

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Connecticut Press Club Communications Contest 2008. This year, our award categories total 16:

1. Best Publication
2. Best News Story
3. Best Feature
4. Best Column
5. Best Web Copy
6. Best Blog
7. Best Creative Writing
8. Best Book – Fiction Adults
9. Best Book – Non-Fiction Adults
10. Best Book - Children's or Young Adult
11. Best Audiovisual
12. Best On-The-Scene Report - TV News
13. Best Prepared Report - TV Features or TV Sports
14. Special Reporting Series - TV Investigative
15. Best Broadcast
16. Best Photography

As an affiliate of NFPW (National Federation of Press Women), our CPC winners will automatically be eligible to enter NFPW's contest if they are members of both CPC and NFPW. Dues must be paid by December 31, 2007 to qualify. For an application, please go to [www.ctpressclub.com](http://www.ctpressclub.com)

Our Awards Event will be held at the beautiful and relaxing Cobbs Mill Inn in Weston on Thursday, May 1, 2008. This year, we will be presenting our seventh CPC Mark Twain Distinguished Communicator of the Year Award. We hope to see you there to enjoy the fellowship of some very talented colleagues and to receive deserved professional recognition, symbolized by the highly prestigious CPC Award. CPC Contest Rules and Entry Forms are enclosed for your convenience. They will also be posted on our website. We hope you'll enter your best media work in our statewide contest.

Good luck!

Sherry Shameer Cohen, President

Awards Contest Chair:  
Patricia D'Ascoli  
4 Autumn Lane  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Address all questions and requests to the contest chair  
[pfdasc@aol.com](mailto:pfdasc@aol.com) or 860-354-6488

## General Rules for Entrants

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Connecticut Press Club Communications Contest is to recognize excellence in writing. The judging criteria are based on the overall message and how it is conveyed to its audience.

**Eligibility:** CPC members and non-members may apply. (To be eligible for the national contest, entrants must be members of CPC and the National Federation of Press Women [NFPW]. Please go to [www.nfpw.org](http://www.nfpw.org) for applications.)

**Publication dates:** All entries must have been published, printed or aired between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2007. The governing date is the publication, broadcast or epublished date.

**Deadlines:** ALL entries must be postmarked by Tuesday, January 15, 2008. No late entries will be accepted.

**Entry regulations:** CPC entries may be sent to the Awards Contest Chair at the above address. Entries submitted in the wrong category or not properly labeled will be disqualified. Judges may NOT change an entry to another category. No entry may be submitted in more than one category. Entries in all categories must be entirely the work of the author or author(s). In the case of collaborative efforts, a single award will be given. (Extras may be ordered at cost.) Entries without statements, if required, will result in automatic disqualification. Judges' comments, if any, about entries will be returned to the winners with the certificates.

**Proof of Publication for Entries:** A tear sheet (full page or pages containing the article) must be submitted for entries published in newspapers or other publications. Clearly mark the tear sheet by highlighting or underlining the headline or title so the judge understands exactly which article is being entered. Photocopies of tear sheets are permitted when originals are not available but they must show name of publication and date of issue printed on the page.

**Fees:** Entry fees for the 2008 contest are \$35.00 for CPC members for 1<sup>st</sup> entry, with \$30 for any thereafter; \$45.00 for non-members, with \$40.00 for any thereafter.

Send Entries to the Awards Contest Chair. Each entry must be PAPER CLIPPED, NOT STAPLED, with the following:

1. Official entry form(s).
  2. Published entry; copies are acceptable.
  3. Check made payable to CPC for total of fees.
- Send entries via regular mail, UPS, FedEx, or Express Mail. Tracking receipts are advisable.

Send to:

CPC Awards Contest Chair  
c/o Patricia D'Ascoli  
4 Autumn Lane  
New Milford, CT 06776

No return of entries.

Do not enter irreplaceable items in the contest.

Books and all other entries are considered a donation to the CPC and will not be returned.

**Awards:** Awards in any given category shall be limited to first place and only if the judge deems the award merited. Judges' decisions shall be final. All awards shall be honorary.

## **CONTEST CATEGORIES**

### **BEST PUBLICATION**

Judges will consider magazine, newspaper, supplement or publication for general or specialized circulation, including internal publications; paid or unpaid circulation.

### **BEST NEWS STORY OF THE YEAR**

Judges will consider planning and general organization of story, initiative in obtaining story, news writing, readability and impact.

### **BEST FEATURE STORY OF THE YEAR**

Judges will consider interest and unusual aspects of the feature material itself and/or the handling of it, writing style, readability, thoroughness of coverage.

### **BEST COLUMN OF THE YEAR**

Judges will consider how well the column educates and/or entertains readers; and how well the author's style is portrayed. (Columns may be humorous, general, informational, *i.e.*, how-to, Q&A, advice; or specialized, such as critique or review on one continuing subject such as theatre or gardening). Submit two columns per entry.

### **BEST WEB COPY OF THE YEAR**

### **BEST BLOG OF THE YEAR**

### **BEST CREATIVE WRITING OF THE YEAR**

Judges will consider interest and unusual aspects of the material itself and/or the handling of it, writing style and readability. (Category includes poetry, short stories and personal essays.)

### **BEST FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR - Adults**

Judges will consider interest and unusual aspects of the material itself and/or the handling of it, writing style and readability. Books must be first editions.

### **BEST NON-FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR – Adults**

Judges will consider interest and unusual aspects of the material itself and/or the handling of it, writing style and readability. Books must be first editions.

### **BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR - Children's or Young Adult**

Judges will consider interest and unusual aspects of the material itself and/or the handling of it, writing style and readability; creativity; and how well it targets its audience. Books must be first editions and have been published for remuneration.

Still Illustration or Multi-Image Slides, Video Productions; PowerPoint Presentations; Corporate or Non-Profit.

### **BEST AUDIOVISUAL**

Judges will consider objectives, target audience, effective use of media, impact, evaluation, technical quality. Submit one-page summary, detailing budget, objectives, audience, theme, timetable, your role and evaluation methods. Submit slides, videos or CDs.

Television: On-the-Scene Report - TV News; Prepared Report - TV Features or Sports; Special Reporting Series - TV Investigative

### **BEST ON-THE-SCENE REPORT - TV NEWS**

Judges will consider reporter's ability to provide enterprising coverage of one unscheduled event.

### **BEST PREPARED REPORT - TV FEATURES OR SPORTS**

Entry may be a single report or excerpts from a related series. Judges will consider story's impact, clarity of writing/production, concise assembly.

### **SPECIAL REPORTING SERIES – TV INVESTIGATIVE**

Judge will consider technical excellence, initiative, creativity, thoroughness of research, documentation of any allegations, and clarity of writing/presentation. Submit coverage of a single subject reported in TWO or more parts. Entry may be edited, not to exceed 30 minutes.

### **BEST BROADCAST OF THE YEAR**

Judges will consider all the above criteria and select the entry that excels in quality and content. Please Note: Submit VHS videotapes. Limit to 15 minutes, except for newscast (45 minutes). Tapes may be edited but narratives and voice-overs are allowed only if part of the original piece that aired. Remove commercial breaks. Must submit a one-page written summary, detailing circumstances surrounding coverage of stories and entrant's participation. Indicate length of cut on tape.

Photos in printed publications, e.g., newspapers, magazines, books, newsletters; online; single or photo essay; paid or unpaid circulation.

### **BEST PHOTO OF THE YEAR**

Judges will consider quality of photo; its technical aspects; creativity; point of view; message it conveys; how well it captures its target audience.