



RHODE ISLAND  
**PRESS**  
ASSOCIATION

## 2017 EDITORIAL CONTEST

Awards Banquet on Friday, April 27, 2018 at 6 p.m.  
Quonset "O" Club, North Kingstown, Rhode Island

## FROM THE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the 2017 Rhode Island Press Association Editorial Contest.

The online contest platform – <https://awards.newportri.com> – remains the same as last year.

You have until 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 23, 2018 to enter your material, but we encourage submitting entries early.

This year's contest will feature a total of 42 categories, including two new photography categories, honoring best arts & entertainment photo and best food photo.

We encourage all members to nominate individual journalists from their news organizations for special recognition as "Distinguished reporters of the year," "Notable new reporter of the year" and "Photographer of the Year."

As always, we welcome suggestions for improving future contests.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our annual banquet, April 27, 2018 at the Quonset "O" Club in North Kingstown.

Until then, thank you for supporting the Rhode Island Press Association and best of luck in this year's contest.

-Michael McDermott  
Vice President, Rhode Island Press Association

### Call for entries for 2017 RIPA Scholarship

The Rhode Island Press Association is seeking applications for its annual \$1,000 scholarship, which is awarded to an outstanding college student who is preparing for a career in print journalism. Applications must be received by Friday, March 30.

Students need not be majoring in journalism to be eligible. Instead, judges are looking for academic achievement and demonstrated interest in print journalism, such as work on school or community newspapers.

Nominees must be residents of Rhode Island attending any four-year college or university or nonresidents enrolled at a Rhode Island college or university who are entering the 2017-18 academic year as juniors, seniors or full-time graduate students. The scholarship money is paid directly to the student.

Interested students should send a letter of nomination from a college official or instructor detailing the student's accomplishments, cover letter, resumé and samples of work, including newspaper stories, classroom assignments or any other supporting material, to Dan Kittredge, managing editor, Independent Newspapers, P.O. Box 5679, Wakefield, RI 02880.

A panel of editors and journalists will judge the nominations. The R.I. Press Association will award the scholarship at its annual banquet April 27.

## RIPA NEWS & NOTES



### Journalism Hall of Fame accepting nominees

The Rhode Island Press Association is accepting nominations for the Journalism Hall of Fame.

This is a lifetime achievement award for someone who has made significant contributions to journalism through reporting, editing, photography, design, or education; or who has led innovative changes within a news organization, or advocated for the First Amendment.

Nominees must have made a substantial impact on journalism within Rhode Island or be a Rhode Islander who has made such contributions to the field out of the state. Nominees must be 55 years or older. Historic nominees, who have been dead for 50 years or more, also will be considered.

A maximum of three inductees are selected each year by a Hall of Fame committee of members in good standing in the Rhode Island Press Association.

To nominate a candidate, provide a 200-300 word biography of the candidate explaining why he/she meets the criteria and should be in the Hall of Fame. Include any applicable supporting materials, such as story clips. If several individuals from a news organization want to nominate a candidate, they need only send one nomination form. If the candidate is selected, the committee will require a more complete biography and a photo. This material is used to produce the Hall of Fame plaque.

The Rhode Island Press Association Hall of Fame accepts nominations throughout the year for the Rhode Island Journalism Hall of Fame.

The deadline for this year's submissions is Dec. 31, 2018.

The nominee will be placed on a list of potential inductees for at least one year before he/she becomes eligible to be considered. The name may remain on this list for no longer than six years. If he/she is not selected for inclusion, the committee could choose to drop the name from the list or vote to keep it on the list for an additional four years.

Any member of the press association may submit a nomination. (If the newspaper is a paid member, its news employees are members.)

For more information, and to submit nominations, email Len Levin at [Lenlevin5@hotmail.com](mailto:Lenlevin5@hotmail.com). The Rhode Island Press Association will honor its 2017 Hall of Fame inductees at its annual banquet April 27.

# Rhode Island Press Association

## 2017 Editorial Contest Rules & Guidelines

### GENERAL RULES

1. Competition is open only to member organizations of the Rhode Island Press Association in good standing. Employees and regular contributors of member publications are considered staff for the purposes of this contest. Individual entries will not be accepted. Associate members who have created material for a member organization, however, may appeal to that member organization to submit that material on their behalf as part of its overall entries in the contest.

2. Material submitted must have been published between Jan. 1, 2017, and Dec. 31, 2017, either in print or online, EXCEPT in portfolio entries as specified.

3. Publications may enter up to three items per category, unless otherwise indicated in the category descriptions. Each writer, photographer or designer is limited to one entry per category. Each entry may be entered in one category only.

4. Each publication is allowed to enter

only one multiple-bylined story, which will be awarded to the organization and not the individual members of that organization who contributed to the entry, per category.

5. All Writing, Photography and Design entries will be submitted online at: <https://awards.newportri.com>.

6. Print publications will be mailed for Distinction categories. Mailed entries should be sent to: RIPA 2017 Editorial Awards, c/o Mike McDermott, The Providence Journal news department, 75 Fountain St., Providence, RI 02902.

7. All publications are judged together by an out-of-state press association. Judges will be directed to award first, second and third place in each category, although they will have discretion to limit the number of finalists if they judge the quality of the category to be weak.

8. In categories that receive a total of either three (3) or four (4) entries, judges will be directed to award only a first-place winner. Categories that do not draw at least three (3) entries will not be judged.

9. In categories with more than (15) entries, judges will be allowed, at their discretion, to award one honorable mention if the quality of the entries merit it. In categories that receive less than fifteen (15) entries, judges will be directed not to award an honorable mention.

### PHOTO ENTRY RULES

1. Each photographer is limited to no more than one (1) entry per category.

2. Publications may only submit up to three entries in each photo category.

3. Eligible entrants must be full- or part-time employees, or regular contributors of member publications.

4. Entries must be work created specifically for the member news organization.

### CONTEST FEES

The fee is \$20 for the first entry from each publication (i.e., individual newspaper flag) and \$10 for each subsequent entry. Entry fees may be paid with cash or with a check, mailed separately.

## Frequently asked questions

### Things you will need before entering:

- Your news organization must be a member in good standing with the Rhode Island Press Association.

- Be sure your entry is in the correct format. Print stories and photographs must be submitted as PDFs, no larger than 50 MB. View our Uploading Help section for more information.

- In specified categories that require a nomination letter, you will upload a WORD DOCUMENT.

- In specified categories, supplementary links may be provided for online material or videos. For sites with pay-walls, please provide login and password information to allow judges unlimited access.

### What is the entry fee?

\$20 for the first submission from a publication; \$10 for each subsequent entry

### What forms of payments do you accept?

Payment may be made by cash, check

or money orders payable to: The Rhode Island Press Association.

Entrants paying by check should include the award confirmation number in the memo line. Multiple confirmation numbers should be listed on note accompanying the check. (The entry confirmation number will be on your email receipt.)

No refunds will be issued.

### When are entries due?

The contest deadline is 11:59 p.m. Feb. 23. All entries must be submitted online, in PDF format, by this deadline. In specified categories that require mailing print publications, entries must be received by the Feb. 23 deadline. These entries can be delivered to the Providence Journal, care of Michael McDermott (see above in "General Rules" for mailing address.)

### Who judges the contest?

The Idaho Press Association provides judges for almost all categories and publications.

The Community Outreach Award and Distinction categories are judged by The New England Newspapers and Press Association.

### When are winners notified?

Publications will be notified whether they have won awards in any categories in late March.

First-, second- and third-place winners will be announced at the RIPA annual awards banquet on April 27.

The winner of the Community Outreach Award and the RIPA scholarship are announced at the banquet

### When is this year's banquet?

The Rhode Island Press Association will host its annual awards banquet on Friday, April 27, 2017 at the Quonset "O" Club, located at 200 Lt James Brown Road in North Kingstown. Cocktails and appetizers will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. Dinner will be served beginning at 7 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person, with a cash bar.

Please mail registration information and payment (checks only, please do NOT send cash in the mail) no later than Friday, April 20 to:

Sarah Francis, RIPA Treasurer,  
c/o Rhode Island Monthly,  
717 Allens Ave., Suite 105,  
Providence, RI 02905.

# Contest Categories

## WRITING

### 1. NEWS STORY (SHORT)

Recognizes the best single news story measuring fewer than 1,000 words on a local subject. Entries may include informational sidebars or features relating to the main story appearing in a single issue. Judging will be based on the depth of information presented, clarity of writing and evidence of enterprise.

### 2. NEWS STORY (IN-DEPTH)

Recognizes the best single news story measuring more than 1,000 words on a local subject. Entries may include informational sidebars or features relating to the main story appearing in a single issue. Judging will be based on the depth of information presented, clarity of writing and evidence of enterprise.

### 3. SPOT NEWS STORY

Recognizes the best single spot news story on a local subject. Entries may include informational sidebars or features relating to the main story appearing in a single issue. Judging will be based on depth of information gathered, clarity of writing and evidence of enterprise.

### 4. INVESTIGATIVE/ANALYTICAL NEWS STORY

Recognizes an outstanding story that involves investigative, analytical or other in-depth reporting published on one day. Entries in this category must go beyond first-day news stories in approach and execution. Entry may include any sidebars. Judging will be based on the quality of reporting, depth of information presented and enterprise.

### 5. SINGLE-TOPIC SERIES

Recognizes excellence in ongoing, in-depth coverage of one particular issue or news event. The series may be investigative or analytical -- or may simply showcase a news organization's in-depth reporting on a given topic. Judging will be based on the quality of reporting and enterprise shown in providing readers with information that is not readily available elsewhere. Consideration will be given for use of digital tools to enhance coverage. Entries are limited to 10 items, including



digital elements. (No supplemental exhibits, please.) Entries may include a brief nomination letter detailing coverage.

### 6. BUSINESS STORY

Recognizes the best single news or feature story or stories on a local topic dealing with science or health care published in a single issue. Judging will be based on style and technique of writing, originality and enterprise.

### 7. EDUCATION STORY

Recognizes the best single news or feature education story or stories on a local topic appearing in a single issue. Judging will be based on style and technique of writing, originality and enterprise.

### 8. RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY STORY

Recognizes the best single news or feature story or stories on a local religious or spirituality topic published in a single issue. Judging will be based on style and technique of writing, originality and enterprise.

### 9. REPORTING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Recognizes best single news or feature story or stories on local topic dealing with the environment published in a single issue. Judging will be based on style and technique of writing, originality and enterprise.

### 10. SCIENCE/HEALTH CARE STORY

Recognizes the best single news or feature story or stories on a local topic dealing with science or health care published in a single issue. Judging will be based on style and technique of writing, originality and enterprise.

### 11. PROFILE OR PERSONALITY STORY

Recognizes the best single personality piece or profile of a local subject. Judging will be based on writing style, originality and extent to which piece conveys subject's character, style or purpose.

### 12. FEATURE STORY (SHORT)

Recognizes the best feature story measuring 1,000 words or less on a topic of local interest published in a single issue. Judging will be based on style and technique of writing, originality and enterprise.

### 13. FEATURE STORY (IN-DEPTH)

Recognizes the best feature story measuring more than 1,000 words on a topic of local interest appearing in a single issue. Judging will be based on style and technique of writing, originality and enterprise.

# Contest Categories

## WRITING (CONTINUED)

### 14. ARTS REVIEW OR CRITICISM

Recognizes the outstanding single critique or review of a local theater, dance or musical performance, gallery show, literary work, film, musical recording or other art form. Entries should convey a vital sense of the subject, effective writing style and depth of insight.

### 15. ARTS OR ENTERTAINMENT STORY

Recognizes outstanding arts and entertainment reporting or feature writing on a local topic, artist or entertainer. Judging will be based on originality, writing style and depth of insight.

### 16. FOOD & DINING STORY

Recognizes outstanding reporting on a topic related to food or dining. Judging will be based on style and technique of writing, originality and enterprise.

### 17. UNIQUE/MOST UNEXPECTED STORY

Recognizes the most unexpected, humorous, unique or creative stories. Judges consider quality of writing, originality and enterprise.

### 18. SPORTS STORY

Recognizes outstanding reporting of a story or stories about a sporting event or a local aspect of a trend in spectator or participatory sports or general recreation published in a single issue. Judging will be based on writing style, originality and enterprise, as well as the ability to communicate to both sports fans and non-sports fans.

### 19. SPORTS FEATURE STORY

Recognizes an outstanding local feature story or personality piece involving an organized sports or recreation program, including those examining a local aspect of a trend in spectator or participatory sport or general recreation. Judging will be based on technique and style of writing, originality and enterprise.

### 20. SPORTS COLUMNIST

Recognizes outstanding sports columnists. Judging will be based on writing style, originality and insight. Each writer's entry should include three (3) different

columns. A sports columnist's work should appear at least on a monthly basis to qualify for entry.

### 21. EDITORIAL WRITER

Recognizes outstanding editorial writing on local subjects. Each writer's entry should include three (3) different editorials. Judging will be based on the quality and clarity of writing and the depth of research. Entries must have been clearly published as editorials.

### 22. NEWS/FEATURES COLUMNIST

Recognizes outstanding column writing by a regular news or features columnist. Judging will be based on writing style, originality and insight. Each entry should include three examples of the writer's work. The columnist's work should be published at least once a month to qualify.

### 23. ARTS/NICHE COLUMNIST

Recognizes outstanding writing by an arts of niche columnist. Judging will be based on writing style, originality and expertise in the topic area. Each entry should include three examples of the writer's work. The columnist's work should be published at least once a month to qualify.

### 24. HEADLINE WRITING

Recognizes outstanding headline writing on local subjects only (no wire/AP copy). Entries consist of three (3) different headlines from the same publication during the entry period (all of 2013). Judging is based on creativity, originality and accurate representation of story content.

Headlines MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY STORY.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

### 25. GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Recognizes an outstanding photograph of an anticipated event.

### 26. SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Recognizes an outstanding photograph of a spot news event.

### 27. FEATURE PHOTO

Recognizes an outstanding photograph,

not necessarily of a specific news event. Judging will be based on skill and imagination.

### 28. PERSONALITY PHOTO OR PORTRAIT

Recognizes an outstanding portrait or profile photo of a local person.

### 29. SPORTS PHOTO

Recognizes an outstanding photograph of a local sports event.

### 30. PHOTO SERIES/PICTURE STORY

Recognizes an outstanding grouping of photographs that tells a story or covers one topic (with or without text) published in a single issue.

### 31. ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT PHOTO

Recognizes an outstanding photograph of an event including, but not limited to, theatrical performance, concerts and other various artistic displays and/or events.

### 32. FOOD PHOTO

Recognizes an outstanding feature photograph of a food item(s) and/or food environment.

## DESIGN

### 33. BEST NEWSPAPER FRONT PAGE

Recognizes the best front page of one newspaper published during the contest period. Judges will consider news content and organization, use of photography, headlines, design and layout.

### 34. BEST COVER

Recognizes the best cover of a publication. Entrants may include magazines, alternative newspapers or other qualified publications that appear at least monthly. Section covers are not eligible. Judges will consider use of photography, headlines, design and visual impact.

# Contest Categories



## 41: PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

This portfolio entry honors a photographer for outstanding work in 2015. Submit 10 photographs that showcase the nominee's skills, creativity and versatility. This is open to those who work on staff or are regular contributors to photography for the news organization. One entry per publication.

## 42. COMMUNITY OUTREACH AWARD

Recognizes the outstanding work member organizations have done outside of the printed page to benefit or engage the community that they serve. Entries should include a letter from either an editor or the publisher of the publication explaining what the effort was, why it was done and what effect (if any) it had on the community. Entries may also include any related coverage before, during or after the event and any results achieved through this event. One entry per publication.

The winning organization will be honored at the end of the night with a check for \$500 to the charity of the organization's choice.

Judges will consider whether the nominee has demonstrated outstanding achievement in community outreach and engagement with a project, campaign or event.



## 35. BEST FEATURE FRONT PAGE

Recognizes the best front page of one feature or life section for each publication published during the contest period. Judges will consider news content and organization, use of photography, headlines, design and layout.

## 36. BEST SPORTS FRONT PAGE

Recognizes the best front page of one sports section for each publication published during the contest period. Judges will consider news content and organization, use of photography, headlines, design and layout.

## DISTINCTION

## 37. SPECIAL SECTION

Recognizes an outstanding special section written and produced entirely by a newspaper's staff on a particular topic or commemorating a local event, anniversary or observation. Entries should demonstrate good planning, strong writing and design. (One entry per publication.)

## 38. BEST DIGITAL PRESENTATION

Recognizes an outstanding story or collection of stories, including sidebars, presented in a digital format that complements work done in print on a single topic or area of coverage. Entry should

## 39: DISTINGUISHED REPORTER OF THE YEAR

This portfolio entry honors a reporter with 10 or more years' experience in journalism. Submit up to 10 examples of work in the last five years that showcase reporting, writing and storytelling skills on print and digital platforms. Judging will be based on the nominee's command of the basics of news reporting, enterprise and versatility. Nomination letter required. (One entry per publication.)

## 40: NOTABLE NEW REPORTER OF THE YEAR

This portfolio entry honors a reporter with less than five years' experience in journalism. Submit up to 5 examples of work in the last two years that showcase reporting, writing and storytelling skills on print and digital platforms. Judges will consider a nominee's growing command of reporting skills, enterprise and versatility. Nomination letter required. One entry per publication.

# Rhode Island Press Association

## 2017 Editorial Contest Entry Form

Please use this form to keep track of your contest entries. If you are paying by check, rather than online, please include this form with your check. Indicate the number of entries submitted in the space provided.

### WRITING

- 1. News Story (short)
- 2. News Story (in-depth)
- 3. Spot News Story
- 4. Investigative/Analytical News Story
- 5. Single-Topic Series
- 6. Business Story
- 7. Education Story
- 8. Religion And Spirituality Story
- 9. Reporting On The Environment
- 10. Science/ Health Care Story
- 11. Profile Or Personality Story
- 12. Feature Story (short)
- 13. Feature Story (In-depth)
- 14. Arts Review or Criticism
- 15. Arts or Entertainment Story
- 16. Food & Dining Story
- 17. Unique/Most Unexpected Story
- 18. Sports Story
- 19. Sports Feature Story
- 20. Sports Columnist
- 21. Editorial Writer
- 22. News/Features Columnist
- 23. Arts/Niche Columnist
- 24. Headline Writing

### 32. Food Photo

### DESIGN

- 33. Best Newspaper Front Page
- 34. Best Cover
- 35. Best Feature Front Page
- 36. Best Sports Front Page

### DISTINCTION

- 37. Special Section
- 38. Best Digital Presentation
- 39: Distinguished Reporter of the Year
- 40: Notable New Journalist of the Year
- 41: Photographer of the Year
- 42. Community Outreach Award (Free to enter)

### PHOTOGRAPHY

- 25. General News Photo
- 26. Spot News Photo
- 27. Feature Photo
- 28. Personality Photo or Portrait
- 29. Sports Photo
- 30. Photo Series/ Picture Story
- 31. Arts & Entertainment Photo

Payment may be made by mailing a check to: RIPA 2017 Editorial Awards, c/o Mike McDermott, The Providence Journal news department; 75 Fountain St., Providence, RI, 02902.

If you are paying by check, write the entry confirmation number in the memo space. If paying for multiple entries with one check, please include a note listing all award confirmation numbers the check covers.

**DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 23, 2018.**

Publishing Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of contest coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/e-mail contact: \_\_\_\_\_

List each publication entered:

- 1.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.) \_\_\_\_\_

### FEE CALCULATOR

\* First-entry fee (paid once per publication entered) Number of publications \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 each \$\_\_\_\_\_

\* Additional Entry Fees (Categories 1-42) Number of entries \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 per entry \$\_\_\_\_\_

\* Community Outreach Award (Category 43) Entered? (Circle one) YES NO

Total amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL OR DELIVER THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

RIPA 2017 Editorial Awards, c/o Mike McDermott,  
The Providence Journal news department;  
75 Fountain St., Providence, RI, 02902