



MAINE PRESS ASSOCIATION

2020 Better Newspaper Contest rules

The contest is for work published by Maine Press Association members from **April 1, 2019** to **March 31, 2020**.

The deadline for entry is May 29. To enter, follow the instructions below:

1. Go to newspapercontest.com/maine.
2. Click “Register” and fill out the necessary information. The Association Code is MAINE.
3. You will receive an email to confirm your account and finish registration. Click the link in the email to complete your registration.
4. Follow the instructions on the homepage to submit each entry.
5. On the left-hand side of the screen, click “entry report.” Follow the instructions to pay online or by mail.
6. Mail the completed Entry Form (including the name and email address of a judge for another association’s contest) and properly labeled paper entries for two categories:
 1. General Excellence – Advertising
 2. General Excellence – Print

to MPA Better Newspaper Contest c/o Diane Norton, P.O. Box 336, Camden, ME 04843
(or 178 Mountain St., Camden, ME 04843 for UPS and FedEx)

This package must be postmarked by May 29.

To be eligible for the contest:

- 2020 membership dues must be paid
- Each entrant must provide the name and email address of one judge for a reciprocating association's contest. One person may not serve as judge for multiple entrants.
- All second-class newspapers must abide by state law regarding public notices, including the requirement to have a link to public notices on the homepage of the newspaper’s website

A base fee of \$75 pays for one entry per category. Newspapers may submit two additional entries in most categories and three additional entries in Photography/Design categories for an additional \$15 per entry. A brief statement, up to 50 words, may accompany any entry. Some categories require a statement for entry.

Questions? Email maine@newspapercontest.com. If necessary, call contest Chair J.W. Oliver at 563-3171 or Executive Director Diane Norton at 691-0131.

Newspaper divisions

Weekly 1: Published fewer than five times per week with circulation or distribution from **one to 2,999**.

Weekly 2: Published fewer than five times per week with circulation or distribution of **3,000 or more**.

This division also includes online-only news organizations.

Note: The weekly divisions may be combined in categories with low entry numbers.

Daily: Published five or more times per week.

Weekend: A daily newspaper's weekend edition, whether published on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. This division only applies to the weekend General Excellence – Print category. Otherwise, all content is judged alongside work published in the Daily division.

Category rules:

Photography/Design

Submit JPG files for photo categories, JPG or PDF files for Graphic and Illustration, and PDF files only for Front Page Design and Specialty Page Design. Photography entries must be original work by staff members or freelancers. No digitally altered photos will be considered. All photo submissions must have been published in the newspaper or on the newspaper's website in the same form in which they are entered.

Advertising/Circulation

Submit PDF files for all entries, except Supplement/Special Section.

Submit links for Supplement/Special Section. Self-Promotion and Best New Revenue Idea must include supporting statements. See category guidelines for details. Entries must be original work by staff members.

Writing

Submit a link or PDF file. Links must be permanent and must lead to a publicly accessible website.

Important: If the website has a paywall, login information must be included in the explanation field. Members will not receive refunds for inaccessible entries.

Entries may include sidebars when they contribute to the completeness of the article.

Sections

Submit PDF files. One entry only in each category. Each entry consists of three full sections. See category guidelines for details.

Editorial Page: Submit one editorial page or section from the week ending June 22, 2019, one from the week ending March 7, 2020, and one of your choice.

Sports Section: Submit one section from the week ending June 15, 2019, one from the week ending March 7, 2020, and one of your choice. 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.

Online

Submit links for video categories. Submit PDF files for Best Digital Ad Campaign.

Special Categories

One entry only in each category.

Please use caution to submit the correct editions for General Excellence-Advertising, and General Excellence-Print. The mandatory dates are different for each category. The submission of incorrect editions slows the review and judging process.

Freedom of Information: This award honors newspapers that were champions of the public's right to know from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Awards will be given in the Daily/Weekend and Weekly divisions. Submit a statement, articles or editorials, and any other evidence of the newspaper's efforts.

General Excellence – Advertising (PAPER ENTRIES ONLY): The highest advertising honor the Maine Press Association gives each year to member newspapers. Awards will be given in the Daily/Weekend, Weekly 1, and Weekly 2 divisions. Submit one full edition each from the week ending May 11, 2019, the week ending November 30, 2019, and a week of your choice.

General Excellence – Digital: The Maine Press Association's highest honor for members' online publications. Submit the url at newspapercontest.com/maine. **Important: Members with paywalls must submit a username and password in the explanation field.**

General Excellence – Print (PAPER ENTRIES ONLY): The highest editorial honor the Maine Press Association gives each year to members' print publications. Awards will be given in the Daily, Weekend, Weekly 1, and Weekly 2 divisions.

Dailies and Weeklies must submit one full edition each from the week ending June 15, 2019, the week ending September 21, 2019, and a week of their choice.

Weekend newspapers must submit one full edition each from the weekend of June 14-16, 2019, the weekend of September 20-22, 2019, and a weekend of their choice.

Best in Show – Photography: The judges will select one photo from among all entries. No separate entries will be accepted. Awards will be given in the Daily, Weekend, Weekly 1, and Weekly 2 categories.

Individual Awards

Email all nominations to maine@newspapercontest.com by July 3, 2020. Do not submit nominations with contest entries. Digital entries only, please.

- **Unsung Hero Award:** For any staff member, in any department, whose contributions to his or her newspaper have been essential but often overlooked. Nominations may include examples of the nominee's work and letters from supervisors and/or co-workers detailing his or her contributions.
- **Advertising Person of the Year:** For an advertising employee whose work has been truly distinguished over the course of a year or years. Candidates may have established unique marketing plans or stood out through other measures, such as sales record. Work samples may be included with a nomination letter.
- **Bob Drake Young Writer's Award:** For a full-time employee of a Maine Press Association member with fewer than two years of full-time experience as of July 3, 2020. A letter from the staffer's supervisor must contain a review of the nominee's experience and accomplishments. School or college newspaper experience does not count as full-time experience. Entries will be evaluated on writing quality, enterprise, imagination, thoroughness, balance, and general reporting. As many as six articles may be submitted.
- **Journalist of the Year:** For an exceptional news employee whose work has been truly distinguished over the previous year or a period of years. A reasonable number of news clips, photographs, or other samples of work must be included with a cover letter from the nominee's editor or publisher. The nominee must be an employee of a member organization.

Note: If the number of entries is insufficient for any individual award, that award may not be given. In that case, any nominations will be held over for the following year.