THE CHICAGO HEADLINE CLUB
PRESENTS THE 37TH ANNUAL
Peter Lisagor Awards
for Exemplary Journalism

Entries $50; $30 for Chicago Headline Club members’ self-nominated work. Join now and save.
Submit by Friday, January 31, 2014 at headlineclub.org.
Finalists named in mid-March on the website.
Awards dinner will be held Friday, May 2, 2014 at The Union League Club of Chicago.

Chicago Headline Executive Club Board, 2013 - 14
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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.
CONTEST RULES

Nominations must be received online by Friday, January 31, 2014. Reports must have been published or aired between January 1, 2013, and December 31, 2013.

Entries must be the original work of journalists based in the Chicago area or who work for Chicago-area news media. The contest covers Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, McHenry and Will counties in Illinois and Lake, LaPorte and Porter counties in Indiana. Nominations may be made by the author or by any other person. Nominees need not be members of the Chicago Headline Club.

Nominated work may be entered online at headlineclub.org, or betternewspapercontest.com under Open Call contestant.

All nominations must meet standards set forth in the Society of Professional Journalists’ code of ethics (spj.org/ethics). 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, credit card or check payable to the Chicago Headline Club. A single payment may cover all nominations. The Chicago Headline Club’s federal tax ID number is 36-3284316.

Nonmembers 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; members pay $30 per entry to enter the contest, nonmembers pay $50. 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 Club President Fernando Diaz at fediaz@vivelohoy.com, (301) 204-7300; or Executive Director Aimee DeBat at chc.spj@gmail.com, (312) 553-0393.
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.

GENERAL INTEREST DAILY NEWSPAPER, NEWS SERVICE OR BUREAU

All wire services compete in the more than 250,000 circulation categories.

D1. Best Deadline Reporting, circulation more than 250,000
D2. Best Deadline Reporting, circulation less than 250,000
D3. Best non-deadline reporting, circulation more than 250,000
D4. Best non-deadline reporting, circulation less than 250,000
D5. Best Investigative Reporting, circulation more than 250,000
D6. Best Investigative Reporting, circulation less than 250,000
D7. Best Political and Government Reporting, circulation more than 250,000
D8. Best Political and Government Reporting, circulation less than 250,000
D9. Best Education Reporting, circulation more than 250,000
D10. Best Education Reporting, circulation less than 250,000
D11. Best Science, Health or Environment Reporting, circulation more than 250,000
D12. Best Science, Health or Environment Reporting, circulation less than 250,000
D13. Best News Column or Commentary, circulation more than 250,000
D14. Best News Column or Commentary, circulation less than 250,000
D15. Best Editorial Writing, circulation more than 250,000
D16. Best Editorial Writing, circulation less than 250,000
D17. Best Business or Consumer Reporting, circulation more than 250,000
D18. Best Business or Consumer Reporting, circulation less than 250,000
D19. Best Feature Story or Series, circulation more than 250,000
D20. Best Feature Story or Series, circulation less than 250,000
D21. Best Arts Reporting and Criticism, circulation more than 250,000
D22. Best Arts Reporting and Criticism, circulation less than 250,000
D23. Best Sports Story, circulation more than 250,000
D24. Best Sports Story, circulation less than 250,000
D25. Best Sports Commentary, circulation more than 250,000
D26. Best Sports Commentary, circulation less than 250,000
D27. Best News Photo, circulation more than 250,000
D28. Best News Photo, circulation less than 250,000
D29. Best Feature Photo, circulation more than 250,000
D30. Best Feature Photo, circulation less than 250,000
D31. Best Sports Photo, circulation more than 250,000
D32. Best Sports Photo, circulation less than 250,000
D33. Best Design, circulation more than 250,000
D34. Best Design, circulation less than 250,000
D35. Best Technology reporting, circulation more than 250,000
D36. Best Technology reporting, circulation less than 250,000
D37. Best Illustration, circulation more than 250,000
D38. Best Illustration, circulation less than 250,000
D39. General Excellence in Print Journalism

NON-DAILY NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE OR NEWSPAPER MAGAZINE SECTION

N1. Best In-depth Reporting in a General-Interest Publication
N2. Best In-depth Reporting in a Community Newspaper
N3. Best In-depth Reporting in a Business Magazine or Newspaper
N4. Best In-depth Reporting in a Magazine or Magazine Section
N5. Best News Column or Commentary
N6. Best Editorial Writing
N7. Best Business Reporting
N8. Best Feature Story or Series
N9. Best non-deadline Reporting in Newspaper or Magazine
N10. Best Political Reporting in Newspaper or Magazine
N11. Best Education Reporting in Newspaper or Magazine
N12. Best Arts Reporting and Criticism
N13. Best Sports Story
N14. Best Photography
N15. Best Design
N16. Best Illustration
CATEGORIES cont’d

BROADCAST: TELEVISION

T1. 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

T4. Best On Camera Talent
Three examples of work by the same reporter

T5. Best Morning Newscast
Three examples of the same time-slot program.

T6. Best Afternoon Newscast
Three examples of the same time-slot program.

T7. Best Evening Newscast
Three examples of the same time-slot program.

T8. Best Feature News Report
A single story or series on arts, entertainment or human interest

T9. Best Public Affairs Programming
A single subject examined by a reporter or reporting team

T10. 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 Sports Program Feature or Segment
For excellence in a feature or segment from a daily or weekly sports program, or for coverage of a one-time-only sports event (not sporting game or play-by-play) or sports series.

T14. Best Sports Program Series
For excellence in a daily or weekly sports program, or coverage of a one-time sports event (not sporting game or play-by-play) or sports series.

T15. Best Sports/One-Time Special
For excellence in a one-time sports related special program that is not part of a daily or weekly sports program. Entry may be live or taped. Entry should have no post edits except for the removal of commercials.

T16. Best Sports/Sporting Event or Game
For excellence in production of a single program, special or series, live or live-to-tape sports event or game. A composite is required and can include examples of: Show Open, Graphics Package, Use of Relays, Inserted Pre-Produced Segments, Use of Statistical or Other Prepared Material, Highlights, Standard Coverage (e.g. Routine Innings or Downs) and any additional material at entrant’s discretion.

T17. 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

T18. News Specialty/Business/Consumer News - Feature or Series
Best coverage of business, finance, consumer affairs or economic topics

Best coverage in a feature or series of crimes or other violations of the law

T20. News Specialty/Education/Schools News
Best coverage of schools, teaching or education

Best coverage of environmental impact issues, topics or subject matter

T22. News Specialty/Health/Science News
Best coverage of health, science, medical topics or subject matter

T23. News Specialty/Human Interest
Best coverage of stories that appeal to human spirit

T24. News Specialty/Politics/Government News
Best coverage of political, civil, government issues or subject matter

T25. News Specialty/Religious
Best coverage of religious and/or spiritual subject matters

Best coverage of weather, weather related topics or subject matter within a news program

T27. Best Video Journalist
For excellence by an individual cross-discipline producer, serving also as a photojournalist, editor, talent and writer covering a single or multi-part story or topic
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 on visual design and artful blending of multiple media into a single presentation.

X2. Best News Web Site
For the best source of news and utility in the Chicago market. Submit URLs, screen shots or PDFs.

X3. Best Individual Blog Post, Independently
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, Independently
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
Online coverage of a news event within its first 24 hours.

X8. Best Non-deadline Reporting Online
Story or series on a single subject online.

X9. 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.

X10. Best Neighborhood/Community News Website
For the best source of local news in a neighborhood or community.

X11. Best Business or Consumer Reporting
Story or series on a single subject.

X12. Best Feature Story or Series
Single story or series, sports or human interest.

X13. Best Investigative/Public Service Reporting
Original work with clear presentation, creative use of the medium and a measure of the impact of the work will be considered. A single piece, series or package on the same subject.

X14. 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.

X15. 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.

X16. 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.

X17. Best Start-Up
This category recognizes a newly formed journalism-focused company. Start-ups will be judged by the degree in which they have positively contributed to the dissemination of information within their geographic community, use of technology, accessibility, sustainability and innovation. To be considered, the news organization cannot have existed before Jan. 1, 2013.

X18. General Excellence in Online Journalism
Web sites 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 use of online technology.

X19. Best Photo
A single photograph or a series of photographs on a single subject by one or more photographers.
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 the Chicago area or who work for Chicago area 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 31, 2014, to the Chicago Headline Club/Watchdog Award. Reports must have been published or aired between January 1, 2013, and December 31, 2013. There is no entry fee.

For complete contest rules and entry form, visit headlineclub.org or contact Kristen Schorsch, awards chairman, at kschorsch@crain.com.
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 contact Hugh Dellios, awards chairman, at chc.spj@gmail.com. Deadline is Friday, January 31, 2014.

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 31, 2014. 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
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. Almost 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.