

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL NEWS COMPETITION 2008
RULES AND REGULATIONS

COMPETITION CRITERIA

1. The competition is open to AP stations and cable systems licensed in New York state, and to those in adjoining states under certain conditions (see item 8 below).
2. **ENTRIES ARE LIMITED TO TWO PER CATEGORY FROM EACH STATION.** Entries must be clearly marked as to category and classification. They may be accompanied by a cover letter, explaining the circumstances and details of the entry, with a description of the staff involved. Such letters should be folded and rubber-banded to the back of the cassette box or compact disk. For TV, letters may be folded and inserted in the VHS box or rubber-banded to the back of the DVD case. A contest summary sheet **MUST** be submitted with your entries.
3. A **new category** has been added this year for Best Web site. See #12 under Categories for a full description.
4. Judges may move entries from one category to another if they believe the entries are more properly suited to another category. Judges will consider the size of the news staff as an element in evaluating the entries.
5. Radio entries must be submitted on audio tape cassettes or compact disks. No video tape sound tracks will be accepted as radio entries.

TV tapes **MUST** be VHS cassettes or DVD's.

6. Each entry must be submitted on a separate cassette, compact disk, VHS tape or DVD. **Do not include two or more categories on one.** If a single program is to be entered in more than one category, submit one cassette, compact disk VHS tape or DVD for each category entered.
7. If an entry consists of a series of reports, it should include the material broadcast to introduce each segment of the series.
8. Stations and cable systems in adjoining states may enter the contest under the following conditions:
 - * They enter no other AP state broadcast contests.
 - * A significant portion of their ADI is in New York state.
 - * Out-of-state stations/cable systems will be judged in the market classification corresponding to their NYS ADI.
9. **Entrants must pre-select a clip of no more than 10 seconds to be played from the winning entries at the awards presentation. The selection must be at the BEGINNING of the entry.**
10. CHECKS should be made payable to Associated Press Associations and placed in a separate envelope enclosed with entries. Entry fees, based on market size:

Radio

1. New York City metro area: \$50 overall entry fee plus \$20 for each entry.
2. Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Capital District: \$30 overall entry fee plus \$12 for each entry.
3. All other New York state communities: \$20 overall entry fee plus \$8 for each entry.

Television

1. New York City metro area: \$75 overall entry fee plus \$30 for each entry.
2. Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Capital District: \$50 overall entry fee plus \$15 per entry.
3. All other communities in New York state: \$30 overall entry fee plus \$10 per entry.

A radio-TV operation with a single staff must pay two entry fees if there are entries in both radio and TV categories, in addition to the fees for each entry in each category.

11. Entries and checks should be sent to The Associated Press, P.O. Box 11010, Albany, N.Y. 12211. **For deliveries other than by mail, our physical location is 645 Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, N.Y. 12211 (specify inside delivery on the second floor).**
12. All entries must have been broadcast between Jan. 1, 2008 and Dec. 31, 2008. **Entries must be postmarked by Tuesday, January 20, 2009.**

SELF-ADHESIVE ENTRY FORMS MUST BE AFFIXED TO STORAGE CASES CONTAINING ENTERED CASSETTES, TAPES, COMPACT DISKS and DVD's. CASSETTES, TAPES, COMPACT DISKS and DVD's THEMSELVES SHOULD ALSO BE LABELED. PLEASE DO NOT PUT ENTRIES IN PRESENTATION FOLDERS OR ENVELOPES. A CONTEST SUMMARY SHEET MUST BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR ENTRIES.

13. Plaques and certificates will be awarded for Grand Prize TV and for the Steve Flanders Memorial Award (Grand Prize Radio). Plaques will be awarded for first place in each category. Certificates will be awarded for Special Mention. The number of Special Mention citations will be at the discretion of the judges.
14. Winners will be announced and a critique of the entries given at the annual awards banquet of the NYSAPBA at the Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, on Saturday, June 6, 2009.
15. **CASSETTES, COMPACT DISKS, VHS tapes and DVD's WILL NOT BE RETURNED. The judges' decisions are final.**

GRAND PRIZE AWARDS

Grand prize awards will be given for general excellence in news operation, based on overall performance as noted by the judges. There will be separate awards for radio and television news operations, regardless of size, which performed in the best traditions of journalistic initiative and dedication in providing a complete news service to the listening and viewing public. The Grand Prize Radio award is known as the Steve Flanders Memorial Award.

CLASSIFICATIONSRadio

1. New York City metro area.
2. Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and the Capital District.
3. All other communities in New York state.

Television

1. New York City metro area.
2. Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Capital District.
3. All other communities in New York state.

CATEGORIESRADIO

1. Best regularly scheduled local news program.
Only complete news programs broadcast **Nov. 13, 2008** and/or **Dec. 10, 2008**, will be considered. Excerpts from several programs will not be accepted. Entry should illustrate scope of coverage and reflect initiative and quality of performance of reporters and editors. Program not to exceed 30 minutes. (Note: Judges are interested mainly in handling of local news.) **PROGRAMS MUST HAVE BEEN BROADCAST Nov. 13, 2008 AND/OR Dec. 10, 2008.**
2. Best news special/documentary.
Coverage of a single subject, reported in a single segment. Program should provide information, understanding and/or analysis about a topic of significant interest. Tape may be edited. Maximum length: 30 minutes.
3. Best news series.
Coverage of a single subject, reported in multiple segments. Tape may be edited. Program length is optional.
4. Best interview.
The interview may be conducted as a stand-alone or as part of a larger story. The entry can be either on-the-scene or in studio. It should demonstrate the interviewer's ability to solicit information and to think on his/her feet. The length of the entry should be edited to be no more than 15 minutes. Judges will only view the first 15 minutes of tape.
5. Best spot news coverage.
Any unplanned, unscheduled, unanticipated news requiring immediate news department response.
6. Best continuing news coverage.
For coverage of an ongoing story. Entries should pertain to stories of general interest that would commonly reflect a news operation's scope and day-to-day coverage.
7. Best enterprise reporting.
Report or reports that show diligence in dealing with a story of a hard, investigative nature.
8. Best feature.
A single story or series showing human interest. It may be whimsical or descriptive. A "hard news" series or story should not be entered in this category.
9. Best sports coverage.
A single sports story or a series of reports on a single subject. Category does not include complete sportscasts, pre- and post-game programs, or play-by-play.

10. Art Athens General Excellence of Individual Reporting.

The performance of an individual newsperson. News directors at stations employing more than one newsperson are excluded from this category unless the entry is the work of the news director alone. Entries should include documentation of the individual's news gathering, writing and other work. Entries may concern a single story, a series of stories or overall performance. (Note: Limit entries in this category to your most outstanding reporting candidates. Make your documentation brief.)

11. General excellence in use of medium.

The quality of sound and production techniques which enhance the telling of the story, and the listeners' comprehension of the information.

12. NEW CATEGORYBest Web site.

The Web site must disseminate timely news and information for its coverage area, using content generated primarily by its own staff. Entries will be judged on depth and quality, content, innovation, use of audio and images (video and/or still) visual design, functionality and interactivity, usability, and storytelling techniques.

Entrants must submit up to 5 examples from 2008 of functioning, cached or active URLs that demonstrate exceptional news coverage and journalistic skill (one of these must be the home page), along with a brief written description of the goals and philosophy of the site (include URL address).

Judges assigned to the category may, at their discretion, view the Web site live to assist in their judging.

TELEVISION1. Best regularly scheduled local news program.

Only complete news programs broadcast, **Nov. 13, 2008** and/or **Dec. 10, 2008**, will be considered. Excerpts from several programs will not be accepted. Entry should illustrate scope of coverage and reflect initiative and quality of performance of reporters and editors. Tape not to exceed 30 minutes by stations normally using that format; one hour by those normally using that format, etc. (Note: Judges are interested mainly in handling of local news.) **PROGRAMS MUST HAVE BEEN BROADCAST Nov. 13, 2008, AND/OR Dec. 10, 2008.**

2. Best news special/documentary.

Coverage of a single subject in depth, reported in a single segment. Program should provide information, understanding and/or analysis about a topic of significant interest. Tape may be edited. Maximum length: 30 minutes.

3. Best news series.

Coverage of a single subject, reported in multiple segments. Tape may be edited. Program length optional.

4. Best interview.

The interview may be conducted as a stand-alone or as part of a larger story. The entry can be either on-the-scene or in studio. It should demonstrate the interviewer's ability to solicit information and to think on his/her feet. The length of the entry should be edited to be no more than 15 minutes. Judges will only view first 15 minutes of tape.

5. Best spot news coverage.

Any unplanned, unscheduled, unanticipated news requiring immediate news department response.

6. Best continuing news coverage.

For coverage of an ongoing story. Entries should pertain to stories of general interest that would commonly reflect a news operation's scope and day-to-day coverage.

7. Best enterprise reporting.
Report or reports that show diligence in dealing with a story of a hard, investigative nature.
8. Best feature.
A single story or series showing human interest. It may be whimsical or descriptive. A "hard news" series or story should not be entered in this category.
9. Best sports coverage.
A single sports story or a series of reports on a single subject. Category does not include complete sportscasts, pre- and post-game programs, or play-by-play.
10. General excellence of individual reporting.
The performance of an individual newsperson. News directors are excluded from this category unless the entry is the work of the news director alone. Entries should include documentation of the individual's news gathering, writing and other work. Entries may concern a single story, a series of stories, or overall performance.

We would appreciate your limiting entries in this category to your most outstanding reporting candidates. Please make your documentation brief.
11. General excellence in photojournalism.
An award for individual achievement using photography, sound and production techniques. Entry may be a single item or a series of items, not to exceed 10 minutes total, which respects journalistic integrity and advances visual storytelling.

12. NEW CATEGORYBest Web site.

The Web site must disseminate timely news and information for its coverage area, using content generated primarily by its own staff. Entries will be judged on depth and quality, content, innovation, use of audio and images (video and/or still) visual design, functionality and interactivity, usability, and storytelling techniques.

Entrants must submit up to 5 examples from 2008 of functioning, cached or active URLs that demonstrate exceptional news coverage and journalistic skill (one of these must be the home page), along with a brief written description of the goals and philosophy of the site (include URL address).

Judges assigned to the category may, at their discretion, view the Web site live to assist in their judging.