

ARIZONA PRESS CLUB
2016 AWARDS COMPETITION FOR
THE BEST JOURNALISM IN ARIZONA

PART I

THE RULES FOR WRITING AND DESIGN

ELIGIBILITY

Journalists are considered members of the Arizona Press Club if they work in the production of news for any Arizona newspaper, online news site, periodical or news service whose primary purpose is to inform the public rather than to sell products or promote a business, government, nonprofit organization or ideology.

Entries must have been originally published in 2015.

All entries must have been produced for the editorial department of an Arizona publication, news Web site or wire service. Work produced for advertising, marketing or other departments is not eligible. Eligible publications must have editorial independence and exist primarily to produce news. Advocacy groups that produce news are not eligible.

Stories reported or written by or for publications or websites based outside Arizona are not eligible.

DEADLINE

Entries must be postmarked by **Feb. 5, 2016**, unless entrants make special arrangements in advance with contest chair Becky Pallack at bpallack@gmail.com or (520) 954-2492.

Mail entries to: Arizona Press Club, P.O. Box 16427, Phoenix AZ 85011-6427

CATEGORIES

There are two divisions: Community and Statewide.

Community categories, intended to honor the work of publications with fewer resources, include any daily newspaper with a circulation of less than 20,000, any non-daily publication with a circulation of less than 50,000, and online-only publications.

Statewide categories are intended to honor the best journalism in Arizona produced by a journalist of any size publication.

Judges first will choose a Community winner, then will mix Community and all other entries together to choose an overall winner for the category.

Spanish-language publications may enter any of the English-language categories, provided that all stories, headlines and captions are translated into English.

MEMBERSHIP AND ENTRY FEES

A membership fee is paid only once, regardless of how many categories are entered.

An entry fee is paid for each category entered. Membership fee includes one FREE entry in any category except Community Journalist of the Year, Virg Hill Journalist of the Year and Designer of the Year.

Spanish-language and Community publications:

\$10/person membership fee, which includes first entry

\$5 for each additional entry

All other publications:

\$10/person membership fee, which includes first entry

\$10 for each additional entry

The Big Three awards

Applicable membership fee, plus:

Community Journalist of the Year: \$20

Virg Hill Journalist of the Year: \$25

Designer of the Year: \$25

Unpaid entries will not be considered. Improperly submitted entries will be disqualified and entry fees will not be refunded.

Staff entries

Entries with at least five contributors may be submitted as a Staff Entry for a single \$50 entry fee. Winning certificates will list "Staff," not individual names.

(For individual recognition on the certificates and in the contest winners' brochure, each contributor listed on the entry form must pay the applicable membership and entry fees.)

JUDGING

Entries will be judged by out-of-state journalists selected by the Arizona Press Club board of directors. Judges' decisions are final, unless winning entries do not conform to rules.

If there is a tie for first place, no second-place award is given. If there is a tie for second, no third-place award is given.

AWARDS

Winners will be announced in May 2016.

ETHICS AND DISQUALIFICATION

The Arizona Press Club promotes ethical journalism and recognizes that contest rules cannot envision every potential breach of professional standards. The club reserves the right to disqualify any entry or withdraw any award based on ethical violations or violations of the rules, as deemed by the board. Entries that do not conform to the rules will be disqualified. If an entry is disqualified, the prize will be awarded to the next place winner. Disqualified entrants will forfeit their entry fees.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

For problems, concerns and complaints about the contest, the contest chairperson shall notify the Grievance Committee (president and executive officers). The committee will rule on the matter or forward it to the full Press Club board for final approval.

DISCLAIMER

The Arizona Press Club is not responsible for lost, mislaid or damaged entries but will take reasonable care processing the entries.

ENTRY PROCEDURES

- All entries must include a signed entry form, which is included at the end of this document. On entries with multiple contributors, only one contributor has to sign.
- List headlines or images completely to help identify entries.
- Entries must be submitted exactly as they were published.

- Enter as many times and in as many categories as desired. However, no story may be submitted more than once, except that stories entered in other categories may also be used to enter the Virg Hill Journalist of the Year, Community Journalist of the Year, Designer of the Year and other exceptions only as noted.
- Entries will not be returned.
- Entries that do not conform to the rules will be disqualified. If an entry is disqualified, the prize will be awarded to the next winner. Disqualified entrants will forfeit their entry fees.

ENTRY FORMAT - DESIGN AND WRITING

- Entries must be neatly packaged in a plain, 8 1/2 x 11-inch file folder with a completed entry form stapled once to the outside. Do not staple the folder shut. Larger file folders are allowed for Big Five entries but please do not use notebooks.
- Entries may include tear sheets, legible copies or complete printouts from electronic archives or websites.
- Entries may include headlines, graphics, illustrations and photographs.

PART II

THE CATEGORIES

A. SPANISH-LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

Multiple story entries for these categories should reflect sustained coverage of a single issue or topic, not overall beat reporting. (Example: A collection of stories about the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office or about drunken driving enforcement would be eligible; a collection of stories about different police agencies or unrelated topics would not be eligible.)

Unless otherwise noted, entries are strictly limited to a maximum of five stories or pieces of work. Sidebars count toward the total. (Example: Four stories plus a sidebar is a valid entry. Four stories plus two sidebars is not.) Column categories have a different story count; see specific rules for each.

A1. Spanish-language news reporting: A single story or up to five stories about one news event or issue.

A2. Spanish-language feature reporting: A single story or up to five stories that reflect how people live their daily lives.

A3. Spanish-language commentary/analysis: A single or up to three examples of columns, commentary, analysis or editorials.

B. COMMUNITY WRITING

The Community categories are intended to honor the work of any daily newspaper with a circulation of less than 20,000, any non-daily publications with a circulation of less than 50,000, and online-only publications.

Community categories will be judged as a group and then will be mixed with Statewide entries to choose an overall winner.

Multiple story entries for these categories should reflect sustained coverage of a single issue or topic, not overall beat reporting. (Example: A collection of stories about the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office or about drunken driving enforcement would be eligible; a collection of stories about different police agencies or unrelated topics would not be eligible.)

All entries, **EXCEPT IF SPECIFICALLY NOTED OTHERWISE**, are strictly limited to a maximum of five stories or pieces of work. Sidebars count toward the total. (Example: Four stories plus a sidebar is a valid entry. Four stories plus two sidebars is not.) **Many categories have a different story count; see specific rules for each.**

B1. Community investigative reporting: One or more pieces on a single subject — published on a single day, or over the course of the year — that are the result of extensive research and original investigation. The winning entry will uncover corruption, incompetence or systemic problems in an area of high public interest and importance. A one-page letter, explaining what motivated the project and any impact that might not be apparent in the actual stories, is optional.

B2. Community public service journalism: One or more pieces on a single subject — published on a single day, or over the course of the year — that serve the public good. May include sidebars. A one-page letter explaining what motivated the project and any impact that might not be apparent in the actual stories is optional.

B3. Community breaking news: A single day's reporting of one or more pieces of unscheduled news on a single subject. May include sidebars. Entries should be reported and written in a single shift. A one-page letter explaining deadline circumstances is optional. This category is open to print-only entries, online-only entries, and combined print and online entries. Entries that include online elements must include a live Web link, but a backup CD copy may be provided.

B4. Community public safety reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific aspect of law enforcement, courts, corrections, fire and rescue, or related areas.

B5. Community political reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific aspect of local, state or federal political issue or election-related coverage.

B6. Community government reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific aspect of local, state or federal government, related to regular actions performed by the agency. Election related coverage should be entered in B5.

B7. Community health reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific aspect of the health care industry, including treatment, research and consumer affairs.

B8. Community environmental/science reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific topic or trend related to natural resources, ecology, environmental policy or human interaction with nature.

B9. Community social issues reporting: A single story or up to five stories on a topic concerning a specific aspect of human-to-human interactions, values and beliefs. Issues that fall into this category include faith and religion, social services and the poor, families and children, aging and substance abuse.

B10. Community education reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific topic related to education.

B11. Community immigration reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific event or topic about immigration and related issues.

B12. Community business reporting: A single story or column, or a combination of up to five stories and columns concerning a specific aspect of business, finance or consumer issues.

B13. Community sports beat reporting: A single story, or up to five stories, about a specific sport, team, issue, athlete or sporting event.

B14. Community sports feature reporting: A single story, or up to five stories, related to a specific feature about a sport, a team, an issue, an athlete or a sporting event.

B15. Community sports investigative reporting: A single story, or up to five stories, about a single subject — published on a single day, or over the course of the year — that are the result of extensive research and original investigation.

B16. Community sports column writing: Three pieces identified as columns written with a focus on analyzing local sporting events, teams, players or coaches.

B17. Community column writing: Three pieces identified as columns written with a focus on reporting news, explaining recent events or telling a human-interest story.

B18. Community editorial writing: Three opinion pieces expressing views of a publication as an institution, not those of an individual writer, and advocating a position or course of action.

B19. Community personality profile: A single story or up to five stories that give an in-depth look at an individual or a specific group of people.

B20. Community human interest writing: A single story or up to five stories that go together as part of a whole that reflect a slice of real life, conveying the way people live their daily lives.

B21. Community short-form writing: A single story of 750 words or less that showcases the reporter's ability to tell a story completely but quickly. Sidebars may not be included. **LIST ACCURATE WORD COUNT ON ENTRY FORM OR ENTRY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

B22. Community arts criticism: Three separate columns or stories that reflect a writer's ability to examine, review, and explain an element of the community's lifestyle. Such criticism can be about food, theater, visual arts, music, movies, fashion or similar subjects. Entries will be judged on writing style, the quality of the writer's informed commentary and its relevance to readers.

B23. Community arts reporting: Three stories that explore events, personalities or trends about food, theater, visual arts, music, movies, fashion or similar subjects. Entries may be written from the author's point of view, but should not be primarily focused on criticism or commentary.

B24. Community food and beverage reporting: Up to five stories that explore events, personalities or trends about dining, cooking or beverages. Entries may be written from the author's point of view, but should not be primarily focused on criticism or commentary.

B25. Community headline writing: Any three headlines composed by the same person for news stories. Entries must include the stories that the headlines accompanied.

C. STATEWIDE WRITING

Statewide categories are intended to honor the work of any Arizona journalist from any sized publication. Journalists from smaller publications should enter Community categories; after a Community category is chosen, Community and Statewide entries will be combined and an overall winner will be chosen.

Multiple story entries for these categories should reflect sustained coverage of a single issue or topic, not overall beat reporting. (Example: A collection of stories about the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office or about drunken driving enforcement would be eligible; a collection of stories about different police agencies or unrelated topics would not be eligible.)

All entries, **EXCEPT IF SPECIFICALLY NOTED OTHERWISE**, are strictly limited to a maximum of five stories or pieces of work. Sidebars count toward the total. (Example: Four stories plus a sidebar is a valid entry. Four stories plus two sidebars is not.) **Many categories have a different story count; see specific rules for each.**

C1. The Don Bolles Award for Investigative Reporting: One or more pieces on a single subject — published on a single day, or over the course of the year — that are the result of extensive research and original investigation. The winning entry will uncover corruption, incompetence or systemic problems in an area of high public interest and importance. A one-page letter, explaining what motivated the project and any impact that might not be apparent in the actual stories, is optional.

C2. Statewide public service journalism: One or more pieces on a single subject — published on a single day, or over the course of the year — that serve the public good. May include sidebars. A one-page letter explaining what motivated the project and any impact that might not be apparent in the actual stories is optional.

C3. Statewide breaking news: A single day's reporting of one or more pieces of unscheduled news on a single subject. May include sidebars. Entries should be reported and written in a

single shift. A one-page letter explaining deadline circumstances is optional. This category is open to print-only entries, online-only entries, and combined print and online entries. Entries that include online elements must include a live Web link, but a backup CD copy may be provided.

C4. Statewide public safety reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific aspect of law enforcement, courts, corrections, fire and rescue, or related areas.

C5. Statewide John Kolbe Politics Reporting Award: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific aspect of local, state or federal political issue or election-related coverage.

C6. Statewide government reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific aspect of local, state or federal government, related to regular actions performed by the agency. Election related coverage should be entered in C5.

C7. Statewide health reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific aspect of the health care industry, including treatment, research and consumer affairs.

C8. Statewide environmental/science reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific topic or trend related to natural resources, ecology, environmental policy or human interaction with nature.

C9. Statewide social issues reporting: A single story or up to five stories on a topic concerning a specific aspect of human-to-human interactions, values and beliefs. Issues that fall into this category include faith and religion, social services and the poor, families and children, aging and substance abuse.

C10. Statewide education reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific topic related to education.

C11. Statewide immigration reporting: A single story or up to five stories concerning a specific event or topic about immigration and related issues.

C12. Statewide business reporting: A single story or column, or a combination of up to five stories and columns on a specific aspect of business, finance or consumer issues.

C13. Statewide sports beat reporting: A single story or column, or a combination of up to five stories and columns, about a specific sport, team, issue, athlete or sporting event.

C14. Statewide sports feature reporting: A single story or column, or up to five stories and columns, about a specific feature related to sports, team, issue, athlete or sporting event.

C15. Statewide sports investigative reporting: A single story or column, or up to five stories and columns, about a single subject — published on a single day, or over the course of the year — that are the result of extensive research and original investigation.

C16. Statewide sports column writing: Three pieces identified as columns written with a focus on analyzing local sporting events, teams, players or coaches.

C17. Statewide column writing: Three pieces identified as columns written with a focus on reporting news, explaining recent events or telling a human-interest story.

C18. Statewide editorial writing: Three opinion pieces expressing views of a publication as an institution, not those of an individual writer, and advocating a position or course of action.

C19. Statewide personality profile: A single story or up to five stories that give an in-depth look at an individual or a specific group of people.

C20. Statewide human interest writing: A single story or up to five stories that go together as part of a whole that reflect a slice of real life, conveying the way people live their daily lives.

C21. Statewide short-form writing: A single story of 750 words or less that showcases the reporter's ability to tell a story completely but quickly. Sidebars may not be included. **LIST ACCURATE WORD COUNT ON ENTRY FORM OR ENTRY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

C22. Statewide arts criticism: Three separate columns or stories that reflect a writer's ability to examine, review, and explain an element of the community's lifestyle. Such criticism can be about food, theater, visual arts, music, movies, fashion or similar subjects. Entries will be judged on writing style, the quality of the writer's informed commentary and its relevance to readers.

C23. Statewide arts reporting: Three stories that explore events, personalities or trends about food, theater, visual arts, music, movies, fashion or similar subjects. Entries may be written from the author's point of view, but should not be primarily focused on criticism or commentary.

C24. Statewide food and beverage reporting: Up to five stories that explore events, personalities or trends about dining, cooking or beverages. Entries may be written from the author's point of view, but should not be primarily focused on criticism or commentary.

C25. Statewide headline writing: Any three headlines composed by the same person for news stories. Entries must include the stories that the headlines accompanied.

D. STATEWIDE/COMMUNITY DESIGN CATEGORIES

D1. Community Front-Page layout/design: Any first page of a Community publication that includes various elements of at least one story. (This doesn't include cover designs for magazines or tabloid covers that include only artwork, headlines and references to inside pages. For those, see category D-7.)

D2. Community non-deadline layout/design: A single news page (or part of a page) or package of a Community publication.

D3. Statewide Page One layout/design: The first page of a publication of any size that includes various elements of at least one story. (This doesn't include cover designs for magazines or tabloid covers that include only artwork, headlines and references to inside pages. For those, see category D-7.)

D4. Statewide non-deadline layout/design: A single news page (or part of a page) or package.

D5. Statewide tabloid/magazine cover design: The cover page of a magazine or a tabloid that includes artwork, headlines and references to inside pages. (Tabloid-style newspapers that run stories on the front page, instead of just headlines and teases, should enter categories D1 or D4, depending on publication size.)

D6. Statewide multi-page design: A double truck, special section, multi-page design or series of up to eight days. Must contain editorial rather than advertorial content and be produced by the editorial rather than the advertising or marketing staff. Note: Individual pages and/or double trucks from a special section entered in this category also may be entered in the non-deadline design category.

D7. Statewide illustration, drawn: A single piece of art or illustration, other than photographs, designed to augment an article's impact. Tear sheet or printout of PDF showing the entire package must be included.

D8. Statewide illustration, photo-based: A single piece of art or illustration that incorporates a photograph (or photographs), designed to augment an article's impact. Tear sheet or printout of PDF showing the entire package must be included.

E. STUDENT WRITING

Work in these categories must have been published in a student news outlet. Students who wish to enter work published elsewhere should enter the Community or Statewide categories.

Multiple story entries for these categories should reflect sustained coverage of a single issue or topic, not overall beat reporting. (Example: A collection of stories about the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office or about drunken driving enforcement would be eligible; a collection of stories about different police agencies or unrelated topics would not be eligible.)

E1. Student investigative reporting: One or more pieces on a single subject — published on a single day, or over the course of the year — that are the result of extensive research and original investigation. The winning entry will uncover corruption, incompetence or systemic

problems in an area of high public interest and importance. A one-page letter, explaining what motivated the project and any impact that might not be apparent in the actual stories, is optional.

E2. Student news reporting: A single story or up to five stories about one news event or issue.

E3. Student features reporting: A single story or column, or a combination of up to five stories and columns, that reflect how people live their daily lives.

E4. Student sports reporting: A single story or column, or a combination of up to five stories and columns, about a specific sport, team, issue, athlete or sporting event.

VIRG HILL ARIZONA JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

ENTRY FEE: \$25

Virg Hill was a popular and witty political columnist and reporter for *The Phoenix Gazette*. Hill died at the age of 62 of a heart attack while covering the Arizona House of Representatives. He passed away in January 1969, and in December of that year, the Arizona Press Club created the award in his honor.

The Virg Hill Award goes to the writer or editor who, in the opinion of the judges, has done the best work during 2013. The winner will be selected by three out-of-state judges.

- Entries shall include at least five and no more than eight main stories (sidebars may also be included and do not count as part of the total).
- Up to two of those stories may have a double or multiple bylines. All others must have a single byline.
- Entries may include a one-page letter explaining the obstacles overcome in reporting one or all of the stories in the entry.
- Entrants must submit FOUR COPIES OF THE COMPLETE PACKAGE, including stories, letters and explanations. One copy goes to each judge, and the fourth is kept by the board.
- The winner, first runner-up and second runner-up will receive a certificate.

ARIZONA COMMUNITY JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

ENTRY FEE: \$20

The Community Journalist of the Year Award is given to the writer or editor of a weekly or Community publication who, in the opinion of the contest judges, has done the best work in 2013 to enhance the goals of the journalism profession and the quality of life in the community.

- Entries should include no more than 12 samples of the entrant's work, such as news and feature stories, photographs, page designs and editorials. Sidebars are not included in that total.
- Entries should include a one-page letter explaining the qualities of the individual's work.
- Entrants must submit **FOUR COPIES OF THE COMPLETE PACKAGE**, including stories, letters and explanations. One copy goes to each judge, and the fourth is kept by the board.
- The winner, first runner-up and second runner-up will receive a certificate.

ARIZONA DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

ENTRY FEE: \$25

Designer of the Year goes to the designer who, in the opinion of the judges, has done the best work during 2013.

- Entries should include six examples of a designer's work, one of which can be a multiple-page design or a project or series.
- Entries also should include a one-page letter explaining the qualities of the individual's work.
- Pages entered in the Designer of the Year also may be entered in other categories.
- Entrants must submit **TWO COPIES OF THE COMPLETE PACKAGE**, including examples and letter. One copy goes to the judge team, and the other is kept by the board.
- The winner, first runner-up and second runner-up will receive a certificate.

ARIZONA PRESS CLUB 2016 WRITING AND DESIGN ENTRY FORM

Category Name and Number _____

Headlines and dates of publication. [Entrants must list every headline, followed by date of publication. For example: "Dog bites man" (1/24), "Man bites back" (1/25)

Word count for G7. Short-form Writing (must be under 750 words) _____

Name of entrant: _____

Publication: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

Eligibility Certification

I certify that I am eligible for membership in the Arizona Press Club and have paid all applicable contest fees. IN ENTERING THIS CONTEST, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ALL DECISIONS REGARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS AND JUDGING OF ENTRIES AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF AWARDS IS DONE AT THE COMPLETE AND SOLE DISCRETION OF THE ARIZONA PRESS CLUB. IF AN ENTRY IS DISQUALIFIED, I MAY APPEAL THE DECISION TO THE BOARD OF THE ARIZONA PRESS CLUB, WHOSE DECISION CONCERNING THE APPEAL SHALL BE FINAL. IN ENTERING THE PRESS CLUB CONTEST, I HEREBY RELEASE THE PRESS CLUB, ITS BOARD, OFFICERS AND AGENTS FROM ANY LOSS, CLAIM, DAMAGE OR INJURY THAT I MAY SUFFER FROM ENTERING OR PARTICIPATING IN THE CONTEST. BY MY SIGNATURE BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE LANGUAGE AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS.

NOTE: Journalists who work in the production of news for any Arizona newspaper, periodical or news service are eligible Press Club members.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ARIZONA PRESS CLUB 2016 **COMMUNITY** ENTRY FEE FORM

Daily newspapers under 20,000 circulation, non-daily publications under 50,000 and stand-alone online news sites: \$10/person membership fee, includes ONE FREE ENTRY, excluding Big Three categories. \$5 for each additional entry.

(REMINDER: If a smaller publication is distributed inside a large circulation publication, use the circulation of the larger publication in order to determine which category to enter.)

Name of individual entrant or name of COMMUNITY publication:

A. Number of entrants _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

B. Number of FREE entries (first entry per person, should match number of entrants)

_____ x \$0 = \$ _____

C. Number of regular entries (all entries beyond the first, which is included with the entry fee)

_____ x \$5 = \$ _____

D. Number of staff entries _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

E. Virg Hill JOY or DOY _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

F. CJY _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

TOTAL DUE (A+B+C+D+E+F): \$ _____

ARIZONA PRESS CLUB 2016 STATEWIDE PUBLICATIONS ENTRY FEE FORM

Daily newspapers with circulation of 20,001 and above; non-daily publications of 50,001 and above: \$10/person membership fee includes ONE FREE ENTRY, excluding Big Three categories. \$10 for each additional entry.

Name of individual entrant or name of STATEWIDE publication:

A. Number of entrants _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

B. Number of FREE entries (first entry per person, should match number of entrants)

_____ x \$0 = \$ _____

C. Number of regular entries (all entries beyond the first, which is included with the entry fee)

_____ x \$10 = \$ _____

D. Number of staff entries _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

E. Virg Hill JOY or DOY _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

TOTAL DUE (A+B+C+D+E): \$ _____