



91st ANNUAL CONTEST AND EXHIBIT

CONTEST RULES & ENTRY PREPARATIONS:

ELIGIBILITY AND DEADLINE:

The contest is open exclusively to members of the New York Press Photographers Association, Inc. All entries must have been taken between **January 1 and December 31, 2025**. All entries along with the completed entry form must be submitted this year by uploading to WeTransfer using this link. nyppa-contest.wetransfer.com by **Saturday FEBRUARY 7, 2026**. All completed entry forms must be submitted as a PDF. A check made out to **New York Press Photographers Association, Inc.** (or by using Zelle to Treasurer@nyppa.org or by PayPal to Treasurer@nyppa.org with a small service fee added) for entry fees and dues owed must be submitted within a week after that deadline via mail. The contest is open exclusively to members of the New York Press Photographers Association, Inc.

ENTRY FEES:

All past dues and the 2026 dues (\$85 for Regular & Associate Members) or \$40 for Life Members must be PAID. The entry fee is \$40 for the first 20 entries or less. Additional entries above 20 will be \$5 per entry. There is a single \$20 fee for entering the Portfolio competition. There will be no refunds for disqualified entries.

NEW CATEGORIES:

There are 2 new categories for this year's contest:

Political Unrest-2025- a single photograph that illustrates the many local and national, political unrest events that took place in 2025. Pictures of any political action rallies, for or against our government, would be entered in this category. Picture stories that are more news-oriented should be entered in *News Picture Story* while more feature-oriented pictures stories should be entered in *Feature Picture Story*.

Sports Life and Recreational Sports - A single photograph that celebrates the role that **amateur sports** play in a community. The image may show the emotional highlights of players or the fans' reactions. Photographs must be taken during 2025

GENERAL RULES:

Except for the Multimedia categories, entries must be made from a single digital camera output file, a black and white negative, color negative or color transparency. Entries may not be electronically manipulated or altered, other than normal balancing and toning of an image, burning, dodging, and spotting. No composite images are permitted. Video frame grabs can only be entered in the Multimedia category.

There is no limit to the number of entries per entrant. Each picture must be entered in one category only:

- No single picture may be entered in more than one category with one exception: single pictures may also be entered as part of a picture story, just as individual pictures from a picture story may be entered in single picture categories. But they must be entered as a separate entry.
- Copies of a selection of individual pictures may also be entered in the Portfolio competition.
- Individual pictures from a picture story may not be used in another picture story.
- Photographs in a picture story entry, taken over a period of time that begins before the eligible date but extends into the period of eligibility, may be entered as long as they have not been entered in any previous NYPPA contest.
- Images that have won in a previous year cannot be entered again in another category going forward and also cannot be entered in a Picture Story as part of an ongoing project.
- Pictures do not need to have been published.
- The committee and/or judges reserves the right reclassify pictures if entered in improper categories.

ENTRY PREPARATION:

An official entry form that summarizes all the entries of each contestant is required and is available by downloading it from

www.nyppa.org. The signed form must be submitted as a PDF or JPG with your entries at the time of that you upload the entries. Each entry must be submitted as a JPEG file (RGB color or grayscale (Do not use CMYK). We suggest 300 DPI & 3000 pixels (10 inches) in the LONGEST dimension—which should produce an approximate 20MB file size before JPEG compression). Save and compress the file using JPEG compression set to provide a file about 2MB—no smaller PLEASE. Use the optimized JPEG option if available. Images smaller than 1.5 MB compressed may be disqualified. We strongly advise that you do not recompress (re-jpeg) an already compressed file as this will degrade image quality. To prevent degradation of your files, we recommend you prepare a master image and save it as an uncompressed TIFF file. Then save it as a JPEG image each time to the compression standards of each contest you enter. Our contest is being judged using Photo Mechanic and it is recommended you prepare your captions with that program, although it is not required. A one-month free trial is available from the Camera Bits web site. (<https://store.camerabits.com/downloads>)

NUMBERING AND SAVING ENTRIES:

The NYPPA requires entries to be saved with our unique file numbering system as the filename. YOU MUST USE YOUR PERSONAL ENTRY NUMBER, which is your membership number that can be found on your membership card and/or dues invoice. It can also be provided by emailing CONTEST@NYPPA.ORG. This number is your personally assigned number and should be placed before all other numbers in the entry number of each picture file using the following instructions:

- Each entry must be renamed and saved beginning with your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER. You can add “zeros” in front of the number to make it three digits if necessary. For example, if your member number is only two digits ADD a “0” in front of it so it is THREE digits. Those three numbers tell the committee who entered the image. Now ADD two more digits to give your entry an individual and unique number. Begin with your first entry as “01” and go in sequence through to your last entry (up to “99”).
- As an example, if your member number is 23, then your third entry would be numbered 02303. So, your entry images are saved with the file name “02303.jpg” That’s it. FIVE DIGITS—NO spaces (02303.jpg), NO dashes (023-03.jpg), NO periods (023.03.jpg). A member with a three-digit member number would have their first entry look like this: 24301.jpg.
- Each picture story entry is considered a SINGLE ENTRY, so each individual story must be in a FOLDER and that folder is named with the entry number (example: 24305). Use the same entry number for each image in the story INSIDE the folder. BUT, to make these images do not overwrite and to make them display in the order you want they must be saved as a sequence, so TWO more digits must be added. Your first image in the entry folder would have 01 appended at the end (example 2430501.jpg) and if you entered ten images in the story your last image would be numbered with 10 (example: 2430110.jpg). Again, no dots, dashes or spaces!! After you have numbered all your images, they must then be organized in category folders, one for each category that you are entering. We ask that you use the six-digit category number/letter code of the categories shown below, but if the folders are labeled so we can figure out what category the entries go in we will put them there.
- Do Not Lock Your Files. Locking them prevents our ability to move files from one folder to another. The image orientation must read in normal viewing position, with top of the image being at the top. Your photographs will not be flopped or rotated. Finally, all your category folders should be placed inside a master folder identified with your entry/member number. That folder should be uploaded to the NYPPA contest FTP. NO ENTRY IMAGE OR PICTURE STORY FOLDER—NO MATTER INTO WHAT CATEGORY FOLDER IT IS PLACED—SHOULD HAVE THE SAME NUMBER except for copies placed into the Portfolio category folder. Enter the entry numbers on the entry form the same as on your file.
- **PICTURE STORY** categories may have up to 12 pictures per entry, numbered in sequence from beginning to end as described above. Individual pictures from a picture story may be entered in single picture categories but must be entered separately with a separate entry number. Entries should be tightly edited, and each picture story should be organized to logically tell a story. Each individual picture should make a strong contribution. In organizing your entry, less pictures than the maximum 12 allowed might make a greater impact. In the caption of the only the FIRST photo of the story, please summarize what the picture story is about. An additional sentence explaining the individual picture may also be added. The rest of the individual picture captions in the story don’t need to carry the general story summary and can be used for who, what, when, where, etc. The files must be placed within a folder labeled with a five-digit entry number, and in a folder for the Picture Story category entered. (Example: Folder 03NPSY contains three picture story entry folders: 00209, 00210 and 00211. Inside folder 00209 are seven images with file numbers 002091.jpg (first photo in story), 002092.jpg (second photo) through 002097.jpg (seventh and final photo). Folder 00210 contains four jpeg images labeled (saved as) 002101.jpg, 002102.jpg, 002103.jpg and 002104.jpg. Don’t forget to prepare your captions as described above.

CAPTIONS:

All caption information shall be placed in the "File Info" section (found under the FILE menu) in Photoshop or on an IPTC form such as in Photo Mechanic. REMOVE YOUR NAME AND ORGANIZATION FROM ALL METADATA!!!! If it is not removed, it will be a reason to disqualify the entry. A title and caption are required for all entries. Under the GENERAL or DESCRIPTION

section of "File Info" place your entry title in the TITLE (or HEADLINE or DOCUMENT TITLE) field. In the CAPTION (or DESCRIPTION) section place your caption information. You MUST include the date (day/month/year) and location the image was made in the caption (who, what, when, why, where and how). Please write a journalistic type of caption. All references to your name and organization should be removed from ALL THE METADATA!!!! Removed from ALL Fields, the credit, byline, or source fields. When you are finished, click "OK" and then go to the file menu and click "Save" to save the image with the caption. Remember that in the caption of the only the FIRST photo of the Picture Story, summarize what it is about. An additional sentence explaining the individual picture may also be added. The rest of the individual picture captions in the story don't need to carry the general story summary and can be used for who, what, when, where, etc.

MULTIMEDIA ENTRIES:

There are two sub-categories. Each sub-category will be open to individual and team entries.

1. Multimedia presentation with a length up to Five Minutes.
2. Multimedia presentation with a length over Five Minutes.

Entrants may enter alone or as part of a team. Do not physically send your Multimedia entries with your other contest entries. Just provide a valid URL on the entry form downloadable from <https://nyppa.org/contest-rules>, member login needed. The judging will be done online. Entry URLs must be publicly accessible throughout the judging period from January 31 to March 30. Depending on the number of entries, the judges will award prizes in each subcategory, may combine categories, or may create new categories.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR:

The judges will select a "Photographer of the Year" based on the best portfolio submissions. Portfolio entries will consist of a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 15 of an entrant's submissions. At least one image must be from the 75-mile radius of New York City. At least one, but no more than three picture stories may be included. The judges will consider versatility, but mainly content and quality in selecting a winner—understanding that many of the entrants may be "specialists" in various fields of photojournalism. Each member may enter only one portfolio. Portfolio entries should be separate files from single and picture story entries; just make copies of each file desired and place them in a folder named "Portfolio" with your entry. Multimedia entries are not eligible for this category.

ANTHONY J. CAUSI SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR:

The judges will select a "Sports Photographer of the Year" from portfolios submitted containing only sports pictures. If the committee and the judges feel there are not a proper number of entries, SPOY portfolios will be judged with the POY entries. Entries will consist of a maximum of 15 images that are enter in the categories. The entries shall consist of these 15 from the sports action category, sports feature category and sports portrait-type of image. Entries should be in a folder labeled SPORTS PORTFOLIO. The same rules as for POY apply. Entrants may choose to enter two portfolios, one in POY and one in SPOY, but each must be different in content from the other.

BEST IN SHOW:

The judges will award a "Best in Show" selected from each category's First-Place winners. Portfolio categories are not included in this judging.

ENTRY SUBMISSION DETAILS:

All Entries this year will be uploaded to WeTransfer using this link. nyppa-contest.wetransfer.com

JUDGING:

The judges will award first place, second place, third place and two honorable mentions in each category except for categories with less than 20 entries, and Picture Stories, Portfolio, Sports Portfolio and Best in Show. There must be at least 15 entries from at least 3 entrants in a category for it to be judged. If a category is not judged the committee shall place the entries in other appropriate categories. Judges may cite several entries for inclusion in the annual exhibit as "Exhibit Awards".

AWARDS PRESENTATION:

Plaques and prizes will be presented at either the opening of the Annual Exhibit or the Awards Dinner. All entrants are expected to take their obligations seriously and all winners are required to attend one of the Awards events. If a winner cannot attend the dinner the winner may forfeit any award(s) and prize(s) unless a ticket is purchased for one person who is designated by the winner to accept the award(s) and the Association is notified in advance of the event. No winner may accept for another winner, and no one may accept for more than one winner. The committee's decision to allow awards to be presented is final. The NYPPA Board has the sole right to determine prizes and prize money that may be awarded. The NYPPA Contest Committee has the right to make edits in the Picture Stories so that the exhibit fits professionally.

CATEGORIES:

(01SNWS) Spot News “William V. Finn Memorial” Award – a single photograph of an unscheduled news event during the actual event where no preplanning was possible and which could not be recreated, and photographed in New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, and Rockland Counties, New Jersey, and Connecticut. This award is being presented as the William V. Finn Memorial Prize.

(02GNWS) General News –a single photograph of a scheduled news event where pre-planning was possible and photographed in New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, and Rockland Counties, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

(03NINWS) National/International News “Carl Thusgaard Memorial” Award - A single photograph of any news event occurring outside New York City, Long Island, Westchester, and Rockland Counties, and New Jersey or Connecticut.

(04NPSY) News Picture Story - multiple photographs of a news event combined to tell a story or an action sequence. There is a maximum of 12 images per story entry.

(05FEAT) Feature – a single photograph, illustrating a story or situation other than for its news value. A "found" situation with strong human interest.

(06FPSY) Feature Picture Story - multiple photographs, illustrating a theme, story or situation other than for its news value. There is a maximum of 12 images per story entry.

(07PICT) Pictorial – A single photograph that emphasizes graphic, aesthetic qualities and composition of the subject.

(08PORT) Portrait - A single photograph of a person or group of people that is a character study of the person.

(09ANML) Animal– a single photograph where an animal or group of animals (includes birds, reptiles and insects) is the primary subject.

(10SAXN) Sports Action “Kathy Willens Memorial” Award – a single action photograph from a **professional** sporting event that cannot be recreated. A play-related photograph, hockey fights, or fights on the field in other sports are considered Sports Action. Jubilation, dejection, and reaction photographs should be entered in the Sports Feature category.

(11SFEA) Sports Feature – a single non-action photograph from **professional** sports team coverage: including images of fans and players, confrontations with officials, reaction from play or end of game even if still on the field of play. Locker room and bench pictures, celebrations and dejection should also be included in this category.

(12SPLIFE) Sports Life and Recreational Sports - A single photograph that celebrates the role that **amateur sports (Recreational, High School, College, etc.)** play in a community. The image may show the emotional highlights of players or the fans' reactions. Photographs must be taken during 2025.

(13SPSY) Sports Picture Story - multiple photographs illustrating a sports-related story or sequence from a team, school or professional sporting event or related to those events (i.e., training, preparation, etc.). There is a maximum of 12 images per story entry.

(14FANY) The Face of New York - a single photograph that captures the uniqueness of New York City. The picture may be of a person, place and/or object. An "Only in New York!" picture.

(15UNREST) Political Unrest-2025- A single frame that captures a year on edge—where sidewalks became stages, voices became movements, and the tension between power and the people spilled into the streets. From local flashpoints to national reckonings, this photograph distills the noise, passion, and urgency of 2025's political unrest into one unforgettable moment. It's not just a protest—it's a snapshot of democracy in motion, raw and unresolved. Picture stories that are more news-oriented should be entered in *News Picture Story* while more feature-oriented pictures stories should be entered in *Feature Picture Story*.

(16MULT) Multimedia – a story presented through a combination of still images and/or video with or without sound and/or narration, related to a news, sports or feature story.

ETCETERA

Check nyppa.org for any breaking information and clarification. For questions regarding the contest, contact contest co-chairs: Gary Hershorn, garyhershorn@gmail.com, 646.244.0292. Bill Perlman, treasurer@nyppa.org, 516.857.0625 Porter Binks, porter.binks@gmail.com, 917.881.3869.

GOOD LUCK AND WE ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO ENTER

