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

General Rules

1. Competition is open only to member organizations of the Rhode Island Press Association. Honorable mentions, if any, will receive less than $150 in total.

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 only one category. Each publication may enter up to three (3) entries per category. Each entry may have one to three authors. Each publication may enter in each of the financial news, feature, news, sports, and opinion categories at least one entry only. Each entry may have one to three authors.

4. Publications are allowed to enter only one multiple-filed 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 judged by a contracted graphic design firm. All production work will be served beginning at 7 p.m. Dinner will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. Payment may be made by cash, check, or with a cash, check, or credit card. On-Site rental is limited to the first 100 registrants. The last entry confirmation number will be on your email receipt.

6. Print publications will be mailed for Distinction categories. Mailed entries will not be accepted. Associate members are considered at the member news organization. Associate members must be affiliated with an RIPA member publication.

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 first-place winners. Categories that do not draw at least three (3) entries will not be judged.

9. In categories with more than 15 (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 the member news organization.

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 staff) and $10 for each subsequent entry (including web sites or staff assigned to other publications). Payments may be made by cash, check, or with a check, mailed separately.

When are winners notified?

Publications will be notified whether they have won awards in any categories at least three (3) weeks before the contest deadline.

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, the John McInnis Cup, will be 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.

Rhode Island Press Association
2017 Editorial Contest Rules & Guidelines
**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 related 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 related 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 style and originality of 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.

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. Entries may include any sidebars. Judging will be based on quality of reporting, depth of information presented and enterprise.

5. **SINGLE-TOPEIC 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 show/ case a news organization’s in-depth reporting on a given topic. Judging will be based on 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 columns. A sports columnist’s work should appear at least on a monthly basis to qualify for entry.

6. **BUSINESS STORY**  
Recognizes the best single news or feature business 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.

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 the 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 related to 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 profile or profile of a local subject. Judging will be based on style and technique of writing, originality and enterprise.

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.

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 arts event that conveys 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, the extent to which piece conveys subject’s character, style or purpose, and extent to which piece conveys subject’s character, style or purpose.

19. **SPORTS FEATURE STORY**  
Recognizes 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 columnist. 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 originality, writing style 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 enterprise. 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 a(n) 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.

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.

### DESIGN

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

34. **BEST COVER**  
Recognizes the best cover of a publication. Entries 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

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.

37. SPECIAL SECTION
Entry should be a combination of strong print reporting and an innovative digital presentation. Entry can include the use of digital tools that enhance a news organization's brand or ongoing reporting on a particular topic. Judging will be based on the quality of reporting, depth of information presented and enterprise — with a focus on how the digital presentation enhances the impact of the coverage. Entries should include a brief letter describing the material and a URL for the digital submission(s).

38. BEST DIGITAL PRESENTATION
Recognizes an outstanding story or ongoing reporting on a particular topic. Entry should be a combination of strong print reporting and an innovative digital presentation. Entry can include the use of digital tools that enhance a news organization's brand or ongoing reporting on a particular topic. Judging will be based on the quality of reporting, depth of information presented and enterprise — with a focus on how the digital presentation enhances the impact of the coverage. Entries should include a brief letter describing the material and a URL for the digital submission(s).

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 10 examples of work in the last two years that showcase reporting, writing and storytelling skills on print and digital platforms. Judging 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.

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 23, 2018.

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.

Publishing Company:
Address:
Name of contest coordinator:
Phone/e-mail contact:
Number of publications:
Number of entries:
List each publication entered:

1.)
2.)
3.)
4.)
5.)
6.)
7.)

* First-entry fee (paid once per publication entered)
* Additional Entry Fees (Categories 1-42)
* Community Outreach Award (Category 43)

FEE CALCULATOR

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