



MAINE PRESS ASSOCIATION

2020 Better Newspaper Contest

April 10, 2020

Dear Maine Press Association member,

Welcome to the 2020 Better Newspaper Contest, for work published from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

We have some minor changes to contest procedures this year.

- We will accept digital entries only for the category of Supplement/Special Section.
- We eliminated the category of Special Online Project or Section, due to low entry numbers.
- After a change last year, we will once again require the submission of an entry form with physical entries. Please note the space on the entry form for judge information.
- In the Sports Section category, if your newspaper did not produce a sports section for one of the mandatory weeks, you may submit the last sports section prior to that week.

The Oklahoma Press Association will judge the contest this year. The Maine Press Association judged Oklahoma's contest earlier this year.

We realize the contest comes at an unusual time, as our members stretch resources to the limit to cover the COVID-19 pandemic while, at the same time, the pandemic drives advertising revenue down.

On the plus side, we expect strong numbers in the Continuing Story and Health Story categories this year as members show off their excellent pandemic coverage.

As always, we want to remind you why members enter the contest. It boosts morale for winners and nominees, gives members an opportunity to reflect on the previous year, and provides marketing opportunities when members report the results.

I want to thank Executive Director Diane Norton for her work on the contest, as well as the rest of the 2020 contest committee: Lynda Clancy, editorial director of the Penobscot Bay Pilot; Nick McCrea, managing editor of The Times Record; and Rob Montana, city editor at the Kennebec Journal.

After three years as contest chair, I plan to step down from this role in October. It is a privilege to work with Maine's fine newspaper journalists and advertising professionals through the contest and to help you earn the recognition you deserve. Lynda Clancy will chair the contest in 2021.

The committee welcomes comments and questions at maine@newspapercontest.com. If necessary, you can call me at 563-3171 or Diane at 691-0131.

The deadline for entries is May 29. We plan to release results to members by Aug. 31.

Good luck,

J.W. Oliver

Chair, Maine Press Association Better Newspaper Contest
Editor, The Lincoln County News
President, Maine Press Association