



# New York News Publishers Association, Inc.

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ALBANY, NY – The New York News Publishers Association has announced the winners of its 2020 Awards for Excellence competition. This year's winners will be officially recognized at the Continuing Excellence Awards Banquet on a date to be determined at the Hearst Media Center in Loudonville.

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 388 entries submitted by 20 New York State newspapers.

The judges were:

Barbara Lombardo, retired executive editor of The Saratogian and The (Troy)

Record, journalism professor at Albany University, the State University of New York, Albany, NY

Donna Donovan, retired publisher of the Observer-Dispatch, Utica, NY

Mike Spain, retired associate editor of the Times Union, Albany, NY

Dave Bohrer, retired editor of The Meridian Star, Meridian, MS

Kathleen Norton McNulty, professional lecturer in journalism at Marist College School of Communication, Poughkeepsie, NY

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.

**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*  
Cold Spring—*Highlands Current*  
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 Times Telegram*  
Highland—*Highlands*  
Hornell/Wellsville—*The Spectator*  
Hudson—*Register-Star*  
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/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*  
Olean—*The Times Herald*  
Oneida—*Oneida Daily Dispatch*  
Oswego—*The Palladium Times*  
Plattsburgh—*Press-Republican*  
Poughkeepsie—*Poughkeepsie Journal*  
Ravena—*The Ravena News-Herald*  
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*  
Troy—*The Record*  
Utica—*Observer-Dispatch*  
Watertown—*Watertown Daily Times*  
White Plains—*The Journal News*

### **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:

Adirondack Daily Enterprise		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	Distinguished Beat Reporting	Aaron Cerbone
Under 10,000	Distinguished Editorial Writing	Peter Crowley
Under 10,000	Distinguished Community Service	Peter Crowley, Diane Chase, Michael Miller
Under 10,000	Distinguished Sports Supplement	Andy Flynn
The Citizen, Auburn		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	Distinguished Sports Column Writing	Chris Sciria
Under 10,000	Distinguished State Government Coverage	Robert Harding
Under 10,000	Distinguished Sports Photography	Kevin Rivoli
Under 10,000	Distinguished Online Blog	Robert Harding

The Daily News, Batavia		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	Distinguished Breaking News Coverage	Brendan McDonough, Matt Leader, Alex Brasky, Scott DeSmit, Brian Quinn, Ben Beagle, Michelle Dries, Matt Surtel
Highlands Current		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	Distinguished Investigative Reporting	Leonard Sparks
Under 10,000	Distinguished Business Reporting	Jeff Simms, Victoria Shannon, Leonard Sparks, Michael Turton
Under 10,000	Distinguished Sports Writing	Michael Turton
Under 10,000	Distinguished Column Writing	Brian PJ Cronin
Under 10,000	Distinguished Feature Photography	Ross Corsair
Under 10,000	Distinguished Page Design/Presentation	Pierce Strudler
The Ithaca Journal		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	Distinguished Feature Writing	Katie Borrelli
Finger Lakes Times, Geneva		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	Distinguished News Photography	Spencer Tullis
Under 10,000	Distinguished Online Photo Gallery	Spencer Tullis
Under 10,000	Distinguished Headline Writing	Mike Cutillo
Under 10,000	Distinguished Feature Supplement	Newsroom Staff
Niagara Gazette		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
Under 10,000	Distinguished Feature Photography	James Neiss
Under 10,000	Distinguished Sports Writing	Khari Demos
Press-Republican, Plattsburgh		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Beat Reporting	Robin Caudell
Press & Sun Bulletin, Binghamton		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Sports Column Writing	Kevin Stevens
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Feature Writing	Anthony Borrelli
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Business Reporting	Jeff Platsky

The Post Star, Glens Falls		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Online Blog	Will Doolittle
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Community Service	Chad Arnold, Will Doolittle
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Headline Writing	Will Doolittle
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Column Writing	Ken Tingley
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Breaking News Coverage	Michael Goot, Adam Colver
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Page Design/Presentation	Adam Colver, Jackson Gerker
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished News Photography	Jackson Gerker
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Investigative Reporting	Kathleen Moore
10,000 – 24,999	Distinguished Editorial Writing	Ken Tingley
Observer Dispatch, Utica		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Online Photo Gallery	Alex Cooper
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Sports Photography	Alex Cooper
Poughkeepsie Journal		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Sports Writing	Stephen Hayes
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Beat Reporting	Katelyn Cordero
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Business Reporting	Saba Ali
Staten Island Advance		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Community Service	Staff
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Feature Supplement	Staff
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Investigative Reporting	Annalise Knudson, Ann Marie Barron, Kristin Dalton, Cassandra Sommer
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Online Photo Gallery	Alexandria Salmieri, Jan Somma-Hammel
The Daily Gazette, Schenectady		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished News Supplement	Indiana Nash, John Thorpe, Erica Miller, Peter Barber
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Sports Column Writing	Mike MacAdam
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Editorial Writing	Mark Mahoney

The Journal News, White Plains		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Live Sports Coverage	Mike Dougherty, Josh Tomson
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Feature Photography	John Meore
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Breaking News Coverage	Journal News and USA TODAY Network New York Staff
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Sports Photography	Frank Becerra Jr.
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished News Photography	Seth Harrison, Peter Carr
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Feature Writing	Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, Ashley Biviano, Adria Walker
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation	Tania Savayan, Liz Johnson, Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, Shaylah Brown, Carrie Yale, Ann Marie Caruso, Joe Lamberti
25,000 – 49,999	Distinguished Column Writing	David McKay Wilson
The Post-Standard, Syracuse		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Online Blog	Charlie Miller
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Beat Reporting	James Mulder
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Feature Writing	Marnie Eisenstadt
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Community Service	Tim Knauss
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Live Sports Coverage	Chris Carlson, Mike Waters, Donna Ditota, Dennis Nett, Brent Axe, Scott Schild
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Sports Writing	Chris Carlson
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Breaking News Coverage	Chris Libonati, Patrick Lohmann, Dennis Nett, Scott Schild, Marnie Eisenstadt, Jacob Pucci, Steve Billmyer, Teri Weaver, Doug Dowty, Tim Knauss
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Business Reporting	Chris Baker
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished News Photography	Scott Schild
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Page Design/Presentation	Sue Santola
Times Herald-Record, Middletown		
Circulation Class	Category	Winners
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Headline Writing	Beth Kalet

<b>Times Union, Albany</b>		
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Sports Column Writing	Herb Terns
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Feature Photography	Will Waldron
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Sports Photography	Lori Van Buren
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Online Photo Gallery	Paul Buckowski
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished State Government Coverage	Brendan J. Lyons
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Sports Supplement	Staff
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Feature Supplement	Staff
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Editorial Writing	Jay Jochnowitz
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation	Cathleen F. Crowley, Bethany Bump
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Column Writing	Casey Seiler
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished Investigative Reporting	Chris Bragg
50,000 – 75,000	Distinguished News Supplement	Staff
<b>Democrat &amp; Chronicle, Rochester</b>		
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Online Photo Gallery	Shawn Dowd, Jamie Germano, Tina McIntyre-Yee
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Sports Supplement	James Johnson, Spencer Holladay, Steve Bradley, Brodie Inguatiato, Jamie Germano
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation	Tracy Schumacher, Tina MacIntyre-Yee
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Sports Photography	Shawn Dowd
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Feature Photography	Shawn Dowd
75,000 – and over	Distinguished News Photography	Shawn Dowd
75,000 – and over	Distinguished State Government Coverage	David Robinson, Joseph Spector, Jon Campbell
<b>Newsday, Long Island</b>		
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Business Reporting	James T. Madore
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Sports Column Writing	Barbara Barker
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Investigative Reporting	Paul LaRocco, David M. Scwartz, Jeffrey Basinger
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Live Sports Coverage	Tim Healey
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Page Design/Presentation	Ed Amantia, Hillary Raskin
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Sports Writing	Jim Baumbach, Laura Albanese
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Community Service	Staff
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Beat Reporting	Mark Harrington

<b>Buffalo News</b>		
<b>Circulation Class</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Column Writing	Sean Kirst
75,000 – and over	Distinguished Feature Writing	Dan Herbeck, Lou Michel