



When you see this icon, pay special attention to the information. It could mean the difference between winning an award and having your entry disqualified.



Entry Deadline: **Feb. 29, 2016**

- Entries must be uploaded by 11:59 pm
- Mailed entries must have Feb. 29 postmark



Contest Period:

Jan. 1, 2015 – Dec. 31, 2015



Contest Site: Digital files must be uploaded through the contest site, **www.betternewspapercontest.com**



Entry List: You must include a print out of your “Manage Entries” page with your payment.

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General Information

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER?

The contest is open to all Florida Press Association monthly, semi-monthly, weekly, semi-weekly and tri-weekly newspaper members, active and affiliates, in good standing, and whose 2016 dues are current by the date of contest entry and were FPA members in 2015.

All contest entries must be the sole work of the newspaper staff and/or regular contributors.

YOUR CIRCULATION DIVISION

For this contest, FPA newspapers are divided into three divisions based on circulation. The division for your newspaper is already pre-assigned in the judging website, based on your most recent circulation verification to FPA.

*Newspapers with a circulation exceeding 50,000 are ineligible to win sweepstakes awards due to their significantly greater resources.

In categories with circulation divisions, if there are fewer than five entries by three newspapers in any division, those entries will be combined with the next higher division for judging.

Divisions
Division A: Over 15,000*
Division B: 7,000 – 15,000
Division C: Under 7,000



Before uploading any entries complete the following two steps:

1. Complete the Circulation Verification form found at www.flpress.com/contests/circ. **One copy for each newspaper is required or your entries will not be judged.**
2. Make sure your newspaper is in the correct division on the website. If you feel your placement is incorrect, immediately contact Devon at FPA. (ddunkle@flpress.com)

THE ENTRIES

Accepted formats are PDF, JPG, GIF or PNG. Remember that judges will view your entries online so strive to make the file size small enough to make downloading easier.

No explanatory or background material may accompany entries unless specifically permitted by the category.

Every entry must be uploaded via the BNC system. For mailed-in entries, upload one front page of the entry to the system, but you can still send the whole entry via the mail.

WHEN YOU HAVE MAIL...

If you need to mail in hard copies for judging, abide by the following rules:

- Upload the front cover of the entry to the BNC system.
- Print out a label from the BNC system for each edition of the entry. Use one staple to attach the label to the upper left corner of each edition.
- Bind together all sections or editions that make up one entry with rubber bands or large clips.
- All entries from a single newspaper must be mailed at one time in one box or container.
- Ship to: FPA Better Weekly Contest, 610 Crescent Executive Ct, Ste 112, Lake Mary, FL 32746. **It must be postmarked by Feb. 29, 2016**
- Include your total payment for the contest with this package. The contest fees for paper entries sent via mail are **\$15 per entry**.

JUDGES

Entries will be judged by out-of-state industry executives with newsroom experience. Final decision on value and applicability of all entries is up to the judges. Judges have complete discretion in making awards, and are not required to grant awards in any category.

AWARDS

All awards and plaques are issued in the name of the newspaper as the official contest entrant unless otherwise noted. Judges may select First, Second and Third place winners for each class. Judges may **grant only one award per staff member in each category**. Awards will be presented during the 2016 convention being held September 14-16 at the Ritz-Carlton in Sarasota.

SWEEPSTAKES

Sweepstakes trophies will be awarded to the top newspaper in each circulation division, based on point accumulation. Points are awarded as follows: First Place – 3 points, Second Place – 2 points, Third Place – 1 point. There will be no tie-breaking procedures. If newspapers tie for top awards, duplicate awards will be presented.

PAYING FOR YOUR ENTRIES

Contest fee: \$10 per entry submitted online or \$15 per mailed entry. This fee is non-refundable. Full payment must accompany your entries or be received by FPA by the contest deadline or your entries will be disqualified. FPA will not invoice newspapers for their contest fees.



Print out the **Manage Entries** page for your newspaper containing a list of all enabled entries. Include it with a completed payment form (found at the end of this document) Make checks payable to Florida Press Association. Mail the list of entries, the payment form and check with any mailed entries. **Deadline for receiving payment is Feb. 29, 2016.**

Contest Rules

1. The deadline for ALL uploaded entries **11:59 p.m. EDT, Feb. 29, 2016**. All mailed entries must be postmarked/ dated on or before Feb. 29.
2. Membership dues for your newspaper must be paid by Feb. 29, 2016 in order to be eligible to enter the contest.
3. A copy of the Circulation Verification form must be received by Feb. 29, 2016 in order for your entries to be judged. The Circulation Verification form can be found at: www.flpress.com/contests/circ
4. Submit all entries online unless unable. For entries that need to be mailed please follow the instructions on page 3.
5. To aid the judges, in the photography category if there is more than one photograph on the page, indicate which photos are in the competition by adding an arrow pointing at, but not on, those photos.
6. Each newspaper must submit:
 - i. a printed copy of the Manage Entries page from the online system with the payment
 - ii. the Payment Form
 - iii. and any mailed entries. Please keep a copy for your own records as well.
7. All entries must have been published between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2015.
8. All mailed entries from a single newspaper must be submitted at one time in one package.
9. The entry fee for each individual entry you submit is **\$10 for online entries and \$15 for mailed entries**. Checks should be made payable to the Florida Press Association and mailed in compliance with the entry deadline.
10. All entries submitted must be from newspapers that are current members of the Florida Press Association and were members during 2015. Entries may not be submitted from sister publications unless they are also members of FPA.