, N. Scott Trimble, Michael Dupras
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Feature Supplement	Sonja Duntley, Kimberly Worner, Steve Featherstone

	<b>Times Union, Albany</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Page Design/Presentation	Gregory Dayton
	<b>Newsday, Long Island</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Feature Writing	David Olson
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Beat Reporting	Alfonso A. Castillo
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Investigative Reporting	Sandra Peddie, Alejandra Villa Loarca
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Sports Writing	Jim Baumbach
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Sports Column Writing	Laura Albanese
75,000 – and over	Distinguished State Government Coverage	Paul LaRocco
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Page Design/Presentation	Neville Harvey, Andrew Wong
75,000 – and over	Distinguished News Photography	J. Conrad Williams Jr.
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Feature Photography	Alejandra Villa Loarca
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Sports Photography	Thomas A. Ferrara
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Online Photo Gallery	J. Conrad Williams Jr.
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Feature Supplement	Tracy M. Brown, Robert Shields, Andrew Wong, Newsday Staff

## **EXCELLENCE IN ADVERTISING CONTEST**

The judges were:

- **Ethan Fogg**, Assistant Executive Director of the Geneva Family YMCA, former Regional Director of Circulation and Marketing, Community Media Group
- **Jeff Weigand**, former Publisher and Chief Revenue Officer, Oswego Media Group
- **Pam Lego**, Director of Operations, Hoosier State Press Association, Indiana
- **Rob Schoenbacher**, former President of Newhouse National Sales Co., former President of NY Ad Managers and former President of Albany Ad Cub.
- **Charmaine Ushkow**, former Community Relations Manager, *Times Union*, Albany

**Following is the list of advertising winners:**

	<b>Adirondack Daily Enterprise</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
Under 10,000	Best Multi-Advertiser Page	Susan Moore

	<b>Finger Lakes Times, Geneva</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
Under 10,000	Best Black and White Ad	Anne Allis
	Best Color Ad	Anne Allis
Under 10,000	Most Effective Use of Paid Small Space	Anne Allis
Under 10,000	Most Effective Use of Paid Large Space	Anne Allis
Under 10,000	Best House/Newspaper Promotion Ad, Series or Section	Anne Allis
Under 10,000	Best Custom Sponsored Content Piece	Anne Allis, Spencer Tulis
Under 10,000	Best Special Section Non-Newsprint Distribution in Paper	Anne Allis
	<b>The Daily Catch, Red Hook</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
Under 10,000	Best Innovative Idea (Shared via Video Platform for Entrants)	Rebekah Hendricks, Elena Gastaldo, Emily Sachar, Kathryn Wheeler, Andrew Checchia, Walter Mullin
	<b>Staten Island Advance</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
25,000 – 49,999	Best Color Ad	David Cohen, Dan Ryan, Harry Johnson, SI Media Group Creative Team, Rachel Ellison-Conaway, Matt Fleming
25,000 – 49,999	Most Effective Use of Paid Small Space	Alaa Selim, Dan Ryan, Robert King
25,000 – 49,999	Most Effective Use of Paid Large Space	Alaa Selim, Dan Ryan, Kara Scandaglia
25,000 – 49,999	Best Online Ad (Static)	Hilary Embrey, Dan Ryan, Kara Scandaglia, Rachel Ellison-Conaway, Matt Fleming
25,000 – 49,999	Best Online Ad (Animated)	Dan Ryan, David Cohen, SI Media Group Creative Team, Rachel Ellison-Conaway, Matt Fleming
25,000 – 49,999	Best Use of Video	David Cohen, Dan Ryan, Rachel Ellison-Conaway, Matt Fleming
25,000 – 49,999	Best Custom Sponsored Content Piece	David Cohen, Dan Ryan, Robert King, Ana Gonzalez, John Saccenti
25,000 – 49,999	Best Innovative Idea (Shared via Video Platform for Entrants)	Dan Ryan, Chris Scott, Robert King, SI Live Studios
25,000 – 49,999	The Charmaine Ushkow Award for Advertising Excellence	Staff

	<b>Newsday, Long Island</b>	
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
75,000 – and over	Special Section Newsprint Distribution in Paper	Nannette Fevola, James Rosenfeld, Janine McQuillan
75,000 – and over	Best Use of Video	Nannette Fevola, Adrian Debattista, Donna Saladino-Schaefer
75,000 – and over	Best Custom Sponsored Content Piece	Nannette Fevola, Donna Saladino-Schaefer, Adrian Debattista, Janine McQuillan
75,000 – and over	Best Special Section Non-Newsprint Distribution in Paper	Nannette Fevola, James Rosenfeld, Marcia Thompson
75,000 – and over	Best Innovative Idea (Shared via Video Platform for Entrants)	Nannette Fevola, Donna Saladino-Schaefer, Adrian Debattista, Janine McQuillan

## NEWS CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Distinguished Beat Reporting**

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

### **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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Distinguished Headline Writing**

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Distinguished News Photography**

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

**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.

**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.

**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.



**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

## **ADVERTISING CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS**

**Best Black and White Ad**

Submissions can be any ad size. Submission may include an explanation of why entry is a winning entry.

**Best Color Ad**

Submissions can be any ad size. Submission may include an explanation of why entry is a winning entry.

**Most Effective Use of Paid Small Space**

Judges will consider the creativity of copy, along with originality and impact. Ad must be conceptualized and executed solely by the newspaper. All ads must be generated by the newspaper. Ads must be less than a half page.

**Most Effective Use of Paid Large space**

Judges will consider the creativity of copy, along with originality and impact. Ad must be conceptualized and executed solely by the newspaper. All ads must be generated by the newspaper. Ads must be a half page or larger.

**Best Special Section Newsprint Distributed in Paper**

Multi-advertiser section involving a single theme. Ads must be produced solely by the newspaper. Judges will consider the uniqueness of idea, content both editorial and ads and overall layout. If an entry runs in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the COMBINED CIRCULATION of those newspapers.

**Best Online Ad (Static)**

Ad must be fixed, with no moving parts. All sizes are eligible. Ads must be generated by the newspaper (not camera-ready client produced). Can be paid or a house ad. Creativity and effectiveness of design and message will be criteria for judging.

**Best Online Ad (Animated)**

Ad may be .jpg, .gif or Flash. Must have an animated or dynamic element. All sizes are eligible. Ads must be generated by the newspaper (not camera-ready client produced). Can be paid or a house ad. Creativity and effectiveness of design and message will be criteria for judging.

**Best Classified Section**

Submit classified page(s) from any one issue during the contest 2024 year. Judged on organization, design, readability, and in-house promotion.

**Best House/Newspaper Promotion Ad, Series or Section**

Ad/Series/Section produced by staff to promote an aspect of the newspaper. This may be for circulation, advertising/marketing, editorial or general image/branding. If an entry runs in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the COMBINED CIRCULATION of those newspapers.

**Best Multi-Advertiser Page**

Multi-advertiser page or pages (not a special section, no cover and minimal editorial) involving a single theme: shopping center, seasonal merchandise, specialty stores, holiday, etc. Judges will consider the uniqueness and overall layout. If an entry runs in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the COMBINED CIRCULATION of those newspapers.

**Best Use of Video**

Judges will consider creativity, innovation, and impact as well as how effectively the video content delivers the intended message.

**Best Custom Sponsored Content Piece**

Entries can be a single article or a series of articles that draw the reader in with commercial sales/promotion in mind. Delivering content that is informative, relevant, and entertaining that it is part of readers' consumption of editorial content.

**Best Special Section Non-Newsprint Distributed in Paper**

Any section involving a special subject or theme printed on glossy stock qualifies for this category. Judges will consider the quality of editorial content and graphic design. Special consideration will be given to locally prepared editorial and ad content, as well as particular interest or importance to the community. If an entry runs in multiple newspapers, it must be submitted in a circulation category matching the COMBINED CIRCULATION of those newspapers.

**Best Innovative Idea**

An innovative project or idea initiated by the newspaper's advertising department that resulted in additional revenue for the newspaper. Entries should include a short description of the project or idea, information on revenue generated and the product itself, which may have appeared online, in print or both.

**The Charmaine Ushkow Award for Advertising Excellence**

The Charmaine Ushkow Award will be given for the best overall newspaper advertising. The winner of this award will be the newspaper that has accumulated the greatest number of awards among all categories.