

Dear NYSOWA Member,

As administrator of the organization's Excellence in Craft Awards Program, I wanted to invite and urge you to participate in the 2024 awards program recognizing work published in 2023 and books published in 2022 and 2023, as well as our Photo Awards Program for photos taken at any time.

This year, there are some significant changes in the program, so I wanted this letter to serve as a reminder of those changes, which were first pointed out in our most recent newsletter.

First, because of the fact that our awards banquet will be held during our Annual Conference, which this year runs from Friday, May 30, through Monday, June 2, the deadline for receipt of entries by both the EIC and photo award administrators is January 15.

Second, whereas only hard copy submissions were allowed in the past, now ONLY DIGITAL entries will be allowed.

Third, EIC entries will be sent not to me as in the past, but to President Chris Paparo, who has graciously offered to be the recipient of your entries, process them and forward them to the judges. Photo entries will continue to be sent to Deb Brosen. The email addresses for both EIC and photo entries are listed in the attached guidelines and entry forms.

Fourth, we have gotten a bit more realistic about entry fees, which have been \$5 covering ALL EIC entries and an additional \$5 covering ALL photo entries. The inclusive fee for EIC entries is now \$25, which is still a very small amount compared to most other communicator group awards programs. Each book entered requires an additional \$10 to cover shipping to the judges. The inclusive fee for photo entries is also \$25.

If you have any questions, you can contact Chris, Deb or me. We look forward to your participation.

Best wishes,

Glenn Sapir,  
EIC Awards Chairman

**NYSOWA Excellence in Craft Writing,  
Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Award Guidelines & Rules**

We are making entry to the awards program easier than ever. At least, we hope you will find that to be the case as we convert the entry process exclusively to a digital format. No more dealing with snail mail and the costs and time that entails. No more entry forms for each entry; instead, you'll list your entries on one form. As for your entry fee, which has gone up to \$25 (covers all EIC entries; a separate \$25 fee covers all photo award entries), you can still send in a check or money order, or you can go to our NYSOWA.org website and pay by credit card.

So, if you've never entered your work in our awards program, this is the year to start. Hopefully, you'll find it easy. So, review your work from 2023 (2022 and 2023 for the Book category) and begin to prepare entries for the writing and photo awards recognition program. Of course, photos could have been taken at any time, not just in 2023.

All you need for each entry is a file of the original article as a PDF or JPG and a file of that article that deletes or blocks out your byline, the name of the publication and any other identifying information, including photos with your image. The new entry form below requires a listing of all of your entries

Because the awards presentation will take place at our banquet scheduled for the spring, rather than the more traditional fall banquet date, **entries must be received by the administrators of the writing and photo recognition programs by January 15, 2024**

Deb Brosen is chair of the Janice M. Keesler Memorial photo awards. This year I am co-administering the Excellence in Craft writing awards program with our president, Chris Paparo, and he looks forward to processing your submissions.

—Glenn Sapir

Deadline for receipt of entries for both writing and photo award entries is **Jan. 15, 2024**.

## **EIC & Photo Contest Rules & Entry Form**

### **EIC CATEGORIES**

The categories for 2023 work are: Magazine Column, Magazine Feature, Newspaper Column, Newspaper Feature and Online Publication; and Book (published in 2022 and 2023). Those categories are defined as such:

**Newspaper Column:** A regularly appearing article, typically shorter than a feature, that has a reappearing name, slug, etc., such as “On the Trail,” “Fishing,” “Hunting,” etc.

**Newspaper Feature:** A newspaper feature does not regularly appear with a slug or name, is typically longer than a column, usually includes graphics and may have a sidebar(s).

**Magazine Column:** A regularly appearing article, typically shorter than a feature, that has a reappearing name, slug, etc., such as “On the Trail,” “Fishing,” “Hunting,” etc.

**Magazine Feature:** A magazine feature does not regularly appear with a slug or name, is typically longer than a column, usually includes graphics and may have a sidebar(s).

**Online Publication:** Online publication may be a feature, column, blog post or other electronic communication that was paid for—and was first posted online before it might have otherwise been published.

**Book:** Books or E-books with outdoor-related topics/formats, including but not limited to contract/self-published, hard-cover/soft-cover, printed/E-book, photo/fiction/nonfiction/cookbook.

### **SUBMISSIONS**

All entries should be sent to [nysowaec@gmail.com](mailto:nysowaec@gmail.com). Chris Paparo will review your entry to be sure you’ve met all of the requirements and will acknowledge your entry. **You may submit entries in different emails and on different dates without having to pay an additional entry fee.**

Each submission should include:

—one file of the work as published

–one file of the same article, with the name and date of publication and any mentions of the author’s name, in the byline, photo credits, captions and body text, as well as any images of the author, blocked out or deleted

–a single, all-inclusive completed entry form for all EIC submissions.

–Proof of payment of \$25

Book entries require an additional \$10 fee for each title, in addition to the all-inclusive one-time \$25 entry fee for all writing (not photo) entries. **In addition, authors must submit three copies of their book, unmarked.** These will not be returned to the author. Books should be sent to Chris Paparo, NYSOWA EIC, 153 South River Rd., Calverton, NY 11933.

All entries, including books, must be received by Chris by Jan. 15, to be eligible for entry in the EIC Awards Program.

Important Information:

–Writers may submit a maximum of two entries in each category.

–The author must have been paid for the work entered.

–Work must have been published between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2023 (Book entries must have been published in 2022 or 2023).

–All entries must be the author’s original work.

–Awards will not be given in any category that receives entries from less than three members.

–If entries are from fewer than three members in either the Magazine Column or Newspaper Column category, the entries for those two categories will be combined into a Column category.

–If entries are from fewer than three members in either the Magazine Feature or Newspaper Feature category, the entries for those two categories will be combined into a Feature category.

–Audio books are not eligible for the Book category.

–Failure to follow the guidelines and rules above can lead to disqualification of entries. This is left to the discretion of the EIC chairman.

–By entering your submission, you are allowing NYSOWA to reprint your entry for promotional purposes.

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**Excellence in Craft Entry Form**

NOTE: THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR SUBMISSION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

—

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone  
Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category  
\_\_\_\_\_

Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication  
entries) \_\_\_\_\_

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Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book  
Publication \_\_\_\_\_ -  
\_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category  
\_\_\_\_\_

Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication  
entries) \_\_\_\_\_

—

Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book  
Publication \_\_\_\_\_ -  
\_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category  
\_\_\_\_\_

Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication  
entries) \_\_\_\_\_

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Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book  
Publication \_\_\_\_\_ -  
\_\_\_\_\_

EIC Category

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Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication entries)

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Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book Publication

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EIC Category

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Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication entries)

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Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book Publication

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EIC Category

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Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication entries)

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Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book Publication

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EIC Category

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Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication entries)

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Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book Publication

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EIC Category

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Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication entries)

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Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book Publication

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EIC Category

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Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication entries)

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Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book Publication

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**All entries and payment must be received by Jan. 15, 2024. Send entries (except Book entries) to [nysowaaic.com](http://nysowaaic.com). Send Book entries to Chris Paparo, NYSOWA EIC, 153 South River Rd., Calverton, NY 11933.**

DON'T FORGET:

A \$25 fee must be paid at the time of submission. One \$25 fee covers all EIC writing contest submissions —EXCEPT THAT BOOK ENTRIES REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL \$10 FEE PER ENTRY.

### **Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Awards Program Rules**

**Prints are no longer accepted as entries.**

NOTE: YOU MUST LABEL DIGITAL PHOTO ENTRIES WITH YOUR NAME, CATEGORY AND, IF ENTERING TWO IN THE SAME CATEGORY, WITH "1" FOR THE FIRST AND "2" FOR THE SECOND. E.G., JOHNDOE HUNTINGFISHING1. ENTRIES NOT PROPERLY LABELED WILL BE RETURNED FOR PROPER LABELING BY THE PHOTO AWARDS ADMINISTRATOR!

1. Only members in good standing are eligible.
2. A maximum of two photos per category may be entered. Submissions must be received by Jan. 15, 2024. A one-time submission fee of \$25 must be paid at time of submission. Late entries will be disqualified. No name, title or caption should be provided. Chairman will assign a number to each photo and keep a record of photographer and photo number separate from the photos.
3. Each photo can only be submitted to one category. Photos from previous contests may be resubmitted if they did not place (1st, 2nd or 3rd).
4. All categories will be judged prior to the Annual Conference, and awards will be made at the Conference.

5. The following are the categories for the contest:

a. Hunting/Fishing–Hunting/fishing photographs, including hero shots, action, hunting or fishing equipment.

b. Outdoor Action–Outdoor-oriented action photographs, excluding hunting and fishing but including boating, camping, RVs, shooting sports, hiking, skiing, windsurfing, etc.

c. Outdoor Scenic–Scenic photographs of either flora or fauna, landscapes, close-ups, panoramic. These may include people, though the people should be part of the scene, not the subject of the photo.

d. Wildlife–Though the judges may take into consideration unusual aspects of the wildlife subject, such as size of antlers, length of beard and length and girth of fish, primary consideration should be given to the technical photographic aspects and general appeal of the image.

e. People–As the category suggests, the focus is on “people” in the outdoors.

6. Categories “A” through “E” do not exclude photos taken in black-and-white.

7. Photo enhancement is limited to standard editing, such as: color correction, contrast control, filter use and image cropping. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated

8. All entries must be the member’s original work. If a dispute leads to a challenge, the member must defend that image and prove it is original work. Use of royalty-free photo images of clipart is prohibited. Their use is subject to disciplinary action by the NYSOWA Board of Directors.

9. Judges shall be recruited who preferably are associated with the outdoor industry and have a professional appreciation of the specific challenges of outdoor and wildlife photography. In the absence of judges meeting the criterion, judges with an expertise as photographers or photo editors will be recruited. At least two people must participate as judges, and three is preferable to minimize the possibility of ties. No minimum number of entries must be submitted in a category to validate the judging of that category. First, second and third place prizes must be awarded if at least three entries have been submitted. No honorable mentions will be made.

10. By entering photographs in the competition, the owners agree that NYSOWA has the right to print and publish any award-winning image in New York Outdoors, or an NYSOWA awards publication or other form of promotion unless the member objects in writing when submitting the entries. Unless the copyright owner of a photograph specifically objects in writing, NYSOWA has the right to reproduce winning images for display purposes, including display at venues selected by contest sponsor(s), subject to the approval of the NYSOWA board of directors.

11. Entries should be submitted to Deb Brosen at [featherartstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:featherartstudio@yahoo.com).

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Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Awards Entry Form

NOTE: THIS ALL-INCLUSIVE FORM MUST ACCOMPANY THE PHOTO SUBMISSION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Category \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Identification: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Category \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Identification: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Category \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Identification: \_\_\_\_\_

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Photo Category \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Identification: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Category \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Identification: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit entries to Deb Brosen: [featherartstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:featherartstudio@yahoo.com)

DON'T FORGET:

Proof of payment of your \$25 entry fee must be submitted to Deb at the time of submission.

DON'T FORGET:

Submissions for both the Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Contest and the Excellence in Crafts Awards for writing must be received by the awards administrators **by Jan. 15, 2024.**