



P.O. Box 10397
540 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60610

FIRST CLASS MAIL • DATED MATERIAL

Presorted
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 6784
Chicago, IL

THE CHICAGO HEADLINE CLUB PRESENTS THE 41ST ANNUAL Peter Lisagor Awards for Exemplary Journalism



.....
Entries \$50 for non-members; \$30 for Chicago Headline Club members. Join now and save.

Submit by Friday, January 12, 2018 at headlineclub.org. Through January 31, entries \$70 for non-members, \$50 for members.

Finalists named in mid-March on the website.

Awards dinner will be held Friday, May 11, 2018 at The Union League Club of Chicago.

.....
Chicago Headline Club Executive Board 2017-18 President:

Ben Meyerson, Chicago Tribune • President-elect and VP of membership: Brandis Friedman, WTTW • VP of FOIA and President ex-officio: Stan Zoller, Lake Forest College • VP of Programming: Alejandra Cancino, Better Government Association • Treasurer: Patrick Boylan, Chicago Bulldog Media • Secretary: Susan S. Stevens, freelancer

Board members Adriana Cardona, Univision • Howard Dubin, Manufacturers News • Robert K. Elder, Odd Hours Media • Dann Gire, Daily Herald • Jordan Owen, Chicago Sun-Times • Richelle Rogers, Loyola University • Suzanne McBride, Columbia College • Flynn McRoberts, Bloomberg News • Evan Moore, The Magazine of Sigma Chi • Mike Ewing, WGN-TV • Kristen Schorsch, Crain's Chicago Business • Britt Julious, Freelancer • Jason Martin, DePaul University

HONORING WORK PUBLISHED IN 2017

The Chicago Headline Club's Peter Lisagor Awards for Exemplary Journalism



are named for *The Chicago Daily News* Washington bureau chief from 1959 to 1976, who was one of the nation's most respected and well-known journalists. The Chicago Headline Club, the largest Society of

Professional Journalists chapter in the country, established the Lisagor Awards in 1977 to inspire Chicago-area journalists to follow his outstanding example and to recognize truly superior contributions to journalism. The Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) is widely acknowledged as the voice of journalism and a leader in recognizing members of the profession for outstanding achievement.



Peter Lisagor Awards for Exemplary Journalism

CONTEST RULES

Nominations must be received online by Friday, January 31, 2018. Reports must have been published or aired between January 1, 2017, and December 31, 2017.

Entries must be the original work of journalists in Illinois or who work for news media based in the state or northwest Indiana. In addition to Lake, LaPorte and Porter counties in Indiana, the contest welcomes entries from throughout Illinois. Nominations may be made by the author or by any other person. Nominees need not be members of the Chicago Headline Club.

Nominated work should be entered online at **betternewspapercontest.com**.

All nominations must meet standards set forth in the Society of Professional Journalists' code of ethics (**spj.org/ethics**). Entities that are principally advocacy organizations are not eligible. Entries should include all related corrections, clarifications or retractions.

Use the nomination form online. **Up to three individuals may be named on a team entry; otherwise the nomination must be made in the name of newsroom staff.**

Comments are allowed stating the project's goals, obstacles and results, or listing contributing staff members. The Chicago Headline Club is not responsible for errors or omissions in the nomination materials.

Print invoice and submit payment forms through PayPal, or credit card. A single payment may cover all nominations. The Chicago Headline Club's federal tax ID number is 36-3284316.

Non-members who join the Chicago Headline Club at the time of entering the contest may pay the members-only contest fee. Membership costs are \$75 for the national Society of Professional Journalists and \$20 for Headline Club for a total of \$95. Entries \$50 for non-members; \$30 for Chicago Headline Club members. Join now and save. To join or renew membership go to **spj.org**.

The Chicago Headline Club may refund fees and return entries that do not comply with nomination rules, or if it deems a category has not attracted a competitive number of nominations. Judges may withhold awards if they believe no entry is worthy of recognition; fees are not refunded in such cases.

Journalists outside the contest area will judge nominations. All decisions are final. All materials become the property of the Chicago Headline Club and cannot be returned. Entrants may be asked to judge another contest's entries in their specialty or area of expertise.

Questions? Contact the Headline Club at awards@headlineclub.org or (872) 267-2242.

CATEGORIES

Judges will look for enterprise, precision and clarity; analytical or technical skill; style and impact. Except where noted, a single work may be submitted in multiple categories for an additional fee. The Chicago Headline Club reserves the right to reclassify entries.

PETER LISAGOR BEST ALL MEDIA

For ALL MEDIA including print, online, radio, television and short documentary film.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| AM1. Best Deadline Reporting
Coverage of a spot news event in its first published/broadcast version | AM3. Best Feature Story
A single story | AM7. Best Multimedia Collaboration
A story or series involving the joint effort of two or more media organizations | AM10. Best Illustration
A single illustration or series involving one subject |
| AM2. Best Investigative Reporting
A single story or series of stories on a single subject
Judges will consider impact and the use of Freedom of Information Act and other open-records tools to uncover abuses of power or failures to uphold the public interest | AM4. Best Feature Series
Series of stories on a single subject | AM8. Best Editorial Cartoon
From minimum of 3 to a maximum of 6 examples of the work of a single editorial cartoonist | AM11. Best Data Journalism.
Innovative use of data to illustrate a story, including the use of the Freedom of Information Act and other open-records tools |
| | AM5. Best Short Film Documentary
A film documentary on a single subject no longer than 20 minutes | AM9. Best Graphics
Three examples of work by one or a team of designers (Single-page or multiple-page spreads) | |
| | AM6. Best Photography
A single photograph or series of photographs on a single subject by one or more photographers | | |

GENERAL INTEREST DAILY NEWSPAPER, NEWS SERVICE OR BUREAU

Please note the circulation cutoff for large news organizations has changed.
All wire services compete in the more than 100,000 circulation categories.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| D1. Best Deadline Reporting, circulation more than 100,000 | D9. Best Science, Health or Environment Reporting, circulation more than 100,000 | D17. Best Feature Story or Series, circulation more than 100,000 | D27. Best Feature Photo, circulation more than 100,000 |
| D2. Best Deadline Reporting, circulation less than 100,000
Coverage of a news event, in its first published version | D10. Best Science, Health or Environment Reporting, circulation less than 100,000
Story or series on a single subject | D18. Best Feature Story or Series, circulation less than 100,000
Single story or series of stories on the same topic | D28. Best Feature Photo, circulation less than 100,000
A single photograph or a series of photographs on a single subject by one or more photographers |
| D3. Best Investigative Reporting, circulation more than 100,000 | D11. Best News Column or Commentary, circulation more than 100,000 | D19. Best Arts Reporting and Criticism, circulation more than 100,000 | D29. Best Sports Photo, circulation more than 100,000 |
| D4. Best Investigative Reporting, circulation less than 100,000
Story or series on a single subject
Judges will consider impact and the use of Freedom of Information Act and other open-records tools to uncover abuses of power or failures to uphold the public interest. | D12. Best News Column or Commentary, circulation less than 100,000
Three examples or a series on a single topic by the same author(s) | D20. Best Arts Reporting and Criticism, circulation less than 100,000
Story or series on a single subject | D30. Best Sports Photo, circulation less than 100,000
A single photograph or a series of photographs on a single subject by one or more photographers |
| D5. Best Political and Government Reporting, circulation more than 100,000 | D13. Best Editorial Writing, circulation more than 100,000 | D21. Best Sports Story, circulation more than 100,000 | D31. Best Design, circulation more than 100,000 |
| D6. Best Political and Government Reporting, circulation less than 100,000
Story or series on a single subject | D14. Best Editorial Writing, circulation less than 100,000
Three examples or a series on a single topic by the same author(s) | D22. Best Sports Story, circulation less than 100,000
Single story | D32. Best Design, circulation less than 100,000
Up to three examples of work by one page designer; can be single pages or multiple-page spreads |
| D7. Best Education Reporting, circulation more than 100,000 | D15. Best Business or Consumer Reporting, circulation more than 100,000 | D23. Best Sports Commentary, circulation more than 100,000 | D33. Best Technology reporting, circulation more than 100,000 |
| D8. Best Education Reporting, circulation less than 100,000
Story or series on a single subject | D16. Best Business or Consumer Reporting, circulation less than 100,000
Story or series on a single subject | D24. Best Sports Commentary, circulation less than 100,000
Three examples or a series on a single topic by the same author | D34. Best Technology reporting, circulation less than 100,000
Story or series on a single subject |
| | | D25. Best News Photo, circulation more than 100,000 | D35. General Excellence in Print Journalism
Three different issues of a single publication; please mail to P.O. box |
| | | D26. Best News Photo, circulation less than 100,000
A single photograph or a series of photographs on a single subject by one or more photographers | |

CATEGORIES cont'd

NON-DAILY NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE OR NEWSPAPER MAGAZINE SECTION

- N1. Best In-depth Reporting in a General-Interest Publication, Magazine or Magazine Section**
Story or series on a single subject
- N2. Best In-depth Reporting in a Community Newspaper**
Story or series on a single subject
- N3. Best In-depth Reporting in a Business Magazine or Newspaper**
Story or series on a single subject
- N4. Best News Column or Commentary**
Three examples or a series on a single topic by the same author(s)
- N5. Best Editorial Writing**
Three examples or a series on a single topic by the same author(s)
- N6. Best Business Reporting,**
Story or series on a single subject
- N7. Best Feature Story**
Single story
- N8. Best Feature Series**
Series of stories on the same topic
- N9. Best Non-deadline Reporting in Newspaper or Magazine**
Story or series on a single subject
- N10. Best Political Reporting in Newspaper or Magazine**
Story or series on a single subject
- N11. Best Education Reporting in Newspaper or Magazine**
Story or series on a single subject
- N12. Best Arts Reporting and Criticism**
Story or series on a single subject
- N13. Best Sports Story**
Single story
- N14. Best Photography**
A single photograph or a series of photographs on a single subject by one or more photographers
- N15. Best Design**
Three examples of work by one page designer; can be single pages or multiple-page spreads
- N16. Best Illustration**
Three examples of work by one illustrator
- N17. General Excellence in Print Journalism**
Three different issues of a single publication; please mail to P.O. box
-

BROADCAST: TELEVISION

- T1. Best Spot News Story**
Coverage of a news event within 24 hours
- T2. Best In-depth News Story or Series**
Series on a single topic by a reporter or team of reporters
- T3. Best Investigative Report**
Can be a single story or series by a reporter or reporting team
Judges will consider impact and the use of Freedom of Information Act and other open-records tools to uncover abuses of power or failures to uphold the public interest.
- T4. Best On Camera Talent**
Three examples of work by the same reporter
- T5. Best Newscast**
Three examples of the same time-slot program
- T6. Best Feature News Report**
A single story or series on arts, entertainment or human interest
- T7. Best Public Affairs Programming**
A single subject examined by a reporter or reporting team
- T8. Best Business or Consumer Reporting**
Can be a single story or series by a reporter or reporting team
- T11. Best Health or Science Reporting**
Can be a single story or series by a reporter or reporting team
- T12. Best Sports Story/Single News Story or Feature**
For excellence in coverage of sports in general, sports related topics or subject matter within a news program
- T13. Best News Specialty/Arts/Culture/Entertainment News - Feature or Series**
Best coverage of general entertainment variety, visual/ performing arts, cultural and/or ethnic issues or topics
- T14. Best News Specialty/Business/Consumer News - Feature or Series**
Best coverage of business, finance, consumer affairs or economic topics
- T15. Best News Specialty/Crime News**
Best coverage in a feature or series of crimes or other violations of the law
- T16. Best News Specialty/Education/Schools News**
Best coverage of schools, teaching or education
- T17. Best News Specialty/Environment News**
Best coverage of environmental impact issues, topics or subject matter
- T18. Best News Specialty/Health/Science News**
Best coverage of health, science, medical topics or subject matter
- T19. Best News Specialty/Human interest**
Best coverage of stories that appeal to human spirit
- T20. Best News Specialty/Politics/Government News**
Best coverage of political, civil, government issues or subject matter
- T21. Best News Specialty/Religious**
Best coverage of religious and/or spiritual subject matters
- T22. Best News Specialty/Weather News**
Best coverage of weather, weather related topics or subject matter within a news program
- T23. Best Video Journalist**
For excellence by an individual reporter, serving as producer, reporter and on-camera talent, covering a single or multi-part story or topic

CATEGORIES cont'd

BROADCAST: RADIO

- R1. **Best Breaking News Story**
Coverage of a news event within 24 hours
- R2. **Best In-depth News Story or Series**
Series on a single topic by a reporter or team of reporters
- R3. **Best Investigative Reporting**
Can be a single story or series by a reporter or reporting team
- R4. **Best Reporter**
Three examples of work by the same reporter
- R5. **Best Newscast**
Three examples of the same time-slot newscast
- R6. **Best Feature Reporting**
A single story or series on arts, entertainment or human interest
- R7. **Best Public Affairs Programming**
A single subject examined by a reporter or reporting team
- R8. **Best Business or Consumer Reporting**
Can be a single story or series by a reporter or reporting team
- R9. **Best Health or Science Reporting**
Can be a single story or series by a reporter or reporting team
- R10. **Best Sports Story**
A single story

SPECIALTY/TRADE

This category is open to trade publications, specialty wire services and bureaus.

- S1. **Best Deadline Report**
Coverage of a news event within 24 hours
- S2. **Best In-depth Report or Series**
A single subject examined by a reporter or reporting team
- S3. **Best Commentary**
Three examples or a series on a single topic by the same author(s)
- S4. **Best Business or Consumer Reporting**
Story or series on a single subject
- S5. **Best Feature Story or Series**
Single story or series
- S6. **Best Design**
Up to three examples of work by one page designer; can be single pages or multiple-page spreads.

ONLINE CATEGORIES FOR INDEPENDENT & AFFILIATE JOURNALISTS

- X1. **Best Multimedia Feature Presentation**
Excellence in telling a story to an online audience using multimedia techniques, including interactive graphics, Flash, photography, audio and video. In addition to the quality of the journalism, emphasis will be placed on visual design and artful blending of multiple media into a single presentation.
- X2. **Best News Website**
For the best source of news and utility in the Chicago market. Submit URLs, screen shots or PDFs.
- X3. **Best Individual Blog Post, independent**
Blog, original to the web, written by a blogger working independent of an established news organization. The commentary should display freshness of insight and explanation. An entry may consist of up to three examples. (Print syndication after initial web posting does not disqualify an entry.)
- X4. **Best Individual Blog Post, affiliated**
Blog, original to the web, written by a blogger working for an established news organization. The commentary should display freshness of insight and explanation. An entry may consist of up to three examples. (Print syndication after initial web posting does not disqualify an entry.)
- X5. **Best Continuing Blog, independent**
Blog, original to the web, written by a blogger working independent of an established news organization. An entry may consist of up to three examples. (Print syndication after initial web posting does not disqualify an entry.)
- X6. **Best Continuing Blog, affiliated**
Blog, original to the web, written by a blogger working for an established news organization. An entry may consist of up to three examples. (Print syndication after initial web posting does not disqualify an entry.)
- X7. **Best Deadline Reporting**
Online coverage of a news event within its first 24 hours.
- X8. **Best Non-deadline Reporting**
Story or series on a single subject.
- X9. **Best Series, Non-deadline Reporting**
Series of stories on a single subject.
- X10. **Best Breaking News Story**
Coverage of a news event produced for the web throughout a 72-hour period of a breaking-news event or development. Judges will weigh evidence-including screen shots in the first hours after the event-of exceptional reporting under deadline pressure, clear presentation and creative use of the medium, including updating of and additions to main news elements, within the 72-hour period following the original event. An entry will consist of a single piece, series or package on the same event or development.
- X11. **Best Neighborhood/Community News Website**
For the best source of local news in a neighborhood or community.
- X12. **Best Business or Consumer Reporting**
Story or series on a single subject
- X13. **Best Feature Story or Series**
Single story or series, sports or human interest
- X14. **Best Investigative/Public Service Reporting**
Original work with clear presentation and creative use of the medium. A measure of the impact of the work will be considered. A single piece, series or package on the same subject.
- X15. **Best Use of News Video**
Online-originated video journalism crafted specifically for a web audience. Emphasis will be placed on compelling narrative, originality and creative use of the medium. Entries may consist of a single story or up to three examples from a series related to a single topic and may be integrated with other multimedia tools. Slideshows in a video format are not eligible.
- X16. **Best Use of Features Video**
Online-originated video journalism crafted specifically for a web audience. Emphasis will be placed on compelling narrative, originality and creative use of the medium. Entries may consist of a single story or up to three examples from a series related to a single topic and may be integrated with other multimedia tools. Slideshows in a video format are not eligible.
- X17. **Best Use of Digital Technology**
Use of emerging digital techniques to tell a story and serve a community. Emphasis will be placed on creative use of technology and alternative platforms.
- X18. **Best Start-Up**
A venture that employs innovative tools in new ways to inform the public. To be considered, the news organization cannot have existed before Jan. 1, 2016.
- X19. **General Excellence in Online Journalism**
Websites will be judged on excellence of content, interactivity, rich media, design, navigation and community tools. Entries may consist of one main URL. Highlight original online reporting, three examples of design and navigation innovation and three examples of creative technology use.
- X20. **Best Photo**
A single photograph or a series of photographs on a single subject by one or more photographers
- X21. **Best New Podcast**
Recognizing excellence from a podcast started in 2016. Three representative episodes. Open to podcasts that also have radio counterparts.
- X22. **Best Podcast**
This award spotlights an established podcast. Three representative episodes. Open to podcasts that also have radio counterparts.
- X23. **Best Podcast Single Episode**
Recognizes the best individual program in an existing podcast. Open to podcasts that also have radio counterparts.

CHICAGO HEADLINE CLUB WILL AWARD
AT THE LISAGOR AWARDS DINNER

**YOU SALUTED THE LITTLE GUY.
AND NOW WE SALUTE YOU.**

**WATCHDOG
AWARD**



**FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC INTEREST REPORTING
HONORING WORK PUBLISHED IN 2017**

The Watchdog Award honors reporting that calls attention to situations in which the public is being harmed or poorly served. Stories may involve public interest reporting at the local, state or national level. Stories may include coverage of the government, entities contracting with the government and public or private business.

The award is explicitly designed to encourage stories that stick up for the common person. Subject matter should include outstanding reporting that highlights disparities in how the public is served or public activities that disproportionately affect certain segments of the population.

Judges consider reporting enterprise, barriers to obtaining the information, accuracy, clarity of analysis and writing style. Judges may consider civic impact and evaluate the circumstances prompting the coverage and results achieved.

Entries must be the original work of journalists based in Illinois or who work for Illinois news media. Nominations may be made by the author or by any other person. Nominees need not be members of the Chicago Headline Club.

The Watchdog Award, a cash prize, is funded by a grant from The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation and is administered by the Chicago Headline Club and the Chicago Headline Club Foundation.

Nominations must be emailed no later than **Friday, January 12, 2018**, to Watchdog Award coordinator Jason Martin at jmart181@depaul.edu. Reports must have been published or aired between **January 1, 2017**, and **December 31, 2017**. For complete contest rules, visit headlineclub.org. There is no entry fee.



LIFETIME Achievement AWARD

The Chicago Headline Club Lifetime Achievement Award is an annual award recognizing journalists for their extraordinary contribution to the community and/or the profession. The Lifetime Achievement Award honors those journalists who tirelessly work to cover, report, write, edit and tape the news day in and day out.

Lifetime Award recipients recognized by the Headline Club are journalists known primarily for their work in Chicago or who have worked primarily in Chicago media.

Nominees come from various aspects of the media, including print, broadcast, the trade press and web-based publications.

A nominating committee appointed each year by the Headline Club president seeks out nominations both from inside and outside of the journalism community. The Headline Club board then votes to approve each year's honorees.

To nominate someone, go to headlineclub.org or send an email to awards@headlineclub.org. Deadline is **Friday, January 12, 2018**.

ANNE KEEGAN AWARD

for distinguished journalism

The Anne Keegan Award for distinguished journalism reflecting the dignity and spirit of the common man will be presented to the print journalist who tells stories of ordinary people in extraordinarily well-reported and well-written prose.

Distinguished by compassion, character and courage, these stories will give voice to the voiceless while muting the voice of the reporter, benefit from the "eye" more than from the "I" of the reporter, and touch the human heart.

Deadline is **Friday, January 12, 2018**. No entry fee. Articles may be entered in other Lisagor categories as well.

Submit up to three articles to:

Michael Miner
4027 N. Paulina St.
Chicago, IL 60613



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You may also join online at spj.org.
For more information, write to membership@headlineclub.org
or call us at (872) 267-2242.

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Work/school address:

Work telephone: ()

Home address:

Home telephone: ()

E-mail:

One-Year Membership in CHC and SPJ:

..... Professional journalists & Educators	\$95.00
..... Students, Recent Grads & Retired Journalists	\$37.50
..... Spouse/Domestic Partner of current members	\$57.50
..... Other Supporter (Associate Membership)	\$114.00

Please send mailings to my Work Home

Please bill my: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Credit card number 3-digit code

Expiration Date: / Billing ZIP code:

Return completed application(s) to:

Chicago Headline Club,
P.O. Box 10397
540 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60610

Or email to:

membership@headlineclub.org

Ethics AdviceLine for Journalists

“Journalists confront ethics dilemmas every day and want to do the right thing, but the correct course of action is not always clear. Our goal is not to offer easy answers to tough ethics issues, but to guide journalists to a decision based on sound ethical journalism.”

- David Ozar, an AdviceLine call taker and ethics expert

Call 866-DILEMMA.

One thing is certain about the future of journalism: Ethics matters. Especially in these dark days of monumental change and uncertainty, credibility and professionalism will be vital no matter what form journalism takes in the future. When in doubt about an ethics decision, chart a clear course to the future by calling the Ethics AdviceLine for Journalists.

AdviceLine is a free service offered by the Chicago Headline Club. More than 1,000 journalists have called AdviceLine for guidance on ethics since it was founded in 2001.

Make the right decision. Call the Ethics AdviceLine for Journalists for guidance in ethical decision-making.

AdviceLine of the many services offered by the Chicago Headline Club to enhance professionalism in journalism and to guide journalists into the future.

ethicsadviceforjournalists.org | headlineclub.org | spj.org