

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MDDC Honors Top Journalists at Awards Luncheon

COLUMBIA, MD – Winners in the 2003 MDDC Press Association Editorial Contest and the 2004 Newspaper Hall of Fame inductee were honored today at the annual Editorial Awards Luncheon at the Association's Editorial Conference at the Sheraton Columbia Hotel.

The James S. Keat Freedom of Information Award, presented to the newspaper judged to have made the best effort last year to gain access to public records, pursue open meetings or address other FOI issues, was won by the Carroll County Times, with a special tribute to editor Jim Lee.

The judges recognized the impressive, sustained effort of the Access Maryland 2003 project that included extensive coverage of the MDDC audit of state agencies. In addition, the newspaper published a series of articles appearing on the Opinion page each Monday throughout the year that highlighted different aspects of open records and open meetings. The newspaper created a Web page dedicated to open government and open meetings with sample FOI and PIA request letters, links to agencies and an overview of Maryland's Public Information Act. And finally, the newspaper sponsored training sessions on open meetings, open records and ethics for local government officials.

"Times readers were well-served by the strong local information and guidance provided by Lee and his staff, learning their rights and responsibilities when it comes to Carroll County open meetings and how and where to access records," said the judges.

Six newspapers won Newspaper of the Year Awards, emblematic of scoring the most points among all the competing newspapers. These six overall winners and their respective circulation divisions are:

- The Baltimore Sun, Division A (daily newspapers over 75,000)
- The Herald-Mail, Hagerstown, Division B (dailies between 30,000 and 75,000)
- The Daily Times, Salisbury, Division C (dailies under 30,000)
- Howard County Times, Division D (non-dailies over 20,000)
- Potomac Almanac, Division E (non-dailies between 10,001 to 20,000)
- The Record, Havre de Grace, Division F (non-dailies 10,000 and under).

Forty-nine individuals and three staffs won or shared the 32 "Best of Show" awards, representing the work judged the best of each editorial category in the contest regardless of newspaper size. (Names of the Best of Show winners are attached.) In all, more than 400 awards were presented to second place, first place, and best of

show winners. The contest consisted of work done in calendar year 2003 with 92 member newspapers submitting 2,419 entries. The West Virginia Press Association judged the MDDC contest this year.

In addition to the contest winners, the 2004 MDDC Press Association Newspaper Hall of Fame inductee was recognized for his achievements in journalism. James M. Schurz, former editor and publisher of The Herald-Mail in Hagerstown, was inducted as the 37th member of the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Newspaper Hall of Fame.

Mr. Schurz, a past president of the MDDC Press Association, joined The Herald-Mail in 1968 and spent nearly 20 years in Hagerstown, the last 12 as editor and publisher. He is currently a senior vice president and director of Schurz Communications in South Bend, Indiana.

“In Hagerstown, Jim Schurz has created newspapers where journalists can practice their trade with integrity, with excellence and with honor, and with the reader coming first,” said MDDC President-elect John League, current publisher of The Herald-Mail in Hagerstown. “In this business that’s about as good as it gets.”

While under Mr. Schurz’s leadership, The Herald-Mail gained a reputation of holding public institutions responsible to the people they’re intended to serve. During that time, the newspaper fought for open hearings in a West Virginia Court and Jim stood by his newsroom when advertisers boycotted the newspapers to protest stories they did not like. Mr. Schurz demanded that newspapers be fair, accurate and objective, said League.

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MDDC Press Association
2003 Editorial Contest
Best of Show

1. Editorial

John Douglas
The Hancock News
Division F: Non-dailies from
10,000 and under

2. Local Column

Bob Parasiliti
The Herald-Mail
Division B: Dailies from 30,000 to
75,000

3. Spot News

The Washington Post Staff
The Washington Post
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

4. General News Story

Allison Klein
The Baltimore Sun
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

5. Continuing Coverage

Ari Cetron
Potomac Almanac
Division E: Non-dailies from
10,001 – 20,000

6. Series

David Simon
Carroll County Times
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

Maria Tsigas
Carroll County Times
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

Jamie Schmidt
Carroll County Times
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

Jamie Kelly
Carroll County Times
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

Justin Palk
Carroll County Times
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

Jonathan Jones
Carroll County Times
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

Benjamin Demers
Carroll County Times
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

Carrie Knauer
Carroll County Times
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

7. Investigative Reporting

Gilbert M. Gaul
The Washington Post
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

Mary Pat Flaherty
The Washington Post
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

8. Feature Story

Tom Dunkel
The Baltimore Sun
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

9. Local Government

Tom Eldred
Delaware State News
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

Drew Volturo
Delaware State News
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

Mike Fenimore
Delaware State News
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

10. State Government

Ken Moore
Potomac Almanac
Division E: Non-dailies from
10,001 – 20,000

Ari Cetron
Potomac Almanac
Division E: Non-dailies from
10,001 – 20,000

11. Public Service

Ken Moore
Potomac Almanac
Division E: Non-dailies from
10,001 – 20,000

Alex Scofield
Potomac Almanac
Division E: Non-dailies from
10,001 – 20,000

12. General News Photo

Joey Gardner
The Daily Times
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

13. Spot News Photo

Matthew Gunby
Carroll County Times
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

14. Feature Photo

Laura Segall
Howard County Times
Division D: Non-dailies over
20,000

15. Photo Series

John Makely
The Baltimore Sun
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

16. Sports Photo

Maximilian K. Franz
The Daily Record
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

17. Sports Story

Bob Blubaugh
Carroll County Times
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

18. Sports Feature Story

Carol Gralia
Howard County Times
Division D: Non-dailies over
20,000

19. Sports Column
Marcus Helton
Carroll County Times
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

20. Editorial Cartoon
Eric Smith
The Capital
Division B: Dailies from 30,000 to 75,000

21. Business/Economic
Eric Tegler
Baltimore SmartCEO
Division E: Non-dailies from 10,001 – 20,000

22. Medical/Science
Liza Mundy
The Washington Post
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

23. Religion
Diane Reynolds
Laurel Leader
Division D: Non-dailies over 20,000

24. Education
Marc Fisher
The Washington Post
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

25. Special Section
Mark Hartsell
The Washington Times
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

Scott Haring
The Washington Times
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

Joseph W. Scopin, Jr.
The Washington Times
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

Alexander Hunter
The Washington Times
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

Ismael Roldan
The Washington Times
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

Sports Staff
The Washington Times
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

Photo Staff
The Washington Times
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

26. Headline
Al Kemp
The News Journal
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

27. Page 1 Design
David S. Miller
The Daily Record
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

Maximilian K. Franz
The Daily Record
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

Nancy Kercheval
The Daily Record
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

28. Feature/News Page Design
Dan Garrow
The News Journal
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

29. Sports Page Design
Dan Garrow
The News Journal
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

30. Informational Graphics/General
Dan Garrow
The News Journal
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

31. Informational Graphics/Sports
Dan Garrow
The News Journal
Division A: Dailies over 75,000

32. Art or Illustration
Maximilian K. Franz
The Daily Record
Division C: Dailies under 30,000

NEWSPAPER of the YEAR

DIVISION A
DAILIES OVER 75,000
THE BALTIMORE SUN

DIVISION B
DAILIES FROM 30,000 TO 75,000
THE HERALD-MAIL

DIVISION C
DAILIES UNDER 30,000
THE DAILY TIMES

DIVISION D
NON-DAILIES OVER 20,000
HOWARD COUNTY TIMES

DIVISION E
NON-DAILIES FROM 10,001 TO 20,000
POTOMAC ALMANAC

DIVISION F
NON-DAILIES FROM 10,000 AND UNDER
THE RECORD