

2019 NPW Professional Contest Winners

Nebraska Press Women announced state and national communications contest award winners at the NPW spring conference held recently in Broken Bow.

In state competition, the three top award-winning recipients earned Marianne Beel Sweepstakes recognition. Taking home First Place was Lori Potter, a reporter, photographer and columnist for the Kearney Hub. LuAnn Schindler, managing editor for the Clearwater Record-Ewing News, placed second. In addition to her duties for the Record-News, Schindler contributes to the Neligh News & Leader. Irene North, a reporter and photographer for the Scottsbluff Star-Herald, placed third.

In all, NPW members submitted a total of 211 entries in 71 categories in the state contest. Entries that earned first-place awards in 62 categories were advanced to national competition, which is sponsored by the National Federation of Press Women. Only those submissions that earn first place at the state level are eligible for advancement to the national competition.

“Of those 62 first place award-earning entries, 20 have earned first-place honors at the national level,” said Terri Hahn, NPW communications contest co-chair. Hahn is features editor for the Grand Island Independent. Mary Jane Skala, lifestyle writer for the Kearney Hub, co-chaired the contest with Hahn. National awards will be presented at the NFPW conference in late June in Baton Rouge, La.

Those who earned state awards in the NPW communications contest are listed below, alphabetically by community. For those who also earned awards in the NFPW competition, national placements are listed after state winnings.

Cedar Creek (Plattsmouth) — Carla Chance, marketing communications director for Video King/VKGS in Omaha. First place: arts and entertainment articles; infographics; social media campaign – corporate; single ad — print or electronic; advertising campaign; advertising posters, billboards and banners; corporate brochures; catalogs, manuals and handbooks. Second place: publications regularly written by entrant – newsletters; website edited by entrant — corporate; single ad — print or electronic; marketing campaign. Third place: infographics; audiovisuals. Honorable mention: social issues articles; page or section editing – corporate publications; publication editing — corporate newsletters; infographics; page design — magazine or newsletters. **NFPW results:** First place: corporate social media campaign; and catalogs, manuals and handbooks. Second place: single ad — print or electronic; advertising campaign; corporate brochures. Third place: advertising posters, billboards and banners; infographics.

Clearwater--LuAnn Schindler, managing editor of the Clearwater Record/Ewing News -- Neligh News & Leader: First place: news story -- online publication; personality profile -- 500 words or fewer; agriculture articles; informational columns. Second place: feature story - newspapers;

feature story -- online publication; personality profile -- more than 500 words; business articles; history articles; health articles; personal opinion columns; headlines; news or feature photo; sports photo. Third place: education articles; religion articles; sports articles; general columns. Honorable mention: food articles; headlines. **NFPW results:** First: personality profile--500 words or fewer. Second: informational columns.

Columbus--Cassie Rief, communications specialist with Nebraska Public Power District: First place: publications regularly written by entrant -- magazine.

Gothenburg--Roxanne Converse-Whiting, Gothenburg Times reporter: First place: environmental articles; general columns. Second place: agricultural articles.

Grand Island--Terri Hahn. (Please see Osceola listing.) **Carissa Soukup.** (Please see Hastings listing.)

Grand Island--Bette Pore, Grand Island Independent senior editor: First place: editorial/opinion - newspapers; publication editing - newspapers; page design - newspapers Second place: page or section editing - newspapers. Honorable mention: personal essays. **NFPW results:** First place: publication editing - newspapers; and page design - newspapers. Second place: editorial/opinion - newspapers.

Grand Island--Joni Ransom, Central Community College media relations manager: First place: news story -- magazine or newsletter; feature story -- magazine or newsletter; publication editing -- magazine. **NFPW results:** First place: news story -- magazine or newsletter.

Hastings--Carissa Soukup, Grand Island Independent reporter: First place: news story - newspapers; single news report video for web. Third place: feature video for web. NFPW results: First place: single news report video for web. Honorable mention: news story - newspapers.

Kearney--Lori Potter, agriculture/natural resources reporter, columnist and photographer, Kearney Hub: First place: in-depth reporting; education articles; government or political articles; history articles; personal essays, science or technology articles; travel articles; sports photo, general photo; photographer-writer; feature video for web (with Ana Salazar) and special interest video for web (with Mary Jane Skala and Ana Salazar). Second place: business articles; sports articles; travel articles; general columns; photo essay. Third place: feature story for newspapers; personality profile - more than 500 words; government or political articles; environmental

articles; personal opinion columns; sports photo. Honorable mention: Agriculture articles; news or feature photo. **NFPW results:** First place: sports photo, and feature video for web (with Ana Salazar). Second place: education articles, science or technology articles, travel articles, special interest video for web (with Mary Jane Skala and Ana Salazar). Third place: in-depth reporting. Honorable mention: government or political articles, personal essay, photographer-writer.

Kearney--Erika Pritchard, Kearney Hub regional editor: First place: business articles; hobby or craft articles; news or feature photo; photo essay. Second place: food articles; personal essays; religion articles. Third place: general photo; feature video for web. Honorable mention: feature story - newspapers; personality profile - more than 500 words; travel articles; news or feature photo; sports photo; photo essay; photographer-writer. **NFPW results:** First place: news or feature photo. Honorable mention: hobby or craft articles, photo essay.

Kearney--Ana Salazar, Kearney Hub video editor: First place: feature video for web (with Lori Potter) and special interest video for web (with Mary Jane Skala and Lori Potter). **NFPW results:** First place: feature video for web (with Lori Potter). Second place: special interest video for web (with Lori Potter and Mary Jane Skala).

Kearney--Mary Jane Skala, Kearney Hub lifestyles writer: First place: feature story -- newspapers; food articles; health articles; religion articles; social issues articles; sports articles; style articles; personal opinion columns; and special interest video for web (with Lori Potter and Ana Salazar). Second place: in-depth reporting. Third place: history articles. **NFPW results:** First place: feature story - newspapers, health articles. Second place: special interest video for web (with Lori Potter and Ana Salazar). Third place: food articles, sports articles. Honorable mention: religion articles, social issues articles.

Lexington--Barb Batie, freelance writer: Second place: news story -- magazine or newsletter; feature story -- magazine or newsletter; education articles; government or political articles; science or technology articles. Third place: agriculture articles; personal essay; travel articles. Honorable mention: in-depth reporting; environmental articles; health articles; general columns and personal opinion columns.

Lincoln--Phyllis Buell, freelance writer: Second place: humorous columns.

North Platte--Lori Clinch, weekly columnist for the North Platte Telegraph and freelance writer: First place: Humorous columns.

North Platte--Heather Johnson, area communications specialist for Mid-Plains Community College: First place: PR video for web; community, institutional or internal relations; single news or feature release; multiple news or feature releases; media pitch. Second place: catalogs, manuals and handbooks; single news or feature release. **NFPW results:** First place: PR video for web; community, institutional or internal relations; single news or feature release; and multiple news or feature releases. Third place: media pitch.

Osceola--Terri Hahn, Grand Island Independent features editor: First place: continuing coverage; headlines; page or section editing -- newspapers. Second place: page design -- newspapers. Third place: headlines; page or section editing -- newspapers; page design -- newspapers. **NFPW results:** First place: Continuing coverage, and headlines. Second: page or section editing -- newspapers.

Omaha--Carla Chance (Please see Cedar Creek.)

Omaha--Sherry Thompson, communications consultant for Saving Grace Perishable Fund Rescue and freelance writer/editor: First place: social media campaign - non-profit; electronic newsletter - non-profit; reports. **NFPW results:** Third place: electronic newsletter. Honorable mention: social media campaign - nonprofit, reports.

Plattsmouth--Carla Chance (Please see Cedar Creek.)

Scottsbluff--Lauren Brant, Scottsbluff Star-Herald reporter: Second place: in-depth reporting (with Irene North); special interest video for web. Third place: news or feature photo; photo essay; photographer-writer.

Scottsbluff--Maunette Loeks, Scottsbluff Star-Herald: First place: personality profile - more than 500 words. Third place: news story -- newspapers; continuing coverage. Honorable mention: news story -- newspapers.

Scottsbluff--Irene North, Scottsbluff Star-Herald reporter/photographer: First place: editorial/opinion -- online publications; feature story -- online publications; personal blogs. Second place: news story -- newspapers; in-depth reporting (with Lauren Brant); editorial/opinion -- newspapers; personality profile -- more than 500 words; environmental articles; social issues articles; general photo; photographer-writer. Third place: in-depth reporting; food articles; health articles; creative verse - single poem. Honorable mention: history articles; reviews; page or section editing -

newspapers; news or feature photo; photo essay. **NFPW results:** First place: Personal blogs. Second place: Editorial/opinion -- online publication.

West Point--Delores Meister, freelancer: Third place: social issues articles. Honorable mention: education articles; government or political articles.

SOUTH DAKOTA:

Mitchell--Angie Putnam, Daily Republic: Honorable mention: page design - newspapers.