



January 10, 2024

Greetings Fellow NETPA Members and Friends,

The North & East Texas Press Association has been encouraging and promoting higher standards of journalism for over 97 years. You are all a big part of this family and we would love to see you at this year's conference.

If you have let your dues lapse or if you have never joined, now is the time to do so. Being part of this association, networking and learning more from each other is critical as we all strive to improve our products and grow revenue. If you are interested in joining, or if you need to renew your membership, please contact NETPA secretary Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette at wyndi.veigel@gmail.com and she will take care of everything.

We are excited to announce that the **2024 NETPA Better Newspaper Contest** will be continuing with an online submission and judging platform (newspapercontest.com/NETPA). Deadline for the contest is Friday, February 9, 2024. The contest offers a chance for our members to be recognized by colleagues who know what goes into putting out a quality publication. This year, the NETPA board has tried to amend and review rules for a fair and healthy competition, understanding the strengths and hurdles of the industry and rewarding the everyday efforts of the dedicated men and women in this field.

Please publicize the NETPA Scholarship in your print and online editions. Also, make sure your school newspaper and yearbook advisers near you receive this information. NETPA has had some outstanding scholarship recipients in the past and we look forward to encouraging the education of more dynamic young journalists.

Lastly, please take a few minutes this year and contact newspapers near you to encourage them to attend this year's conference.

We look forward to seeing you all in Granbury April 25-27, 2024. For more information go to www.netpa.us or contact me by phone or email.

Paul Gaudette
2024 NETPA Contest Chair
The Dublin Citizen
Office: (254)445-2515 | Cell: (254)485-4408
publisher@dublincitizen.com

2024 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

98th Annual NETPA Convention

Hilton Garden Inn Granbury, TX

April 25th - April 27th, 2024

Contest features: 13 Major Categories

General Excellence • Advertising • Column Writing • Editorials • Feature Stories
Headline Writing • Page Design • News Writing • Sports Writing • Sports
Coverage Feature Photo • Sports Photo • News Photo

Also includes awards for: Journalist of the Year, Photographer of the Year, Special
Section or Special Edition, Community Service and Sweepstakes

Entry Fee: \$25 per Newspaper

Regardless of Number of Entries

Fee MUST be Paid Before Contest Entries

Will be Judged

Entry Fee must be RECEIVED by

February 9, 2024

Mail Entry Fee to:

Paul Gaudette, The Dublin Citizen, 938 N. Patrick, Dublin, Texas 76446
Phone: (254)485-4408 | Email: publisher@dublincitizen.com

Or pay via credit card/debit card by email: wyndi.veigel@gmail.com

NETPA Contest Rules

Instructions on how to register and place your entries can be found at www.newspapercontest.com/NETPA

1. The contest is open to dues paying MEMBERS of the North and East Texas Press Association.
2. **CONTEST PERIOD:** All entries must have been originally published during calendar year 2023.
3. Except for Column Writing, no newspaper shall be given more than one award in any contest category where points awarded count toward the association's Sweepstakes Awards.
4. Entries published in more than one newspaper may be entered only one time – in the largest circulation category in which they appeared.
5. **ELIGIBILITY:** The contest is under the full supervision of NETPA and is open to all daily, semi-weekly, twin weekly and weekly newspapers that have paid their current 2024-2025 NETPA member dues statement.
 - a. **Dailies** are entitled to enter each contest. Newspapers publishing print editions and/or digital replicas (eEditions) four or more times per week will compete as dailies.
 - b. **Semi-Weekly Newspapers** Newspapers publishing print editions and/or digital replicas (eEditions) two or three times per week will compete as semiweeklies. Publications carrying one name but published twice each week must enter the semi-weekly division.
 - c. **Twin-Weekly Newspapers** (two weeklies bearing different names but published from the same office and distributed in the same town on different days of the week) must be treated as a semi-weekly and entered in the semi-weekly division.
 - d. **Digital editions of any edition may be included in any contest category.**
6. **DIVISION REQUIREMENTS:** A newspaper must compete in its circulation bracket based on the October 2023 U.S. Postal Service statement of total paid circulation.
7. **PREPARATION OF ENTRIES:** Only one (1) set of entries may be submitted in each category, except column writing, in which two (2) sets of entries may be submitted.

- a. **Register at www.newspapercontest.com/NETPA**
8. **NO EXPLANATION:** Letter and memos explaining entries may accompany ONLY Editorial and Community Service entries for which background information may be helpful to the contest judges.
9. **JUDGES:** Judges will be selected by the Contest Chairman and shall include professional journalists.
10. **AWARDS:** Awards will be announced Saturday, April 7, 2023, at Hilton Garden Inn in Granbury, Texas, during the North and East Texas Press Association Convention. First place winners will come forward to receive plaques. Certificates will be distributed to second, third and fourth place winners after the awards ceremony. Copies of the Winners' Circle with comments on each entry will be available at the conclusion of the awards brunch.

DIVISIONS

DIVISION 1: All daily newspapers regardless of circulation.

DIVISION 2: Semi and Tri Weeklies over 1500 circulation.

DIVISION 3: Semi and Tri Weeklies under 1500 circulation.

DIVISION 4: Weeklies over 1500 circulation.

DIVISION 5: Weeklies under 1500 circulation.

Circulation numbers will be used from TPA to assign divisions.

CATEGORIES

General Excellence: Submit two (2) complete issues published in calendar year 2023. One must be from June or November 2023, and one from any month of your choosing. Wire copy and non-staff produced copy will not be considered. Judging will be based on news coverage, quality of writing, composition/display, headlines, use of photos and art work, front page and specialty pages, such as editorial page, family life, social page and sports page. Judges will consider both issues as one entry.

Advertising: Each paper can submit entries from up to three advertisements (composed entirely by your staff) from any issues published in calendar year 2023. Judging will be based on the selling power of copy, originality/creativity, layout/design, use of photos, graphics and typography. Judges will consider all three ads as one entry.

Column Writing: Column writing can be humorous, serious, sports, etc. Submit two (2) entries of staff-written columns originally written and published in calendar year 2023. (NOTE: Two columnists may submit separate sets of entries.) Each set of columns will be judged as one entry. They may be written by your staff on any subject in any style. Judging will be based on lead, subject matter and quality and style of writing.

Editorials: Submit two (2) entries of staff-written editorials originally written and published in calendar year 2023. Judging will be based on quality and lead, style of writing, subject matter and local significance. Judges will consider both editorials as one entry.

Feature Story: Submit two (2) entries of staff-written features originally written and published in calendar year 2023. Judging will be based on content/subject matter, quality, style and lead, and presentation, including layout, design, headlines, typography, photos and use of color. Judges will consider both feature stories as one entry.

Headline Writing: Submit entries of your three best headlines from any issues published in calendar year 2023. The headlines must have been written by a regular staff member for a locally produced staff story. Headline entries can come from any section of regular edition. Judging will be based on accuracy, cleverness, creativity, impact and originality. Judges will consider all three headlines as one entry.

Page Design: Submit one PDF file of two complete editions from any month in 2023, including special sections or special pages. Judging will be based on readability, innovation, color, graphics, design features, typography, photos and other artwork. Judges will consider both editions as one entry.

News Writing: Submit full-page PDF files of two complete staff-written news stories published in calendar year 2023. Please ID submitted story in online notes. Judging will be based on quality of writing, lead, news value and enterprise. Judges will consider both news stories as one entry.

Sports Writing: Submit full-page PDF files of two (2) complete staff-written sports stories published in calendar year 2023. Please ID submitted story in online notes. May include sports features. Judging will be based on quality of writing, lead, news value and enterprise. Judges will consider both news stories as one entry.

Sports Coverage: Submit two (2) full-page PDF files of sports pages originally published in in April 2023 and one of any month of your choosing. Please ID in online notes any sports writing or photos not produced by your staff. Judging will be based on quality of writing, range of coverage, photos, layout/design and suitability of headlines. Judges will consider both issues as one entry.

Feature Photo: Submit two (2) full-page PDF files of two feature photos originally photographed and published in calendar year 2023. Submit only photos taken by members of your regular staff. Please ID submitted photo in online notes. Judging will be based on reader interest, composition, quality of cutline, enterprise and innovation, and reproduction. Judges will consider both photos as one entry.

News Photo: Submit two (2) full-page PDF files of two news photos originally photographed and published in calendar year 2023. Submit only photos taken by members of your regular staff. Please ID submitted photo in online notes. Judging will be based on timeliness, composition, quality of cutline, enterprise and innovation, and reproduction. Judges will consider both photos as one entry.

Sports Photo: Submit two (2) full-page PDF files of two sports photos originally photographed and published in calendar year 2023. Submit only photos taken by members of your regular staff. Please ID submitted photo in online notes. Judging will be based on action, composition, quality of cutline, enterprise and innovation, and reproduction. Judges will consider both photos as one entry.

Photographer of the Year: All divisions will compete against each other for this award.

Submit six (6) full-page PDF files of photos (2 from sports, 2 spot news and 2 feature or stand-alone photos) taken by the same photographer for the same newspaper and published during 2023. One entry per newspaper.

Journalist of the Year: All divisions will compete against each other for this award.

Submit full page PDF files of five (5) original stories by the same writer, for the same newspaper and published during 2023. One entry per newspaper.

Special Section or Special Edition: Daily Division • Semi-Weekly Division • Weekly Division

Submit one (1) entry (complete copy) per newspaper published during calendar year 2023.

Upload link to e-edition or pdf file of complete section. Judges will consider the equality of both editorial and advertising content.

Community Service: All divisions will compete against each other for this award.

Submit in a scrapbook in PDF form all evidence (i.e. news, photos, editorials, letters, and programs) of your newspaper's support of one community project conducted during calendar year 2023. Entries must have been published during calendar year 2023. Include a letter describing the background and results of the project. **PLEASE NOTE:** Community Service awards are not included in sweepstakes calculations.

Sweepstakes: The North and East Texas Press Association Newspaper Contest

includes a Sweepstakes Award for each division.

Awards are earned by point accumulation in contest categories (not including Special Section or Special Edition, Journalist of the Year, Photographer of the Year and Community Service.) **Points shall be computed on the following scale:**

1st Place: 125 points • 2nd Place: 75 points • 3rd Place: 50 points • 4th Place: 25 points

SPECIAL NOTE: In the event of a tie in sweepstakes in any division, the tie will be broken by determining which newspaper has the most first place awards. Should this be tied, the paper then having the most second place awards will be declared the winner. The procedure will be followed through third and fourth places if necessary.

Contest Awards are Engraved Plaques for 1st place & Certificates of merit for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places in all divisions.

Contest Checklist:

1. Did you mail or submit electronically the \$25 contest entry fee?
2. Did you clearly identify entries in online notes, so judges can ID correct submission?
3. Will the entry be received no later than Friday, February 9, 2024?

Thank you all and good luck! See you in Granbury.