

New Hampshire Press Association Distinguished Journalism Contest 2023 Professional Division

Contest Deadline:

Midnight, Monday, March 4, 2024

Contest Period:

January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023

Submissions:

All entries must be entered online at

www.newspapercontest.com/Contests/NewHampshirePressAssociation.aspx

No mail-in entries will be accepted.

Eligibility:

All New Hampshire Press Association regular members in good standing may submit entries. All entries must be original from your organization. They must be conceived and written by organization staff members. Freelance work is allowed only if it appears exclusively in your news product.

Entrant Classes:

Class 1 - Large news organizations - editorial staff of five or more. (Paying dues of \$225)

Class 2 - Small news organizations - editorial staff of four or less. (Paying dues of \$75)

Freelance submissions:

Freelance members of the New Hampshire Press Association are allowed to submit entries provided their work is not included in any other submission from another Association member. Also, work expressly commissioned and supervised by another Association member cannot be submitted individually by a freelance member without permission of the authorizing Association member. The class assigned to entries submitted by freelance journalists is determined by the class of the news organization for which the entry was produced. Freelance submissions published in large news organizations are Class 1. Freelance submissions published in small news organizations are Class 2.

Fees:

Per entry fees are determined by a combination of the type of award and a news organization's class.

There is a \$35 per entry fee, regardless of class, for each of the "Excellence" awards that recognize extraordinary achievement. Those awards are:

- First Amendment Award.
- Journalist of the year.
- Dennis Joos Memorial Award.
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Community Service Award.
- General Excellence
- Photographer of the year.

For all other awards, the fee schedule is:

Class 1: \$12

Class 2: \$10

Entries are not valid until payment is received. The deadline for all payments, online and by check, is the contest closure date, midnight Monday, March 4, 2024.

You can choose to “Pay Now” on the contest’s website using a credit card or PayPal account or you can pay by check to New Hampshire Press Association, c/o Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications, 100 William Loeb Drive, Suite 1A, Manchester, NH, 03109.

Please Note: If paying online do not submit your payment until you have completed all your entries. **If you pay and then submit additional entries later, the online system will bill you for all the entries again, not just the new ones.**

Number of Entries:

Please refer to each award category for limits on the number of entries.

Winners:

Awards will be given in first, second, and third places. Judges have discretion to determine the number of winners, if any, in each category. Judges may declare there are no contest winners if there are insufficient entries in a category. There are no honorable mention awards.

News organizations will be notified in which categories they are finalists, that is having placed first, second or third, the week of May 12, 2024. An in-person awards banquet will be held in June with personalized plaques presented to the first-place winners and certificates to the second and third place winners.

Types of entries:

Entries can be uploaded in several file formats including .doc, .docx, .gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .mp3, .rtf, .wmv and .pdf.

If an entry consists of multiple .pdf files, please bundle them into a single document.

If you have a question about acceptable file types please ask at contest@pressnh.org. Upload as many files as are necessary to complete your entry, but refer to the specific category instructions for any limitations on the number of supporting files allowed. No single file upload can be larger than 100mb.

If your entry includes links to online content, enter the URLs in the URL boxes in the online entry form. As many as five links can be entered. If an entry includes more than five links, embed the additional links in a text document and upload that file into the entry form.

With each entry submission, please include the name(s) of the person(s) who should be credited for the work. These are the name(s) that will appear on the plaques and certificates awarded at the banquet. If there are more than three names, enter “staff”.

If your news organization has a paywall, include login information in the explanation field or with the supporting documentation so that judges can access the content. **Entries will be not be judged if there is a paywall and no login information is provided.**

Disqualifications:

An entry will be disqualified if the entry is not within the required date as indicated in the rules, payment is not made prior to the judging or the specific rules as outlined in each class are not followed. Newspapers will NOT be notified of entry disqualifications.

Once the contest has been judged, an award may be revoked if it becomes known that the entry was submitted in an incorrect division or altered since the original publication date. Entries must be submitted exactly as they were published.

No refunds will be issued.

Finally

Entering the contest gives the New Hampshire Press Association permission to publish the entries in print and online.

Any situation arising that is not covered by these rules will be settled by the judges. The decision of the judges is final.

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Award Categories

NHPA Professional Contest for calendar year 2023

Awards to be presented at the annual NHPA Distinguished Journalism Awards Banquet, scheduled for June 20, 2024, at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, St. Anselm College, Manchester.

1. **First Amendment Award** -- This award honors leadership on First Amendment issues. The award is presented to newsrooms or companies from all media for reporting, editorials, commentary and/or legal challenges that illuminate or uphold the First Amendment values or educate the public about the importance of free speech in a democratic society. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entries must consist of no more than five supporting assets — news stories, editorials, columns, photographs, graphics, multimedia and cartoons. Entries must include a cover letter of no more than 500 words describing the project and its results. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. **This is a single award combining both classes.** Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

2. **Journalist of the year** -- Awarded to the journalist from any medium -- broadcast, print or online -- who consistently produces outstanding news, analysis and/or commentary. This category honors a single journalist whose exceptional abilities, integrity and distinctive work brought honor to the profession within the past year. This award highlights a journalist who has produced a distinguished body of local work with exemplary depth, scope and significance. Entries must consist of no more than five supporting assets — news stories, editorials, columns, photographs, graphics, multimedia and cartoons. Entries must include a supporting cover letter of no more than 500 words written by the journalist's supervisor. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. **This is a single award combining both classes.** Each news organization may submit up to three candidates.

3. **Dennis Joos Memorial Award** -- This award honors a New Hampshire journalist who makes a unique personal sacrifice in pursuit of covering an event or issue of significance to his or her readers, viewers or listeners. The award recognizes an effort that separates itself from normal journalistic endeavors. Dennis Joos was the editor of the Colebrook News & Sentinel. He was one of four people shot and killed by Carl Drega on Aug. 19, 1997. Joos tried to disarm Drega, who was later shot and killed by police.

Previous winners include: In 2013, Seacoast Media Group photographer Deb Cram for a first-person column she wrote about her deeply personal childhood experiences with domestic and sexual abuse. That column became a one-act play performed at Seacoast Repertory Theatre and the play became a film presented at the New Hampshire Film Festival. In 2018, Laconia Daily Sun Managing Editor Roger Carroll for a series of firsthand stories about the state's mental health system. Carroll's three-part series drew from his own experience as he went through a personal crisis that landed him in the mental health system and gave him an opportunity to shed light on that system and reduce the stigma of people needing psychiatric care.

Entries must consist of no more than five supporting assets — news stories, editorials, columns, photographs, graphics, multimedia and cartoons. Entries must include a supporting cover letter of no

more than 500 words written by the journalist's supervisor explaining the extraordinary circumstances justifying this award. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. **This is a single award combining both classes.** Each news organization may submit one candidate.

4. Lifetime achievement Award -- This award honors reporters and editors for a career of distinguished contributions to New Hampshire journalism. This award is the most prestigious of all awards presented by the NHPA. It is an acknowledgment of superior achievement in an entire career that sets recipients apart from other New Hampshire journalists. Through their body of work, winners will have advanced the pursuit of improving New Hampshire journalism and established a recognized resume of achievement.

Entries must consist of no more than 10 supporting assets. These should include work examples and testimonials. Entries must also consist of a cover letter of no more than 500 words explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio, and video files, or submitted as links to online content. **This is a single award combining both classes.** Judges may pick more than one recipient. Each news organization may submit one candidate.

5. Community Service Award -- This award recognizes journalism that performs a public service through compelling coverage of a vital community issue or event, either by an individual member or by members who collaborated on a community service project. Entries should be above and beyond routine coverage and should contribute substantially to understanding or solution of community issues. Entrants will also be judged to what extent they furthered the welfare and progress of their communities.

Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entries must consist of no more than five supporting assets — news stories, editorials, columns, photographs, graphics, multimedia and cartoons. Entries must also include a cover letter of no more than 500 words describing the project and its results. Supporting documentation can be uploaded as document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

6. General Excellence – This award recognizes excellence in all aspects of multi-platform journalism, with awards given in each of two classifications: **Class 1 - Large news organizations (editorial staff of five FTE or more);** and **Class 2 - Small news organizations (editorial staff of four FTE or fewer).**

Organizations that publish print editions should submit one edition from the month of March 2023; one edition from the month of September 2023; and one 2023 edition of choice, along with a website url and username/password if needed.

Broadcast organizations must submit complete newscasts or news-related shows or a combination of newscasts and a special report. One from the month of March 2023; one from the month of September 2023; and one 2023 newscast or news-related show of choice. They may be uploaded as .mp3 or .wav files provided no single file is larger than 100mb, or supplied as links to online files.

Organizations are welcome to submit print, web and/or broadcast entries as described above.

7. Photographer of the year -- This award recognizes a photographer for consistently outstanding photography throughout the contest year. Judges will look for the best overall images emphasizing composition and news value as well as interest and impact of the subject matter. Breadth of subject matter will be an important consideration as well. The entry should consist of no more than six page .pdfs that show the date of publication. Individual .jpg image copies of the entered photos may be submitted to support the entry. No single file can be larger than 100mb. **This is a single award combining both news organization classes.**

8. Editorial writing -- Awarded to an individual for editorial writing on local subjects based on the quality of writing and clarity of thought. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entries must consist of three editorials submitted as .pdf files or links and include the writer's name and publication. The .pdf versions of the editorial pages where the editorials appear can be submitted individually or combined in a single document. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organizations may submit up to three editorial writers.

9. General news story -- This award recognizes a reporter or team for non-deadline reporting of a single event or issue. Entry may be a single report or series of reports. Judging will be based on community-wide importance, thoroughness of research and quality of writing. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entries must consist of no more than five supporting submissions — news stories, editorials, columns, photographs, graphics, multimedia and cartoons. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as documents, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

10. Spot news story -- This award recognizes a reporter or team for deadline reporting of a single event or issue. Judges consider interest, thoroughness, clarity of writing and impact of visual elements and presentation. Additional criteria include local appeal, thoroughness of news reporting considering time constraints, clarity and quality of writing. This category is intended for news stories for which advance planning is unlikely. It excludes government meeting coverage. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entry may be a single report or a series of no more than five reports published over no more than 24 hours. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as documents, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

11. Investigative story/series -- This award recognizes a reporter or team for in-depth, investigative reporting of an issue of importance to readers/viewers. An entry may be a single story, a one-day package, a series or multi-day sequence. Judges will consider clarity of presentation, quality of writing, scope of the news topic, significance of the subject matter, depth and quality of research, and potential for civic change. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entries must consist of no more than five supporting submissions — news stories, editorials, photographs, graphics, multimedia, and cartoons. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image,

audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

12. Crime/Court Reporting -- This award recognizes a reporter or team for non-deadline reporting of an event or issue specifically related to crime and/or the judicial system. Judges will consider the quality of writing and reporting, as well as the importance of the topic. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entry may be a single article/report or a series of no more than five articles/reports. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

13. Health Reporting -- This award recognizes a reporter or team for non-deadline reporting of a health event or issue. Judges will consider the quality of writing and reporting, as well as the importance of the topic. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entry may be a single article/report or a series of no more than five articles/reports. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

14. Environmental Reporting - This award recognizes a reporter or team for deadline or non-deadline reporting of an environmental issue, such as climate change, hazardous waste and water quality. Judges will consider the quality of writing and reporting, as well as topic selection. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entry may be a single article/report or a series of no more than five articles/reports. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

15. Feature Story -- This award recognizes a reporter or team for non-deadline feature reporting of an event, issue, or personality. Judges will consider the quality of writing and reporting excellence, as well as general interest and entertainment value. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entry should be a single article. Sidebars may also be submitted. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

16. Business Reporting -- This award recognizes a reporter or team for non-deadline reporting of a business, financial or economic event or issue with emphasis on clarity and relevance for the non-business reader. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entry may be a single article/report or a series of no more than five articles/reports. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

17. Arts & Entertainment Reporting --This award recognizes a reporter or team for non-deadline reporting of an entertainment or arts event or issue with an emphasis on clarity and relevance for those beyond the entertainment community. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entry may be a single article/report or a series of no more than five articles/reports. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

18. Government Reporting -- This award recognizes a reporter or team for non-deadline reporting on state or local government news or issues. Judges will consider how well entries educate the public about governmental operations that affect public policy outcomes and impact communities. Entries will be judged on general excellence, depth of reporting, quality of storytelling and resourcefulness. Entry may be a single article/report or a series of no more than five articles/reports. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

19. Political Reporting -- This award recognizes a reporter or team for non-deadline reporting on local and state elections, including the campaigns or issues significantly influencing those elections. Judges will consider how well entries educate the public about the candidates seeking public office or clarify issues. Entries will be judged on general excellence, depth of reporting, quality of storytelling and resourcefulness. Entry may be a single article/report or a series of no more than five articles/reports. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

20. Columnist of the Year -- This award recognizes outstanding writing by a regularly scheduled non-sports columnist. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entry should consist of three columns. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three candidates.

21. Rookie of the year -- This award recognizes a reporter/editor with fewer than 12 months of professional experience for outstanding achievement. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entry may be a series of no more than five articles/reports. Entries may include a cover letter of no more than 500 words describing the editor's/reporter's accomplishments. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as documents, image, audio and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three candidates.

22. Sports Writing -- This award recognizes outstanding writing on a sports-related topic, including sports news, game story, feature story or column. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Supporting documentation may be uploaded as a document, image, audio

and video files, or submitted as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

23. Sports Photo – This award recognizes excellence in sports photography. Entries may include non-deadline photo of a single sports event, personality, or issue; or a deadline photo taken at a game or single sports event. Content may be published in any combination of print, online, social media or broadcast. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

24. General News Photo -- This award recognizes a photographer for a non-deadline photo of a single news event or issue. Judges will look for the best overall image emphasizing composition and news value. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or social media. The entry should consist of a single image uploaded as part of a page .pdf that clearly shows the date of publication or a link to its online publication. Individual .jpg image copies of the entered photos may be submitted to support the entry. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

25. Spot News Photo -- This award recognizes a photographer for a deadline photo of a single news event. Judges will look for the best overall image emphasizing composition and news value. Content may be published in any combination of print, online, social media or broadcast. The entry should consist of a single image uploaded as part of a page .pdf that clearly shows the date of publication or a link to its online publication. Individual .jpg image copies of the entered photos may be submitted to support the entry. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

26. Feature Photo -- This award recognizes a photographer for a non-deadline feature photo of a single news event or issue. Judges will look for the best overall image emphasizing composition and emotional impact. Content may be published in any combination of print, online, social media or broadcast. The entries should consist of a single image uploaded as part of a page .pdf that clearly shows the date of publication or a link to its online publication. Individual .jpg image copies of the entered photos may be submitted to support the entry. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Individual photographers may submit up to three entries.

27. Photo essay -- This award recognizes a photographer(s) for a non-deadline series of published photos of a single news event or issue. Judges will look for the best overall images emphasizing composition and news value as well as interest and impact of the subject matter. Photos may be taken by one or more photographers. The entry should consist of multiple images uploaded as part of a page .pdf that clearly shows the date of publication. Individual .jpg image copies of the entered photos may be submitted to support the entry. Entries may include a cover letter of no more than 500 words describing the photo. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

28. Graphic/Cartoon/Illustration -- This award recognizes the best creativity and execution in the design and use of a graphic, cartoon or illustration. This should be a pre-planned photograph or of a

combination of graphic-design elements that enhance a story or featured group of stories. Entries may include hand-drawn, computer-drawn or electronically manipulated photographic images published during the contest year. Content can be published in any combination of print, online, social media or broadcast. The entry should consist of an image(s) uploaded as a .pdf file showing the graphic/cartoon/illustration in context and date of publication; or a link to the graphic/cartoon/illustrations online use. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

29. **Best Design** – This award recognizes excellent design in print. Entries may include a single front page, magazine cover, feature page, sports page or special section cover. Judges will look for excellence in layout, design and typography as well as content and news interest. Pages should demonstrate strong eye appeal and stimulate reader interest. Entry should consist of a single cover or page from throughout the contest year, uploaded as a .pdf file. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

30. **Best Use of Audio or Podcast** -- This award recognizes the outstanding use of podcasts or other forms of audio associated with news, sports, features, or commentary. Entries will be judged for content value, originality, audio editing, sound design and effective storytelling. Entries may include a cover letter of no more than 500 words describing how the coverage was organized and carried out. Entries should be submitted as a single audio file no larger than 100mbs or as a link to online content.

A limited series podcast that has not concluded by Dec. 31, 2020, may still be submitted for this year's contest. Entries for a recurring podcast should consist of no more than three podcast editions submitted as individual audio files no larger than 100mbs or as links to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

31. **Best Use of Video** -- This award recognizes the outstanding use of video in news, sports, features or commentary. Entries will be judged for content value, originality, video editing, audio editing, sound design and effective storytelling. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Entries may include a cover letter of no more than 500 words describing how the coverage was organized and carried out. Entries should be submitted as a single video file no larger than 100mbs or as a link to online content. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.

32 - **Best Use of Social Media** -- This award recognizes outstanding use of social media platforms to assist in reporting a story, extend a story's reach to a wider audience, and/or promote the overall mission of the news organization. Content may be published in any combination of print, online or broadcast. Up to five supporting documents/files may be uploaded or supplied as links. This award will be presented in each of the two news organization classes. Each news organization may submit up to three entries.