Save the Dates!

NPA Annual Convention April 26-27, 2024

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel / Lincoln

NNAF National Convention & Trade Show

September 26-28, 2024

Embassy Suites, Omaha, NE (downtown Old Market)

Upcoming Webinar

Online Media Campus

Grow News Advertising Revenue With Branded Content

Thursday, January 11 1:00 p.m. CT \$35.00

(signup by 1/9 to avoid \$10 late fee)

NPA members: submit your paid
webinar receipt to NPA & you'll be
reimbursed!

Register for the webinar: https://onlinemediacampus.com/

Learn from The Branded Content Project team how small & medium-sized newsrooms can grow new advertising revenue from existing & new advertisers w/branded content & how to launch it.

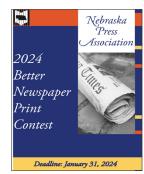
PRESENTER: Penny Riordan, Dir. of Business Strategy for Local Media Assn/ Local Media Foundation. Prior to joining LMA, Penny worked for GateHouse Media.

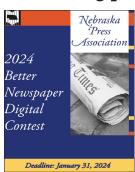
> CONTACT INFO: Telephone: 800-369-2850 or 402-476-2851 FAX: 402-476-2942 E-mail: nebpress@nebpress.com

Web Site: http://www.nebpress.com

NPA's 2024 Better Newspaper Contest Call For Entries!

Start submitting online entries now to re-familiarize yourself with how online contest entry process works.





EARLY BIRD DEADLINE:

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

(All newspapers with entries submitted before midnight January 24, 2024 will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a free NPA convention registration for that newspaper valued at: \$250.)

REGULAR ENTRY DEADLINE:

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Entries must be submitted online only. No mail-in entries.

Contest instructions/guidelines attached to the Bulletin. (Separate PDF for print & digital.)

Share this BNC information with your staff.

Lynne Lance will again manage NPA's print & digital contests. This is her 3rd year assisting with our contest.

Lynne is your 'go-to contact' if you have questions about contest categories, guidelines and instructions.

ABOUT LYNNE:

Lynne is executive director of the National Newspaper Association & Foundation. She lives in Pensacola, Florida. She worked with the development of the ACES contest platform, which the Nebraska Press Association uses for its print and digital contests. She manages the annual contests for several states, as well as the NNA contest. Lynne puts customer service as a top priority and we are confident NPA members will enjoy working with her with this year's NPA contests.

Contact Lynne Lance directly at:

EMAIL: lynne@nebpress.com **NPA PHONE:** 402-476-2851/800-369-2850

(when prompted by the NPA phone greeting, PRESS '7' for Lynne's extension)

LYNNE'S CELL: 850-542-7087

NPA/OnePress Staff



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Violet Spader

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Wichita Eagle documentary, honors Kansas newspaperwoman Joan Meyer; covers raids of home and newspaper office

Carrie Rengers, Wichita Eagle, Dec. 21, 2023

A new documentary from Wichita Eagle visual journalists Jaime Green and Travis Heying tells the story of Joan Meyer, who owned and published the Marion County Record newspaper with her son, Eric Meyer, in Kansas.

Joan, who was 98, died August 12, 2023, a day after Marion police served search warrants to conduct raids at her home and newspaper office, removing computers, cellphones and other electronics. The raids received worldwide attention, and sparked First Amendment concerns.

The 38-minute documentary, "Unwarranted: The Senseless Death of Journalist Joan Meyer," is built around bodycam footage from the raid and interviews with Kansas journalists, Marion residents, Kansas Press Assn. executive director Emily Bradbury, Marion Co. Record attorney, and Joan's son, Eric. Green is one of two filmmakers preparing documentaries on the August 11 raid and Joan Meyer.

View the documentary on YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3DBihZxsOk

"Here's to a wonderful,, new year!"

In 2024, the power of words continues

We are well on our way in the new year and 2024 holds opportunities and challenges for each of us. I wanted to share with you something I recently wrote in my Odds & Ends column about the power of words.



Marcia Hora President, OnePress

Owner/Publisher, Stapleton Enterprise & Thedford Thomas County Times Statistics show we typically have 30 conversations daily. On average, 128 texts are composed each day and Americans send 18.7 billion texts every day.

Whether written, spoken or texted, words have the power to build each other up or tear each other down.

As we begin a new year at Nebraska Press Association and OnePress, we are reminded of the impact the written word has on our communities. Community newspapers across our great state are striving to document history, promote economic growth and local businesses through advertising and stories, and support schools, churches and organizations.

Texts are deleted. Conversations forgotten. Social media posts taken down. The only constant in our ever-changing world is the written word.

Over my nearly 50 years in this industry, I've witnessed incredible changes. For those familiar with the newspaper's evolution, one unwavering constant remains - our commitment to improving our communities. It's a testament to an industry that prioritizes the greater good over the bottom line.

Nebraska Press Association and OnePress will be working diligently for each newspaper this year. Having celebrated our 150th anniversary, we look forward to what the future has in store for all of us.

- Don't miss out on NPA's 2024 Better Newspaper Contest submit your entries online now. The deadline for print and digital contests is January 31. Lynne Lance will be overseeing NPA's print and digital contest!
- Calling all judges! South Carolina Press Association needs your expertise for the 2024 Better Newspaper Contest. It's an excellent opportunity to gather fresh ideas for your newspaper. Sign up by January 9. Judging takes place from January 10-29.

With the last words of 2023 penned, let's unite to make community newspapers robust and thriving in the new year.

Are you ready to file postage statement digitally? Hard copy postage statements end January 24, 2024

National Newspaper Association (NNA), December 2023

Newspapers must submit their postage statements accompanying each mailing electronically, beginning Jan. 28, 2024. Publishers who have completed hard-copy Forms 3541 for Periodicals mail, or 3602 for Marketing Mail must be able to file these statements digitally by January 28, 2024.

If you have not yet prepared or planned for the switch to electronic filing, NPA encourages you to do so soon! Emailing hard-copy statements, scans or PDFs of statements will not be acceptable. The new process will require publishers to enter data directly into USPS' PostalOne system.

Publishers needing to convert to a digital process should consider these options:

- Contact your circulation software company
- Contact an approved third-party software vendor
- Contact the NNA Postal Hotline if your newspaper is a member of NNA
- **USPS' Postal Wizard software to enter your data** Postal Wizard is free, but it does not permit use of a single form to enter commingled mail, separate editions (such as in-state and out-of-state editions) or mailings with differentials of weight within a single issue.

USPS has created a strike team to specifically assist customers with this transition.

Any of these USPS contacts can assist you with questions, etc:

IN LINCOLN: Michelle Hayden, 402-473-1799; Michael Sindorf, 402-473-1618

IN OMAHA: Jamie Betts, 402-348-2871; Lori Thrapp, 402-348-2867; Sydney Anderson, 402-348-2867

ADDITIONAL USPS RESOURCES https://postalpro.usps.com/node/12133

IA-NE-SD-Discontinuation-Hardcopy-Postage-Statements: https://www.nebpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Discontinuation-Hardcopy-Postage-Statements.pdf

BusinessCustomerGateway-v13: https://www.nebpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/BusinessCustomerGateway-v13.pdf

Postal-Wizard-Guide:
PDF ATTACHED TO THE BULLETIN

Help promote NPA Foundation 2024 high school and college scholarships!

Scholarship guidelines and applications forms for the NPA Foundation's scholarships were sent to Nebraska high school & college/university counselors, faculty and advisers in early December. The Foundation board

approved funding for up to five total scholarships of \$2,000 each for 2024.

Information and application forms are also posted on the NPA website home page: www.nebpress.com. Application deadline (postmarked by) is January 19, 2024. Scholarships will be given to students with a specific interest in community-based journalism or agricultural communications.

Students eligible to apply must have graduated (or will be graduating) from a Nebraska high school, but they can attend a Nebraska-based or out-of-state college/university.

Scholarship | Opportunities

\$2,000 Nebraska Press Association Foundation Scholarships

Special consideration given to student's involvement in their local community newspaper or student newspaper.

Preference will be given to students pursuing community-based journalism

or agricultural communications education at a Nebraska-based or out-ofstate college/university.



Applications must be post-marked by January 19, 2024.

For more information and application form, www.nebpress.com

Special consideration will be given to essay question response, and student's involvement in their local community or student newspaper. Scholarship recipients will be announced at the NPA Convention, April 26-27, 2024, in Lincoln.

Please help promote this excellent scholarship opportunity! Contact Susan Watson, nebpress@nebpress.com, or 402-475-2851, with questions.

Retired UNL journalism professor, photojournalist, George Tuck dies

George Tuck, 81, died December 14, 2023 from Alzheimer's, at CountryHouse Residence for memory care in Lincoln, NE.

At George's request there will be no memorial service, however he suggested that folks raise a glass to their own friends, family, fine food, good music, outstanding art and great journalism and photojournalism. A Celebration of Life event will be announced at a later date.



Tuck was a photojournalism professor at UNL's College of Journalism

since 1970. A native of Dumas, TX, he attended Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, TX; was a staff photographer and news editor for several community newspapers in Texas; then earned a master of arts degree in journalism from the University of Missouri in 1970, before heading to Nebraska.

1991, he was named Nebraska Professor of the Year by the National Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) - one of only 44 professors selected from among 439 nominees nationwide.

According to a UNL College of Journalism Archive article, Tuck presented 21 custom workshops at newspapers across Nebraska in the summer of 1995 - called 'Wander Workshops.' More than 200 people from 40 different newspapers attended the workshops. Workshops lasted from a few hours to two full days at different newspaper sites and covered any or all of 17 different suggested topics in photography and design. For presenting these Wander Workshops, Tuck only asked that his room, board and mileage be paid by the participating newspapers.

Former newspaperwoman, Ardis Wilhelms, dies at 98

Ardis Wilhelms died December 23, 2023, at Savannah Pines in Lincoln, NE at the age of 98. Born in Dalton, NE, Ardis graduated from Sidney High School and attended Midland College for two years. During WWII she was a volunteer at the North Platte Canteen for troop trains traveling through North Platte.

Ardis married Alton "Mook" Wilhelms in 1946, and they published newspapers in Polk, Stromsburg, Osceola and Shelby from 1950 to 1983. They had five children.

Ardis was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 72 years. She was active in the Stromsburg Salem Lutheran Church, and volunteered at the Swedish Festival for several years. In 2008, Ardis and Mook moved to Lincoln, and in retirement they enjoyed traveling, and were huge Husker fans.

Ardis is survived by her five children: Gregory (Linda), Douglas, Brenda, Wendy and Wanda (Greg); grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Mook, who died in 2018.

A grave side memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to Salem Lutheran Church, Stromsburg, NE. Cards may be sent to Wanda Wood at 7900 Amber Hill Rd., Lincoln, NE 68516. Dubas Funeral Home of Stromsburg and Osceola is in charge of arrangements: https://www.dubasfuneralhome.com/

Book chronicles tales spun by 'roving reporter' who plied the backroads for human-interest stories

Dean Terrill of the Lincoln Journal was one of a brotherhood of writers who focused on rural communities and people

Paul Hammel, Senior Reporter, Nebraska Examiner, Dec. 23, 2023 LINCOLN — Reporter-photographer Dean Terrill would often leave his home in Fairbury, Nebraska, for a destination in southeast Nebraska without knowing what story he might write that day.

Such was the life of a "roving reporter," deployed by major newspapers across their rural circulation areas in search of tales of every flavor and style.

Terrill plied the byways of 14 southeast Nebraska counties for the Lincoln Journal and Star from 1958 to 1988, covering everything from town festivals and local characters to sensational murders and spectacular tragedies.

He also accompanied Bobby Kennedy and his dog "Freckles" during the Democrat's "whistle stop" campaign across Nebraska in the 1968 presidential primary.

Terrill was among a brotherhood of road warriors who wrote about rural life that included Tom Allan and Jim Denney of the Omaha World-Herald; Chuck Offenburger, the "Iowa Boy" columnist for the Des Moines Register; and James Fisher of the Kansas City Star.

Now Terrill's daughter has compiled a collection of the favorite human-interest stories — the bread-and-butter of a roving reporter's diet — penned by her father, who died in 2009.

The book, "Story Hunter: Stories from the Southeast Nebraska News Bureau," is available via Amazon or by contacting author Nancy Terrill-Amundson via email.

The title comes from Terrill's love of bird hunting, but also because "hunting," or finding stories, was a big part of the job, according to Terrill-Amundson. Her father, she said, just had a knack for finding them, whether it be over coffee at small-town cafes, while leaning on a pickup at a grain elevators, or during a visit to the local newspaper or courthouse.

She said her father would often drive off to places like Red Cloud or Tecumseh without knowing exactly what story he'd find that day.

Read the complete story about 'roving reporter' Dean Terrill at: https://nebraskaexaminer.com/

Beginning 2024 Right

Headlines from the past remind me that 2024 could be a great year

By Kevin Slimp

Making bold predictions is easy. This year, I've paid close attention to forecasts by respected sportswriters in national print and online publications to see how my football bowl predictions match up against their predictions. Some of you probably did the same thing.

I was surprised that I correctly predicted the winners of the bowl games at a much higher rate than any of the national sportswriters I followed. There are still a few games remaining in the bowl season, so that could change. For now, however, I'm feeling pretty good about myself.

I think it's probably easier for someone like me to make predictions like these because I have nothing on the line. I can pick Missouri over Ohio State because I don't feel any pressure to pick the favorite. Let's face it: if I'm a respected sportswriter considering picking Ole Miss to beat Penn State, I know I will get hammered if my underdog pick loses. The safe bet is to choose the favorite. Then, if the favorite loses, most readers will understand because they picked the favorite, too.

I've made a career out of making good bets on the newspaper business. More times than not, my bets were not popular among "experts," but I somehow kept picking the right team.

My first bet was long ago, in the early 1990s. I was betting against big players like Adobe and others who were adamant that designing a newspaper in one location and then magically sending it to another location to print using a new technology called a PDF file was a crazy idea. For a lot of reasons, the idea couldn't work. Thankfully, a few folks placed their bet on my idea, and before long, the PDF file was the standard for printing newspapers and everything else. A few years later, the CEO of Adobe wrote to me, thanking me for possibly saving his company.

Fast-forward a few years, and I found myself once again making

unpopular wagers. Most noted "experts" were convinced the printed newspaper was within just a few years of extinction. Even newspaper experts predicted the quick end of the printed word. Many leading journalism schools led the way by proclaiming the newspaper business "dead." I kept hearing the year 2018 knocked about as the year the final newspaper would turn off its press. I wonder when someone will print a tee shirt with "Kevin was right!" on the back.

A quick Google search just now – searching for headlines from the past week – uncovers a windfall of gloomy predictions, including:

Inroads: The Canadian Journal of Opinion

The Near-Death of Local News

Politico

No Stopping the Newspaper Death Spiral

Whenever I read headlines similar to those, I remember other headlines like this one from 2006:

The Economist

Who Killed the Newspaper?

I'm also reminded of this one from 2009:

Business Insider

The Year the Newspaper Died

Or this one from 2011:

The Guardian

British Newspaper to Die in 2019

Many of you are familiar with the *Newspaper Extinction Timeline* by Australian-based futurist Ross Dawson. I found the timeline from 2010, predicting that newspapers in the United States would be "insignificant" by 2017. According to the timeline, most other nations' papers wouldn't face extinction for another decade or two.

I'm not picking on Dawson or anyone else. Dawson has since backtracked on the extinction date in the U.S. and admitted it was much too early. That doesn't, however, undo the damage that was done to newspapers who had to explain to their readers and advertisers that they weren't dying.

Like football bowl predictions, it's



safer to agree with popular opinion than to make unpopular predictions. I suspect it also leads to more invitations to speak at conferences. I get it.

By now, you might be wondering if I will ever get to my point. Get ready. It's coming now: It is the beginning of a new year. What if we agreed to pay less attention to experts declaring our demise and spend a little more time appreciating what we've created and investing in growing our newspapers?

I hear from publishers daily who are investing in the future of their newspapers. They're investing in staff training, new designs, hardware & software, and marketing. They have not only not given up; they are investing in their futures.

If I were an expert who had predicted the death of newspapers a dozen years ago, I'd probably be saying something like, "I didn't hit the exact date, but I was right. I was just a few years off."

That seems like the safest way to keep getting speaking gigs. Thankfully, I'm not too concerned about that these days. So let me suggest you give my idea some consideration. It just might make for a much more enjoyable – as well as profitable – 2024.



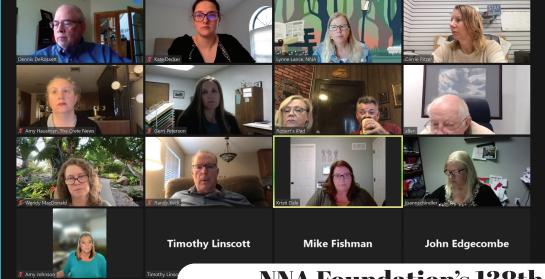
Kevin Slimp is a popular consultant, advisor and trainer in the newspaper industry. From 1997-2018, Kevin directed The Newspaper Institute of The University of Tennessee. He currently serves as CEO of Market Square Publishing and Chief Guru at NewspaperAcademy.com.

Kevin Slimp, "The News Guru"

kevin@kevinslimp.com



COURTESY OF VISIT OMAHA



Convention committee announces event at the Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium®

Details: https://bit.ly/3GX6VVN

NNA Foundation's 138th Annual Convention & Trade Show

September 26-27, 2024 Embassy Suites by Hilton Omaha Downtown/Old Market

NNAFOUNDATION.ORG/CONVENTION



Nebraska Press Association

2024 Better Newspaper Print Contest



Deadline: January 31, 2024

Nebraska Press Association 2024 Better Newspaper Print Contest

Early Bird Deadline: Wednesday, January 24, 2024

(All newspapers with entries submitted before midnight January 24, 2024 will be entered in a drawing for a free convention registration for that newspaper valued at: \$250)

Regular Deadline: Wednesday, January 31, 2024

NEW Class Divisions

Division E
Dailies

Division A

Weeklies Up to 699 Circ.

Division B

Weeklies 700 - 999 Circ.

Division C

Weeklies 1000 - 1899 Circ.

Division D

Weeklies 1900 & Up Circ.

(according to 2023 Directory & Rate Book)

Deadlines

Entries must be entered online by **Midnight on January 31, 2024.** Early bird deadline is midnight, January 24, 2024.

Contest Period

Calendar Year 2023. All entries must have been originally published between January 1 and December 31, 2023.

NOTICE

Entry Fee is \$4.00 per entry.

Payment methods: Check or online payment.

Mail check to: Nebraska Press Association 845 "S" Street Lincoln, NE 68508

Pay online at:

https://nebpress.com/nebraska-press-association-payment-form/

General Rules:

- 1. Entries accepted only from dues-paying members. Shoppers/TMC Products are not eligible. Entries from new NPA member newspapers will be allowed only from the months after they've become official members.
- 2. Entries must be submitted to www.newspapercontest.com/nebraska by Midnight, Central time on Wednesday, January 31. Follow the onscreen instructions and register using your information. You will be asked for an "Association Code", please enter **NE2024**. Please be sure to read all online rules for each category. If you need clarification of the rules, contact Lynne Lance at lynne@nebpress.com or call 850-542-7087. All entries must be submitted online, as specified. **THERE WILL BE NO MAIL-IN ENTRIES FOR 2024**.
- 3. Entries should be **PDF files** showing the **full page tearsheet** (publication name and date must be showing). **DO NOT SUBMIT ONLY THE PHOTO OR AD, IT MUST BE A FULL PAGE TEARSHEET.** Entries should be clearly identified by headline, topic, etc.
- 4. Semi-weeklies are considered weeklies. **Small dailies may be entered as weeklies in Division D.**
- 5. Any class in a category that has less than 4 entries will be moved up to the next circulation class. First, second, and third place winners will be awarded in all categories having qualified entries.
- 6. All entries may be entered only once, regardless of publication or circulation category. (i.e., a feature story, advertisement, news photo or section may have been published in multiple newspapers, but that story, ad, photo or section cannot be entered in multiple contest categories or circulation divisions.) A COMMON SECTION WHICH APPEARS IN MORE THAN ONE NEWSPAPER SHOULD ONLY BE ENTERED IN THE LARGEST CLASS. NO TMC/SHOPPERS ALLOWED.
- 7. Individual staffers may win multiple awards in the same contest category, provided each entry is clearly marked with the staffer's name. Entry must have been created by a regular member of the newspaper staff, though not necessarily a full-time member.
- 8. Cover letters are not to be included with entries. Please use the comment boxes to provide information or explanations to judges.

SPECIAL ALL-CLASS AWARDS:

(Winners receive a bonus 20 Sweepstakes points)

PHOTOS OF THE YEAR: NEWS, SPORTS AND FEATURE — SEE CATEGORIES 55, 56 & 57. Only one winner statewide per category: News Photo, Sports Photo & Feature Photo. Enter your best photos and compete against the best photographs entered by weeklies & dailies in all circulation classes. Entries in the Photo of the Year categories may have also been entered in other photo categories for circulation class competition.

EDITORIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD — SEE CATEGORY 58. Only one winner statewide. Enter your best editorial and compete against the best entries from weeklies & dailies in all circulation classes. Entries in the Editorial of the Year category may have also been entered in Category 33 for circulation class competition.

ADVERTISEMENT OF THE YEAR AWARD – SEE CATEGORY 59. Only one winner statewide. Enter your best ad and compete against the best entries from weeklies and dailies in all circulation classes. Entries in the Advertisement of the Year category may have also been entered in another Ad category for circulation class competition.

Daily & Weekly Contest Categories

1. Use of Computer Graphics - Produced In House

Original news graphics, created in house. Judges consider design, impact, clarity, relevance and quality of artwork. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

2. Building Circulation

Must be original promotional material, from your newspaper, focused on retaining readers and building circulation for either your print or digital product, or both. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

3. Reader Interaction/Contest

Entry can consist of up to four print examples exhibiting opportunities for reader interaction or promoting a contest designed specifically to engage readers. Initiated by news, marketing, advertising, circulation or cooperative efforts. Judges shall consider potential for reader participation, originality of theme, copywriting, attractiveness and creativity. Maximum one entry per newspaper.

4. Newspaper Organized or Sponsored Event

Events may be self-promotional for the newspaper, community-centered, profit-generating or organized and sponsored for other reasons. Judges shall consider the event originality and creativity and benefits for participants, along with the newspaper's level of involvement and leadership. PDFs, JPGs and video formats accepted. One entry per newspaper.

Advertising

(The following applies to all Advertising Categories: NO OnePress HOUSE, AGENCY OR CLIENT PRODUCED ADS ALLOWED — ALL ADS MUST BE CREATED BY SUBMITTING NEWSPAPER)

5. Community Promotion Advertisement

A single ad or series of ads created by the newspaper promoting its community, a project in its community or a community event. List name responsible for content. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

6. Agricultural Advertisement

Best advertisement featuring an agricultural theme. Advertisement must be created by newspaper entered. Judges will consider cleverness of headlines and text and the ability to captivate, entertain and attract readers and motivate them to respond. Judges shall also consider basic idea, layout, copy, typography and originality. Must be produced in-house. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

7. Small Ad (Under $\frac{1}{4}$ page or less than 3 col x 10.5")

May submit up to three entries per newspaper. Judges will consider cleverness of headlines and text and the ability to captivate, entertain and attract readers and motivate them to respond. Judges shall also consider basic idea, layout, copy, typography and originality. Ad must be for a single advertiser. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

8. Signature Page

Best ad featuring any theme and containing multiple advertisers. Judges will consider originality of theme, design and layout, makeup, visual appeal and overall continuity. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

9. Classified Section

The purpose of this category is to recognize quality classified advertising pages. Judges will consider overall attractiveness, ease in reading, clarity of classified headlines, organization, promotion of classified advertising use, ease for readers to place and use classifieds. Maximum one entry per newspaper. A COMMON SECTION WHICH APPEARS IN MORE THAN ONE NEWSPAPER SHOULD ONLY BE ENTERED IN THE LARGEST CLASS. NO TMC/SHOPPERS ALLOWED.

10. Advertising Campaign

Two or more ads constitute "campaign." Campaign ads must be created by newspaper entered. List name of person responsible for content. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

11. Single Retail Advertising Idea - Color

No house ads. Ad must be created by newspaper entered. Judges will consider cleverness of headlines and text and the ability to captivate, entertain and attract readers and motivate them to respond. Judges shall also consider basic idea, layout, copy, typography and originality. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

12. Single Retail Advertising Idea - Black and White

No house ads. Ad must be created by newspaper entered. Judges will consider cleverness of headlines and text and the ability to captivate, entertain and attract readers and motivate them to respond. Judges shall also consider basic idea, layout, copy, typography and originality. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

13. Single Classified Advertising Idea - Color (DAILIES ONLY)

No house ads. Ad must be created by newspaper entered. Judges will consider cleverness of headlines and text and the ability to captivate, entertain and attract readers and motivate them to respond. Judges shall also consider basic idea, layout, copy, typography and originality. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

14. Single Classified Advertising Idea - Black and White

No house ads. Ad must be created by newspaper entered. Judges will consider cleverness of headlines and text and the ability to captivate, entertain and attract readers and motivate them to respond. Judges shall also consider basic idea, layout, copy, typography and originality. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

15. Creative Ad Writing

Each entry shall consist of three examples of creative ad writing in separate and unique advertisements. Judges will consider how the headlines and text complement artwork and other elements in the advertisements, and how the writing captures readers' attention, entertains, inspires, and prompts reader action. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

Sports

16. Sports Action Photo

Pictures must have been taken by a regular member of the newspaper staff, though not necessarily a full-time member. List name of photographer. Maximum seven entries per newspaper. Entry must be full page pdf or jpg tearsheet.

17. Sports Feature Photo

Picture must have been taken by a regular member of the newspaper staff, though not necessarily a full-time member. List name of photographer. Maximum seven entries per newspaper. Entry must be full page pdf or jpg tearsheet.

18. Sports Page

Select page or pages from one issue each of Fall, Winter, and two of the newspaper's choice. This is one entry. Judges consider content, writing, headline suitability, layout, design and appeal. Maximum one entry per newspaper.

19. Sports Column

Submit any two columns per columnist. Columns must be regular features, original, written by a regular member of the staff. Judges consider the purpose of the column, local interest, selection of material, literary merit. List name of columnist. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

20. Sports Feature Writing

This category is for a single sports story where the focus is not on a specific game or contest (though specific contests may be mentioned and part of the story). For example, the story may feature a particular athlete or coach, a season overview, a state tournament run, a change in a team's philosophy or strategy, etc. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

21. Sports Game Coverage

Enter a single story that covers a single athletic contest. The focus of the story should be on the game play. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

Photography

22. Photo Page

Pictures must have been taken by a regular member of the newspaper staff, though not necessarily a full-time member. Judges consider the theme, composition of individual photos, local interest, layout, reproduction, captions. A premium for originality. Maximum seven entries per newspaper. **Entry must be full page pdf or jpg tearsheet.**

23. Feature Photography

Pictures must have been taken by a regular member of the newspaper staff, though not necessarily a full-time member. List name of photographer. Maximum seven entries per newspaper. Entry must be full page pdf or jpg tearsheet.

24. News Photography

Pictures must have been taken by a regular member of the newspaper staff, though not necessarily a full-time member. List name of photographer. Maximum seven entries per newspaper. Entry must be full page pdf or jpg tearsheet.

25. Breaking News Photography

Pictures must have been taken by a regular member of the newspaper staff, though not necessarily a full-time member. Breaking News is defined as a photo in which no advance planning is possible...tornadoes...accidents...fires...quick action items. Maximum seven entries per newspaper. Entry must be full page pdf or jpg tearsheet.

News/Editorial

26W. Use of Color — News (WEEKLIES ONLY)

Judges consider originality, compatibility with written matter, makeup. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

27. Personal Column

Submit any two columns per columnist. Each columnist limited to one entry. Columns must be regular features, original, written by a regular member of the staff. Judges consider the purpose of the column, local interest, selection of material, literary merit. List name of columnist. Entry shall consist of any two columns per columnist. Maximum seven entries per newspaper.

28. Breaking News

Breaking News is defined as an event or development in which no advance planning is possible...tornadoes...accidents...fires...quick-action items. Judges consider interest, thoroughness, clarity of writing and impact of visual elements and presentation. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

29. Feature Series

The Feature Series must have appeared in two or more issues. Judges consider subject, interest and impact, layout and design, writing. (Don't confuse with contest No. 30). Maximum three entries.

30. Single Feature Story

Judges consider subject, interest and impact, writing. (Don't confuse with contest No. 29). List name of writer. Maximum of four feature entries per newspaper.

31. Entertainment Story

Previews, reviews and coverage of arts, crafts, theater, music, festivals, restaurants, fairs, etc. Judges shall consider reader interest, creativity and the total impact of writing, photography, layout and digital elements. Entry shall consist of the entrant's reporting on a single subject or event from one publication. PDFs, JPGs and video formats accepted. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

32. In-depth Writing

An in-depth report on a serious subject, single or multiple elements or a series. Judges consider news peg, local relevance, use of research, computer-aided research, multiple sources, enterprise on the part of the newspaper in pulling resources together to get the story, impact on community, opportunity for the community to take action. Maximum two entries per newspaper.

33. Public Notice and Its Promotion

Submit any two examples of staff-written articles, editorials or ads which promote the concept of newspaper public notice as the best way to guarantee the public's right to know. This is one entry. Maximum of one entry. **THIS CATEGORY COUNTS DOUBLE POINTS FOR SWEEPSTAKES AWARD.**

34. Editorial Page

Submit digital versions of three issues, one from the months of April, one from August, and one from a month of your choice. Judges consider power of original editorial matter, layout, design, information, reader participation and local relevance. Maximum one entry per newspaper.

35. Editorial

Entry shall consist of three staff-originated editorials. This is one entry. Judges consider local interest in issues raised, suggested solutions and call to action. Judges also consider clearness of style, sound reasoning, power to influence public opinion and literary merit. Maximum one entry per newspaper.

36. News Writing

Judges consider the quality of writing....its impact, clarity of sourcing, thoroughness and relevance. Entry consists of story dealing with general news coverage. One entry per topic, any number of staff members may contribute to the story. Maximum of three entries per newspaper.

37. Headline Writing

Submit one from date of your choice. Enter entire page as entry. Judges consider the effectiveness of headlines in capturing reader interest and in accurately reflecting the nature of stories. Maximum one entry per newspaper.

38. Front Page

Submit one front page from date of your choice. Enter entire front page as entry. Judges consider layout and design, writing, use of artwork, headlines, relevance, balance of local and non-local coverage. Maximum one entry per newspaper.

39. General Excellence

This is one of the top awards in the NPA Better Newspaper Contest, an overall evaluation of the newspaper. Submit digital versions of three issues, one from May, one from October and the third to be a consecutive issue to one of the above. Judges consider news, content, quality of writing, headlines, page design, photos and captions, graphics and art elements, editorial page, front page, lifestyle pages, sports pages, reproduction, advertising design and content, treatment of public notices. Maximum one entry per newspaper. PUT ALL FILES IN ONE PDF FILE.

40. Lifestyles (Dailies Only)

Select page or pages from any three issues. This is one entry. Judges consider layout, design, content, writing and local impact. Maximum one entry per newspaper. PUT ALL FILES IN ONE PDF FILE.

41. Special Single Section

Each entry consists of one section on a single date of publication per newspaper. Judges consider best idea, editorial content, photo and art content, layout, impact on community. No OnePress sponsored sections. Maximum three entries per newspaper. "By Staff" byline acceptable on this category. A COMMON SECTION WHICH APPEARS IN MORE THAN ONE NEWSPAPER SHOULD ONLY BE ENTERED IN THE LARGEST CLASS. NO TMC/SHOPPERS ALLOWED. PUT ALL FILES IN ONE PDF FILE.

42. Special Section (Multiple Publication Days)

Each entry consists of section on multiple dates of publication per newspaper. Judges consider best idea, editorial content, photo and art content, layout, impact on community. No OnePress sponsored sections. Maximum three entries per newspaper. "By Staff" byline acceptable on this category. A COMMON SECTION WHICH APPEARS IN MORE THAN ONE NEWSPAPER SHOULD ONLY BE ENTERED IN THE LARGEST CLASS. NO TMC/SHOPPERS ALLOWED. PUT ALL FILES IN ONE PDF FILE.

43. Youth Coverage

Submit three examples of coverage of young people (full-page tearsheets of youth pages, opinions, in-depth series about issues facing young people, advertisements, special sections, etc.) with subject matter clearly outlined. This will be one entry. Judges will consider local interest, relevance, impact and ingenuity. Maximum one entry per newspaper. PUT ALL FILES IN ONE PDF FILE.

44. Specialty/Lifestyles Sections

Submit tearsheets from regular editions of up to three examples of specialty/lifestyle sections geared to a specific audience, or three examples geared to a variety of audiences: youth, business, agriculture, seniors, etc. Judges consider page design, impact, relevance of content. Maximum one entry per newspaper. PUT ALL FILES IN ONE PDF FILE.

Leadership Awards

(Winners receive a bonus 20 Sweepstakes points)

45. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AWARD (All Classes Together)

Only one winner. Submit news articles, editorials, house ads and other materials demonstrating your newspaper's commitment to combating government secrecy and ensuring the public's right to know. Entry can include cover letter from entrant and supporting letters from the community. PUT ALL FILES IN ONE PDF FILE.

46. BEST NIE PROGRAM

One entry per newspaper accompanied by cover letter explaining how your publication promotes Newspapers in Education. Samples can include full-page tearsheets of promotional advertisements, specialty pages or sections aimed at student readers, copies of fliers or letters sent to teachers, etc. Subject matter should be clearly outlined. Judges will consider ingenuity and impact of promotional materials and ads, and results of efforts. Maximum one entry per newspaper. PUT ALL FILES IN ONE PDF FILE.

(See Categories 47 thru 53 in the Digital Contest Rules)

Special All-Class Awards

(Winners receive a bonus 20 Sweepstakes points)

54. News Photo of the Year

Newspapers may enter one photo in this category, which will compete against all weeklies and dailies in all circulation classes. Submit entry online as per other photo category instructions. Entry must be a full-page PDF or JPG tearsheet. Entries for this category may have also been entered in Photo Categories 24 or 25, although an entry in this Category (54) will be considered a separate entry. **Maximum one entry per newspaper.**

55. Sports Photo of the Year

Newspapers may enter one photo in this category, which will compete against all weeklies and dailies in all circulation classes. Submit entry online as per other photo category instructions. Entry must be a full-page PDF or JPG tearsheet. Entries for this category may have also been entered in Photo Categories 16 or 17, although an entry in this Category (55) will be considered a separate entry. **Maximum one entry per newspaper.**

56. Feature Photo of the Year

Newspapers may enter one photo in this category, which will compete against all weeklies and dailies in all circulation classes. Submit entry online as per other photo category instructions. Entry must be a full-page PDF or JPG tearsheet. Entries for this category may have also been entered in Photo Category 23, although an entry in this Category (56) will be considered a separate entry. **Maximum one entry per newspaper.**

57. Editorial of the Year

Newspapers may submit one entry in this category consisting of a single editorial, which will compete against all weeklies and dailies in all circulation classes. Submit entry online. Entries for this category may have also been entered in Editorial Category 35, although an entry in this Category (57) will be considered a separate entry. **Maximum one entry per newspaper.**

58. Advertisement of the Year

Newspapers may submit one entry in this category consisting of a single ad, which will compete against all weeklies and dailies in all circulation classes. Submit entry online. Entries for this category may have also been entered in Advertising Categories 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15, although an entry in this Category (58) will be considered a separate entry. **Maximum one entry per newspaper.**

Print Sweepstakes Awards

Weekly Class Awards

All **weekly** newspapers entered are automatically eligible. The award will be presented to the newspaper in each class of A, B, C and D that accumulates the most points in its class based on the formula given below.

Weekly Sweepstakes Award

All **weekly** newspapers entered are automatically eligible. This is the most prestigious award in the weekly competition. The award will be presented to the newspaper that accumulates the most points based on the formula given below.

Daily Sweepstakes Award

All **daily** newspapers entered are automatically eligible. This is the most prestigious award in the daily competition. The award will be presented to the newspaper that accumulates the most points based on the following formula:

Each first place award...10 points*

Each second place award...8 points*

Each third place award...6 points*

*Double points for General Excellence & Public Notice categories

Twenty Sweepstakes points will also be awarded for Freedom of Information, Best NIE Program & Special All-Class Awards: News Photo of the Year; Sports Photo of the Year; Feature Photo of the Year; Editorial of the Year; and, Advertisement of the Year



Nebraska Press Association

2024 Better Newspaper Digital Contest



Deadline: January 31, 2024

Nebraska Press Association 2024 Better Newspaper Digital Contest

Early Bird Deadline: Wednesday, January 24, 2024

(All newspapers with entries submitted before midnight January 24, 2024 will be entered in a drawing for a free convention registration for that newspaper valued at: \$250)

Regular Deadline: Wednesday, January 31, 2024

NEW Class Divisions

Division E
Dailies

Division A

Weeklies Up to 699 Circ.

Division B

Weeklies 700 - 999 Circ.

Division C

Weeklies 1000 - 1899 Circ.

Division D

Weeklies 1900 & Up Circ.

(according to 2023 Directory & Rate Book)

Deadlines

Entries must be entered online by **Midnight on January 31, 2024.** Early bird deadline is midnight, January 24, 2024.

Contest Period

Calendar Year 2023. All entries must have been originally published between January 1 and December 31, 2023.

NOTICE

Entry Fee is \$4.00 per entry.

Payment methods: Check or online payment.

Mail check to: Nebraska Press Association 845 "S" Street Lincoln, NE 68508

Pay online at:

https://nebpress.com/nebraska-press-association-payment-form/

General Rules:

- 1. Entries accepted only from dues-paying members.
- 2. Entries must be submitted to www.newspapercontest.com/nebraska by Midnight, Central time on Wednesday, January 31. Follow the onscreen instructions and register using your information. You will be asked for an "Association Code", please enter NE2024. Please be sure to read all online rules for each category. If you need clarification of the rules, contact Lynne Lance at lynne@nebpress.com or call 850-542-7087. Entries must be submitted online, as specified.
- 3. Semi-weeklies are considered weeklies. **Small dailies may be entered as weeklies** in Division D.
- 4. Any class in a category that has less than 4 entries will be moved up to the next circulation class. First, second, and third place winners will be awarded in all categories having qualified entries.
- 5. All entries may be entered only once, regardless of publication or circulation category.
- 6. Individual staffers may win multiple awards in the same contest category, provided each entry is clearly marked with the staffer's name. Entry must have been created by a regular member of the newspaper staff, though not necessarily a full-time member.
- 7. Cover letters are not to be included with entries.

Digital:

47. Web Sites

To enter include the address of Web Site and name(s) of staff responsible for site. Criteria includes usefulness to readers, effectiveness of advertising, quality and quantity of community content, ease of navigation, inclusion of special features such as links, interaction, etc., and cross-promotion of newspaper and Web Site. Maximum one entry per newspaper.

48. Online Video - Advertising

Advertising, promotional and other styles of non-editorial video are eligible. Judges shall consider quality of visual messaging, graphics, sound, special effects and quality of script, camerawork and editing. Premium for uniqueness and viewer impact. Newspaper must keep link active to entry on their respective website until judging is complete. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

49. Online Video - Editorial

Breaking news, sports, features, special interest and other styles of video are eligible. Judges shall consider quality of visual storytelling, graphics, sound, special effects and quality of script, camerawork, and editing. Premium for uniqueness and viewer impact. Newspaper must keep link active to entry on their respective website until judging is complete. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

50. Online Coverage of Breaking News

Entry consists of permanent link to digital content of the breaking news. Judges will consider the newspaper's use of multi-media to break a spot news story and develop the coverage as the news event unfolds. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

51. Best Use of Social Media

This category recognizes newspapers that have utilized social media in an innovative way to expand coverage beyond traditional print. Entry should include up to three examples (screen shots of Facebook posts, tweets, etc.). Judges will consider the entry's impact on the audience, clarity of the message and creativity. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

52. Best Digital Ad Idea

Any ad – animated or static – appearing on website or mobile site. Ad must have been created locally by newspaper entering it in the contest. Entry consists of permanent link to digital content. Maximum three entries per newspaper.

53. Best Sports Video

Capturing magic on the gridiron or inside gymnasium, moments caught on video capture clicks and views on newspaper websites. Submit your best sports video. Videos will be judged based on the uniqueness of the subject matter, how the video was packaged and the impact of the moment captured. Maximum two entries per newspaper.

Digital Sweepstakes Awards

Weekly Class Awards

All **weekly** newspapers entered are automatically eligible. The award will be presented to the newspaper in each class of A, B, C and D that accumulates the most points in its class based on the formula given below.

Weekly Sweepstakes Award

Newspapers published 1x-2x per week are automatically eligible. This is the most prestigious award in the weekly digital competition. The award will be presented to the newspaper that accumulates the most points based on the formula given below.

Daily Sweepstakes Award

Newspapers published 3x-7x per week entered are automatically eligible. The award will be presented to the newspaper that accumulates the most points based on the following formula:

Each first place award...10 points*

Each second place award...8 points*

Each third place award...6 points*

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United States Postal Service

Postal Wizard

Postage Statement Entry



Mailing Services Tab – Select Postal Wizard



BUSINESS CUSTOMER G∆TEW∆Y

Mailing Services Shipping Services Additional Services

You can locate Postal Wizard by clicking on the Mailing Services tab. You can also save it as a favorite under Favorite Services.

Account	Overview

By EPS# By Permit#

Couldn't find any EPS Accounts for this CRID.



Favorite Services	<u>Edit</u>
Balance & Fees	>
Dashboard	>
EPS	>
IMsb	>
Mailing Reports	>
Manage Permits	>
Postal Wizard	>

Statement Information – Select Your PS Form



Manage Mailing Activity

- > Home
- » Summary
- » Balance and Fees
- » Postal Wizard
- » Electronic Data Exchange
- » Mailing Reports
- » Dashboard
- » Manage Permits
- » IMsb Tool

e-VS Customer

- » e-VS Monthly Account and Sampling Summary
- » eVS/PRS Dashboard
- » Manifest Search
- » Mailer ID Report
- » Third Party Billing Reports
- » Dispute Queue
- » eVS Alerts
- » Print and Deliver Return Label Service

PRS Customer

» PRS Monthly Account and Sampling Summary

Home > Postal Wizard

Postal Wizard

From this page, choose the form number to be completed.

Allows you to complete, print, save, and submit common forms used in the business mailing process.

Complete a Mailing Form	
Online Form	Description
3541	Postage Statement — Periodicals
3541	Postage Statement — Periodicals - Combined
3600 FCM	Postage Statement — First-Class Mail
3600 PM	Postage Statement — Priority Mail
3602	Postage Statement — USPS Marketing Mail
3605	Postage Statement — Bound Printed Matter
3605	Postage Statement — Parcel Select
3605	Postage Statement — Media Mail or Library Mail
3700-A	Postage Statement — Part A - First Class Mail International
3700-B	Postage Statement — Part B - First Class Package International Service
3700-C	Postage Statement — Part C - International Surface Air Lift
3700-D	Postage Statement — Part D - International Priority Airmail
3700-E	Postage Statement — Part E - Priority Mail International - Transmits Customs Data
3700-F	Postage Statement — Part F - Priority Mail International - Regional Rate Box - Transmits Customs Data
3700-G	Postage Statement — Part G - Priority Mail Express International - Transmits Customs Data
3700-H	Postage Statement — Part H - Global Express Guaranteed - Transmits Customs Data
3700-P	Postage Statement — Part P - Commercial ePacket
3700-Q	Postage Statement — Part Q - Global Direct

View Pending Postage Statements Report

Saved Forms

View forms I have submitted

View incomplete forms I have started

Complete Customer Service Form Online Form Description

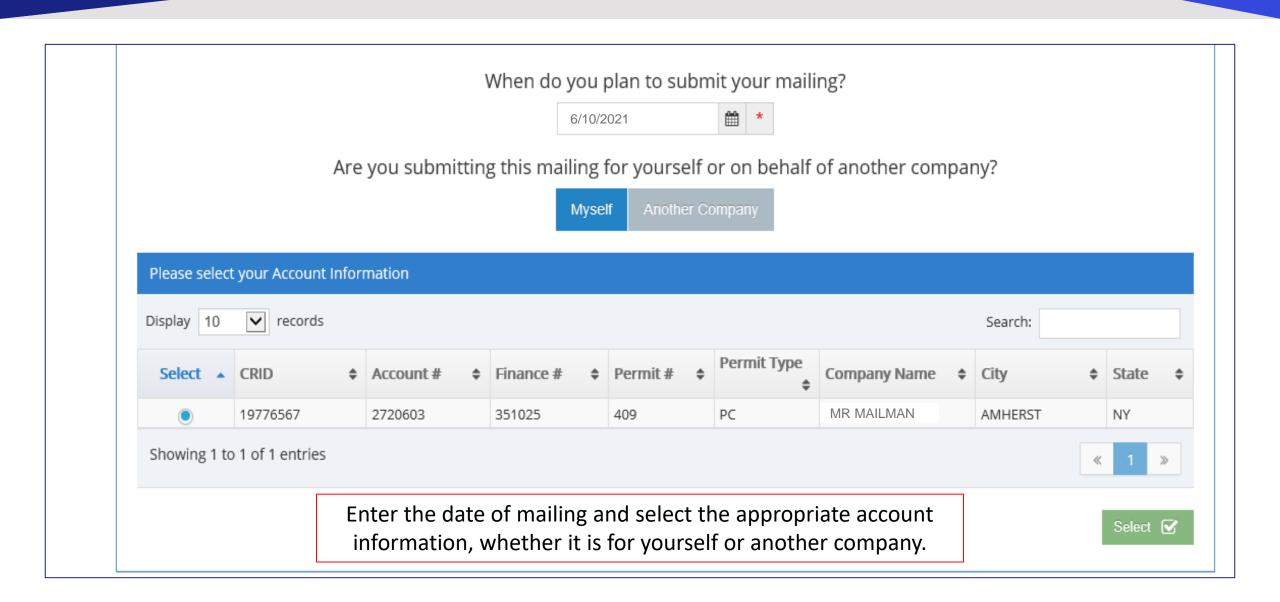
3526	Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
3623	Request for Confirmation of Authorization or Pending Application to Mail at Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mai
3624	Application to Mail at Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail Rates
6015	Nonprofit Database Change Request
3533	Application for Refund of Fees, Products and Withdrawals of Customer Accounts
3510	Application for Re-entry or Special Price Request for Periodicals Publication

Complete a Periodicals Payment

Consolidated Payment Request

Permit Information – Select Your Permit

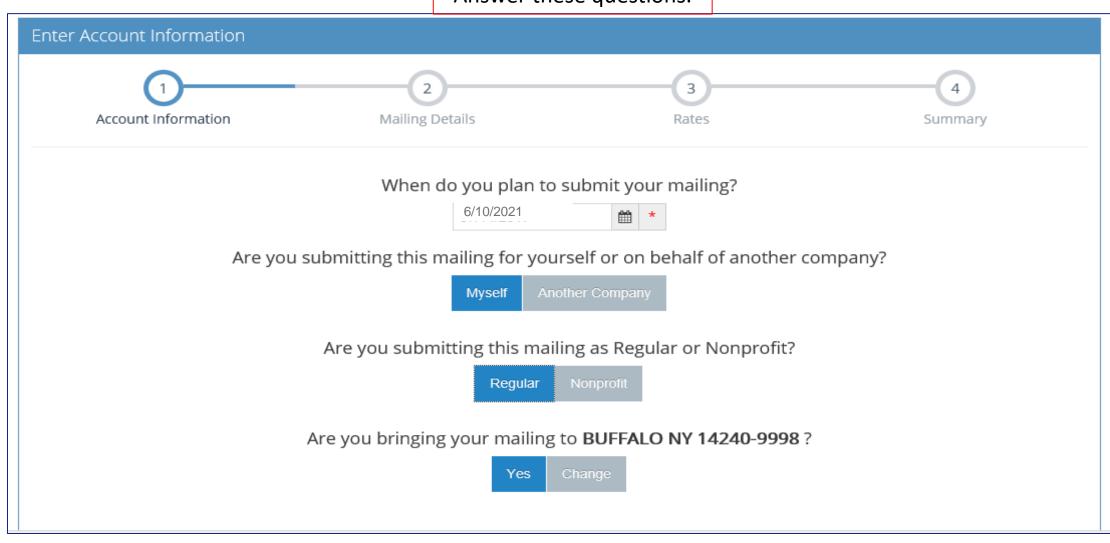




Account Information Selections (Regular/Nonprofit)



Answer these questions.



Mailing Characteristics



genda Enter Mailing Details Account Information Mailing Details Mailing Characteristics Mailing Characteristics General Information Container Information Incentives Mailing Date 04/04/2022 1' MM Trays Total Pieces 2' MM Trays Move Update Method Alternative Address Format 2' EMM Trays ~ Special Postage Payment - None -System Flat Trays Destination Entry Sacks ☐ Full Service **Pallets Mail Piece Information** Other Full Service / Barcode Information * Processing Category Letters 0.025 Piece Weight Mailer ID (MID) ● Pounds ○ Ounces Mailing ID

Lowest Piece ID Non-identical Lowest Piece ID Total Weight (lbs) Highest Piece ID Intelligent Mail Barcode (IMb) ✓ Barcode Info. Available ***** Windowed Letters or Flats

* O Political Mailing O Official Election Mail

None

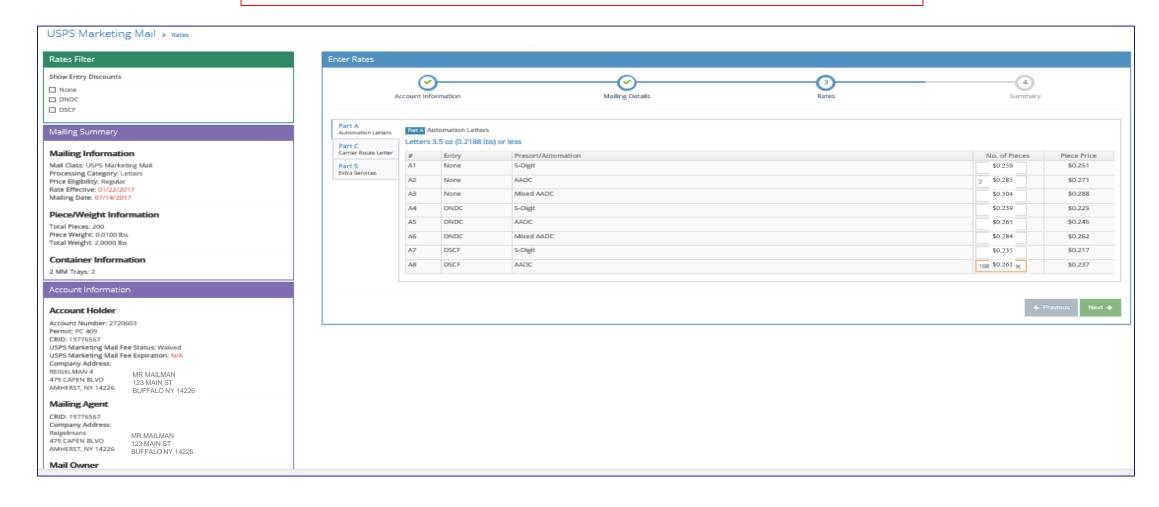
To document IMbs for FS and Non-FS mailings:

- 1. Choose Barcode Type
- Check box for Full-Service
 OR
 Check box for Barcode Info.
 Available (non-Full-Service)
- 3. Enter 6- or 9-digit Mailer ID
 - a) Select Mailing ID if using an identical serial number for all mailpieces in mailing
 - b) Select Lowest Piece ID if applying a range of unique IMb serial numbers through out the mailing.

Rates – Enter Piece Counts

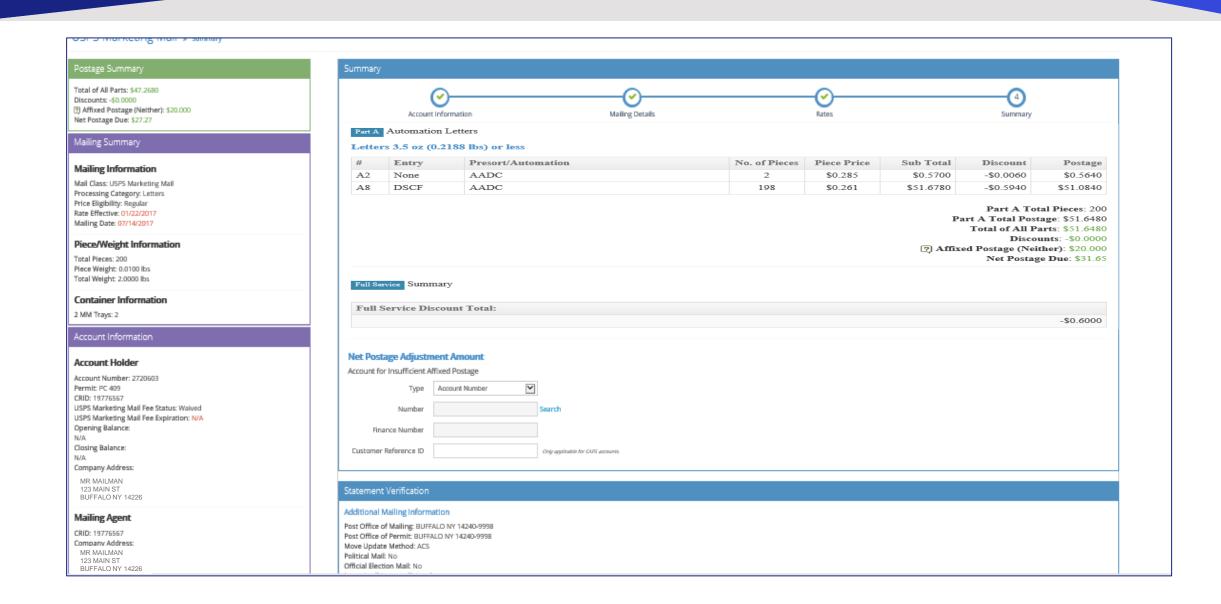


Enter Piece counts on proper price lines. Verify info on the left side.



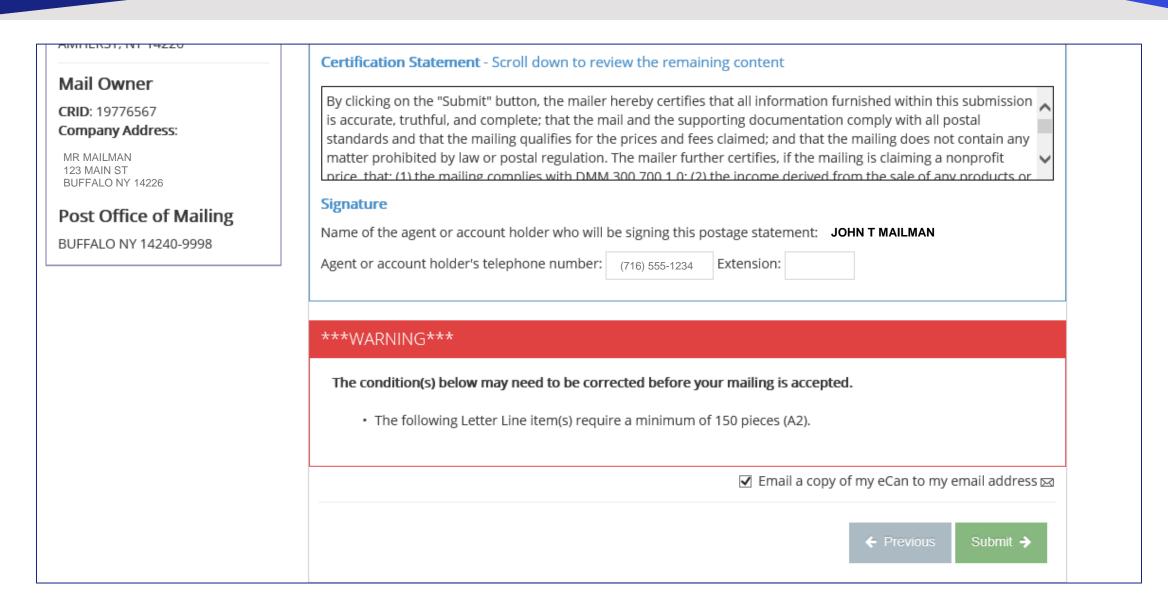
Summary Screen – Verify Information





Statement Submission – Read Certification Statement and Submit





Confirmation Page



