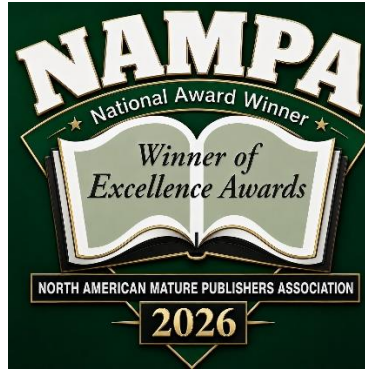




2026 NAMPA Awards

Presented on August 24, 2026

**At the NAMPA national convention at the Hampton Inn in
Memphis, TN**

NAMPA 2026 Annual Awards Competition Results

I'm grateful to return as this year's NAMPA Awards judge! The entries this year were impressive, and I enjoyed seeing some new publications throw their hat in the ring. I've worked in print publications for 19 years in various roles from writer to graphic designer to editor-in-chief. That experience, and keeping up with industry best practices, helped me determine winners in each categories.

In writing categories, articles and columns that reflected issues seniors are facing right now, especially if they had a unique angle or topic, were standouts. Articles that took high level or national topics and related them to the local community, as well as compelling personal narratives were also excellent.

In terms of design, strong photography with movement that utilized the page well were at the top. Clear typography in easy to read colors were also considered. I always love it when publications aren't afraid of white space.

And finally, if there's anything I can offer as constructive feedback, is that the way email newsletters and websites are designed matters! Take a look at what other publications in other industries are doing that works. There is a lot of growth opportunity here for everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to judge this year's awards!

Jessica Rinaudo

Awards bestowed to NAMPA member publications will be shown by division as follows:

NAMPA 2026 Awards for Total Publication Categories in Division “A” (circulation of 24,999 or less)

NAMPA 2026 Awards for Total Publication Categories in Division “B” (circulation of 25,000 to 65,999)

NAMPA 2026 Awards for Total Publication Categories in Division “C” (circulation of 66,000 and more)

NAMPA 2026 Awards for Internet Categories (Division Category is not applicable)

NAMPA 2026 Awards for Total Publication Categories in **Division “A” (circulation of 24,999 or less)**

1. Best of Show

All members submitting award entries are automatically entered into this category. This award is based on the number of awards won, with three points awarded for 1st place, two points for 2nd place and one point for 3rd place. The publication with the most points in each division is awarded the **Best of Show** award.

The Best of Times (Louisiana)

2. General Excellence

Entries exhibit editorial balance, planning and a high caliber of journalism throughout. There should be evidence of high standards in writing and editing. General Excellence winners should demonstrate a grasp of the issues within the local senior community.

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana)

Judge's Comments: Great mix of articles that cover everything from health to history and important topics for seniors today. Writing is excellent, especially cover stories.

Second Place: Senior Voice - Alaska

Judge's Comments: Diverse articles and great local stories. Many writers are experts in their field but make their topics understandable for anyone.

Third Place: The Best Times (Tennessee)

Judge's Comments: Good mix of articles and a focus on local events. Travel pieces and advice columns are a standout.

Editorial Categories

4. Column Review

Entries are originally commissioned by your publication and to cover regular columns on books, magazines, films, television, music, theatre or other topics. The column clearly establishes the publication as a voice of authority on any given subject.

First Place: Boom Athens (Georgia) – Food and Facts

***Judge's Comments:** The concept of this column, which details the history behind food and what it's made of, is so interesting and entertaining. It's well written and engaging. Love it.*

Second Place: PrimeLife Times– Book Reviews

***Judge's Comments:** Book reviews are interesting and well-written, though they primarily feature children's titles.*

5. Senior Issues

Entries cover regular columns on senior issues, advice, and health issues or resources.

First Place: Senior Voice (Alaska) - Perspectives

***Judge's Comments:** These columns are written in an easy-to-understand Q&A format and address some offbeat, but important issues, like media influence.*

Second Place: Senior Voice (Alaska) – Legal Issues

***Judge's Comments:** A deep dive into taxes and home equity that breaks down important issues with stories in an easy to understand format.*

Third Place: The Best Times (Tennessee) – Health and Wellness

***Judge's Comments:** Important perspectives from doctors on issues that impact seniors and the research behind them. Interesting and important.*

6. Editorial/Opinion

An editorial or opinion of the publisher or editor about any topic in a regular issue

First Place: Senior Voice (Alaska) – Social Security an Economic Engine for Alaska

***Judge's Comments:** Opinion is supported by history, facts, and an excellent historical anecdote. Compelling opinion.*

Second Place: The Best Times (Tennessee) – From the Publisher

Judge's Comments: *The author sets the stage for his opinion piece on crime and polishes it off with a call to action. Compelling writing.*

7. Briefs/Shorts

Entries should be a potpourri of brief, timely, lively, informative and relevant items that are packaged together as a column or section that appears regularly in the publication.

First Place: M Living (Toledo, Ohio)

Judge's Comments: *Enjoyable local information in bite-sized pieces.*

Second Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana)

Judge's Comments: *Great mix of relevant medical facts packaged in a consumable, easy-to-read format.*

8. Personal Essay

This category recognizes the value of personal essays as from any writer as published in a senior publication.

First Place: Senior Voice (Alaska) – Advice from One Senior to Another

Judge's Comments: *This beautiful essay is heart-warming and engaging. The author is a natural storyteller.*

Second Place: Boom Athens (Georgia) Try, Granddaddy

Judge's Comments: *This essay is inspiring and endearing. Love the tenacity!*

Third Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana) – Murphy Knew

Judge's Comments: *Heartbreaking, sweet with a great refrain.*

9. Profile Entries

This entry examines an interesting person or looks at the person in an interesting way. Submission should be well reported and written with craftsmanship by any writer.

First Place: PrimeLife Times – Bill Gingold: Warsaw Ghetto Survivor

Judge's Comments: *Absolutely incredible story written in a compelling manner.*

Second Place: Senior Voice (Alaska) – Marge Mullen Embodies Homesteading History

Judge's Comments: *Unique profile on someone who has lived a unique and adventurous life.*

Third Place: The Howard County Beacon – Caretaker Protects the Past

Judge's Comments: *Unique profile with fantastic quotes from the person profiled.*

10. Annual Senior Resource Guide or Directory

For the publishing of a senior resource guide or directory and examines the editorial and information content.

First Place: The Best of Times – Silver Pages

***Judge's Comments:** Packed full of useful information and resources. Well organized.*

Second Place: The Best Times (Tennessee) – Mid-South 50+ Resource Guide

***Judge's Comments:** Lots of resources. Well organized.*

11. How-To Feature or Do It Yourself Feature.

Entries should demonstrate the usefulness and applicability of the information presented. These pieces offer more than advice as they instruct and enlighten the reader, providing guidance in achieving a desired outcome.

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana) – Letting Go: Your Kids Don't Want It

***Judge's Comments:** Informative and engaging article with practical advice and steps.*

12. Travel Column

Entries should represent how the publication serves to supply information on travel destinations. The column should appear regularly **and may not be from a syndicated writer.**

First Place: PrimeLife Times – Head for the Black Hills / The Badlands – They're Great

***Judge's Comments:** Great travel pieces told in a narrative format that draws the reader in.*

Second Place: Senior Voice (Alaska) – Going Places

***Judge's Comments:** Interesting stories in unique locations.*

13. Feature Writing

This category recognizes quality feature writing that shows style, is clever in subject matter and is an all-around good read.

First Place: Howard Beacon (Maryland) – Unearthing Howard County's Black History

***Judge's Comments:** Compelling feature about an accidental deep-dive through local Black history through the collaboration of father and son. Fantastic topic and well-written.*

Second Place: Senior Voice (Alaska) – Vinyl Revival Unites Generations Over Shared Music

***Judge's Comments:** Fun take on vinyl records uniting generations. Excellent interviews.*

Third Place: The Best Times (Tennessee) – Renowned Artist M.B. Mayfield Opened Door at Ole Miss

Judge's Comments: Important story that brings history into the present.

14. Special Section in the publication

Entries are special sections or pull-out guides covering any subject. These sections should be written, edited and presented in a manner that is lively and useful to the reader. Do not submit annual resource guides under this category.

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana) – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Judge's Comments: This special section is packed with excellent articles and resources.

Second Place: The Best Times - Grandparents Guide to Summer

Judge's Comments: Fun idea for a special section with great suggestions and articles.

15. Topical Issue

Entries should be a single story on an important and timely senior issue or promotion of a community projects or events.

First Place: Boom Athens (Georgia) – Journey with Ease

Judge's Comments: Practical applications of traveling with mobility issues paired with real life settings. Engaging writing and the type of article I want to pull out and save for the future.

Second Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana) – A Legacy of Love: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Judge's Comments: This article addresses an important topic that many people never anticipate. Well written with helpful resources.

Third Place: Senior Voice (Alaska) – Health Care Impacts of the One Big Beautiful Act

Judge's Comments: Real time helpful advice and application of acts passing and changing in America. Very insightful and helpful.

Design Categories

16. Front Cover (Photo)

Entries in this category use original photos to entice the reader into the publication. There should be evidence of use of typography and space as well as a sense of control over production details. No stock photos are acceptable entries.

First Place: Boom Athens (Georgia)

Judge's Comments: This cover photo brings instant joy. Excellent use of color, image balance, typography and engaging, inviting photo. Well done!

Second Place: Senior Voice (Alaska)

Judge's Comments: Engaging photo that shows action and makes the reader want to learn more about what's happening.

Third Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana)

Judge's Comments: Well balanced use of historical images.

17. Front Cover (Illustration)

Entries in this category use any original form of art to entice the reader into the publication. Computer-enhanced or computer-generated artwork may be submitted.

First Place: PrimeLife Times

Judge's Comments: Fun balance of illustration, color, and typography. Love how it overlaps with the masthead.

Second Place: The Best Times (Tennessee)

Judge's Comments: Beautiful, dynamic art directly ties to the inside story.

18. Table of Contents

This category recognizes the table of contents that provides the reader with a map through the publication, is well organized, easy to use and incorporates design to make the contents interesting.

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana)

Judge's Comments: Excellent use of space and clear navigation.

19. Briefs/Shorts Entries should be a potpourri of brief, timely, lively, informative and relevant items that are presented together as a fun, lively and engaging column that appears regularly in the publication. Art, color and typography should stand out and convey the tone of the content, and what are clearly individual items.

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana) - Stat! Medical News and Info

Judge's Comments: Great use space and use of fun typography and images.

Second Place: The Best Times (Tennessee) – Upcoming Events and Happenings

Judge's Comments: Well organized and easy to read.

20. Annual Senior Resource Guide or Directory

This category examines the design of an annual senior resource guide or directory

First Place: The Best Times (Tennessee) - Mid-South 50+ Resource Guide

***Judge's Comments:** Navigation and use of color for navigation makes this one a standout design.*

Second Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana)

***Judge's Comments:** Beautiful cover image and great use of color throughout to distinguish sections.*

21. Feature Layout

Entries should exhibit sound use of typography and space as well as resourcefulness in the section and use of art and/or photography and a sense of control over production details.

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana) – Budgeting for & During Retirement

***Judge's Comments:** Great use of space, especially large images with movement. Colorful subheadings help draw the eye throughout the story.*

Second Place: Senior Voice (Alaska) – Tour of Anchorage is a Highlight of Skiing Season

***Judge's Comments:** Excellent, large scale image that makes the reader stop on the page.*

22. Best Overall Use of

Photography

Award is based on the quality of the photography used, as well as the editing, cropping, sizing and display of the photographs on a consistent basis throughout the publication.

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana)

***Judge's Comments:** Great use of colorful, large images throughout that catch the reader's attention.*

Second Place: The Best Times (Tennessee)

***Judge's Comments:** Strong use of photography on the cover. Would love to see more of that carried into the interior of the publication.*

23. Best Use of Color

Publication's use of color indicates planning and existence of a color palette. Color is used to communicate rather than decorate. Quality of reproduction of the color will be considered.

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana)

Judge's Comments: Color is used throughout to emphasize pull quotes and headlines, making it easy for the reader to flip through and find stories that catch their eye.

24. Overall Design

This award recognizes superior design. Organization of the publication should be well-defined, with intelligent use of space throughout the publication to accommodate fractional ads. The design must establish and sustain a visual identity throughout and must be technically superior in its production.

First Place: Mature Living (Toledo)

Judge's Comments: Clean fonts for headlines, and excellent use of contrasting colors make for easy to read sections. Excellent integration of imagery and typography throughout. Love the use of little graphic details like the orange slices. Section headers are particularly nice, as well as the large images used.

Second Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana)

Judge's Comments: Clear strong headlines, great use of photography, and fun sections like "Stat!" make for an engaging layout.

Third Place: Senior Voice (Alaska)

Judge's Comments: Strong, large photos, dynamic headlines, and clear sidebars create a clear and easy-to-read layout.

Advertising & other Categories

25. Self Promotion (in house)

Submit an ad printed in your publication promoting your publication. Entries are judged on the merit of the idea and the presentation.

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana) – What's the Buzz from The Best of Times?

Judge's Comments: Catchy headline, fun design and typography, and great use of color.

Second Place: The Best Times (Tennessee) - A Spring Morning in the Garden

Judge's Comments: Clear hierarchy of information and good use of illustration.

26. Self Promotion (outside source)

Submit an ad printed in another publication, event publication, program album, or playbook promoting your publication. Entries are judged on the merit of the idea and the presentation.

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana) - The Magic of The Best of Times

***Judge's Comments:** Fun concept and clear messaging.*

27. Self Promotion/Awards

Submit an ad printed in your publication that promotes your publication's excellence through promotion of the awards your publication has received from NAMPA or any other recognized media association.

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana) - We're Poppin' with Pride!

***Judge's Comments:** Engaging and fun house ad that makes the reader stop and read.*

28. Social Media Promotion:

(new item)

Submit a social media post which promotes your publication or your event.

First Place: The Best Times (Tennessee)

***Judge's Comments:** Nice co-branding with the house ad in the publication.*

28A. Digital Newsletter

(new item)

Digital newsletter which is emailed to interested persons or resides on your website.

First Place: The Best Times (Tennessee)

***Judge's Comments:** Excellent use of email format. One strong hero image, a preview of the issue, and short, to the point, information bites.*

Second Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana)

30. Best Single Ad (Color)

First Place: M Living (Toledo) – The Village Vet

***Judge's Comments:** Excellent image and use of color. Clear and perfectly communicates the ad's message.*

Second Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana) – Southern Hills

***Judge's Comments:** Great use of images and clear messaging.*

Third Place: The Best Times (Tennessee) – Mid-South Military History & Civil War Show
Judge's Comments: Good use of contrasting colors and headline.

31. Best Banner

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana)

Judge's Comments: Consistent branding with contrasting outline makes this one recognizable and impactful.

Second Place: The Best Times (Tennessee)

Judge's Comments: Banner's font is easy to read with a thick, serified font on a clear background. The tag line is also clearly legible.

32. Feature Writing on a Historical topic (new item)

Submit one article which concerns national historical or local historical topic

First Place: The Best of Times (Louisiana) – The Yankee Who Stayed

Judge's Comments: Engaging writing tells the story of a man who had an impact on a unique piece of local history that had far reaching impacts. Told in a narrative style, the story is so good it almost reads like fiction.

Second Place: Boom Athens (Georgia) – History Comes Alive Through Cookbooks

Judge's Comments: Showcasing history through cookbooks is a fun take and a great way to tie past to present. The subheadings are perfect and help carry the reader through the story.

Third Place: Senior Voice (Alaska) – Discrimination Torpedoed After World War II

Judge's Comments: An important look back at how a woman shaped anti-discrimination laws. Great use of historical quotes to tell the story.

NAMPA 2026 Awards for Total Publication Categories in Division “B” ” (circulation of 25,000 to 65,999)

1. Best of Show

All members submitting award entries are automatically entered into this category. This award is based on the number of awards won, with three points awarded for 1st place, two points for 2nd place and one point for 3rd place. The publication with the most points in each division is awarded the **Best of Show** award.

The Vegas Voice (Nevada)

2. General Excellence

Entries exhibit editorial balance, planning and a high caliber of journalism throughout. There should be evidence of high standards in writing and editing. General Excellence winners should demonstrate a grasp of the issues within the local senior community.

First Place: Northeast Ohio Thrive

***Judges Comments:** Beautifully designed publication with relevant columns, community events, local features, vacation advice, and even fashion! Well written and a joy to read.*

Second Place: The Vegas Voice

***Judges Comments:** Lots of great columns and voices sprinkled throughout.*

Editorial Categories

4. Column Review

Entries are originally commissioned by your publication and to cover regular columns on books, magazines, films, television, music, theatre or other topics. The column clearly establishes the publication as a voice of authority on any given subject

First Place: Baltimore Beacon – “Arts & Style” Theatre Reviews

Judges Comments: *An excellent breakdown of plays encompassing acting, staging, and history of the show.*

Second Place: The Vegas Voice – “Scams”

Judge’s Comments: *Important information for seniors on everything from AI to romance to money.*

5. Senior Issues

Entries cover regular columns on senior issues, advice, and health issues or resources.

First Place: The Vegas Voice – The Medicare Whisperer

Judges Comments: *Practical advice and important takeaways for Medicare written in a clear and informative format.*

Second Place: Northeast Ohio Thrive – “A Place for Us”

Judges Comments: *Important information on housing, from staying in place to rentals. Chock full of facts and statistics, this column can help seniors make the right housing choices.*

6. Editorial/Opinion

An editorial or opinion of the publisher or editor about any topic in a regular issue

NO WINNER - Only entry was calling out a rival publication.

8. Personal Essay

This category recognizes the value of personal essays as from any writer as published in a senior publication.

First place: The Vegas Voice - "Run for Their Lives"

Judges Comments: *Personal insight about raising awareness on those captive in Gaza. Well written and informative with facts to back it up.*

9. Profile Entries

This entry examines an interesting person or looks at the person in an interesting way. Submission should be well reported and written with craftsmanship by any writer.

First place: Northeast Ohio Thrive – “Still Making Waves at 100”

Judges comments: *This profile was a delight from start to finish with a great local profile on an influential and inspiring senior. The writing is particularly engaging.*

Second place: The Beacon Baltimore – “Chef Cindy Wolf Cooks with Heart”

Judges comments: *A great dive into an interesting career balancing elevated eating with down home roots.*

Third place: The Beacon Baltimore – “Tattooist Helps Cancer Survivors”

Judges comments: *Fascinating and unique profile with an inspiring outcome with great quotes.*

11. How-To Feature or Do It Yourself Feature.

Entries should demonstrate the usefulness and applicability of the information presented. These pieces offer more than advice as they instruct and enlighten the reader, providing guidance in achieving a desired outcome.

First place: The Vegas Voice - "It's Now Growing Season"

Judges comments: *Great and concise planting information for the local climate.*

13. Feature Writing

This category recognizes quality feature writing that shows style, is clever in subject matter and is an all-around good read.

NO WINNER – Entry was sweet, but a personal essay, not a feature.

15. Topical Issue

Entries should be a single story on an important and timely senior issue or promotion of a community projects or events.

First place: The Vegas Voice - “Looks Can Be Deceiving”

Judge’s Comments: *The author used an impactful personal story to convey the importance of choosing a nursing facility.*

Design Categories

16. Front Cover (Photo)

Entries in this category use original photos to entice the reader into the publication. There should be evidence of use of typography and space as well as a sense of control over production details. No stock photos are acceptable entries.

First place: Northeast Ohio Thrive

Judge's Comments: This front cover is dynamic and inviting. The color contrast is excellent and the line of rowers across the front page is balanced by the typography.

17. Front Cover (Illustration)

Entries in this category use any original form of art to entice the reader into the publication. Computer-enhanced or computer-generated artwork may be submitted.

NO WINNER – AI generated and uncomfortable image.

18. Table of Contents

This category recognizes the table of contents that provide the reader with a map through the publication, is well organized, easy to use and incorporates design to make the contents interesting.

First place: Northeast Ohio Thrive

Judge's Comments: Great use of space and design hierarchy with clear navigation.

Advertising & other Categories

General Instructions

All ads must be prepared by **the publisher's design department** and show originality of idea, good layout and design. Ad designs generated by ad agencies or businesses **are not acceptable submissions.**

28A. Digital Newsletter

(new item)

Digital newsletter which is emailed to interested persons or resides on your website.

First place: Northeast Ohio Thrive

***Judge's Comments:** Well organized with short, catchy lead-ins, illustrations, and links to their website.*

Second place: The Vegas Voice

***Judge's Comments:** Catchy subject line, great use of emojis, and some good call to action on the current publication.*

30. Best Single Ad (Color)

First place: The Vegas Voice

***Judge's Comments:** Well designed ad with balanced graphics and color.*

31. Best Banner

First Place: The Vegas Voice

***Judge's Comments:** The title is clear and legible, and the Vegas skyline is a dynamic addition.*

32. Feature Writing on a Historical topic (new item)

Submit one article which concerns national historical or local historical topic

First Place: Northeast Ohio Thrive – Memphis Kiddie Park: Joy Ride for Generations

***Judge's Comments:** A great piece on a small theme park that ties past to present.*

NAMPA 2026 Awards for Total Publication Categories in **Division “C”** (circulation of 66,000 and more)

1. Best of Show

All members submitting award entries are automatically entered into this category. This award is based on the number of awards won, with three points awarded for 1st place, two points for 2nd place and one point for 3rd place. The publication with the most points in each division is awarded the **Best of Show** award.

Beacon Newspapers (Maryland/Washington DC)

2. General Excellence

Entries exhibit editorial balance, planning and a high caliber of journalism throughout. There should be evidence of high standards in writing and editing. General Excellence winners should demonstrate a grasp of the issues within the local senior community.

First Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland)

Judges Comments: Great use of compelling and large cover photo to invite the reader into the publication. Great mix of articles from practical health tips, to compelling travel stories and unique features. The writing is excellent throughout.

Editorial Categories

4. Column Review

Entries are originally commissioned by your publication and to cover regular columns on books, magazines, films, television, music, theatre or other topics. The column clearly establishes the publication as a voice of authority on any given subject.

First Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) – “Arts & Style” Theatre Reviews

Judges Comments: The column author does a great job of not only giving the reader an idea of what to expect during the show – from performance, actors, and staging, but a bit of history about the play itself. Well written and interesting.

Second Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) – Laura Stassi

Judges Comments: *Interesting Q&A format between readers and the author about dating advice and looking for love as a senior. Great takeaways from both columns.*

5. Senior Issues

Entries cover regular columns on senior issues, advice, and health issues or resources.

First Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) “How I See It”

Judges Comments: *Although primarily an opinion piece, the author does tap into topics important to seniors, especially around their feelings toward younger generations.*

6. Editorial/Opinion

An editorial or opinion of the publisher or editor about any topic in a regular issue

First Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) - “How I Learned to be Brave”

Judges Comments: *Heartfelt with excellent writing and storytelling. Resonates well with readers.*

Second Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) - “How I Learned to be Afraid”

Judges Comments: *A great, well-written reflection from youth to old age about our fear reflexes.*

9. Profile Entries

This entry examines an interesting person or looks at the person in an interesting way.

Submission should be well reported and written with craftsmanship by any writer.

First Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) – “Rick Steves’ Symphonic Journey Comes to Virginia”

Judges Comments: *A fun piece on the incredible Rick Steves with a local tie to his trip to Virginia. The sub-heads help break up the story of his amazing life.*

Second Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) -

Judges Comments:

11. How-To Feature or Do It Yourself Feature.

Entries should demonstrate the usefulness and applicability of the information presented. These pieces offer more than advice as they instruct and enlighten the reader, providing guidance in achieving a desired outcome.

First Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) - “How to Travel Alone Without Being Lonely”

Judges Comments: I loved this piece! Practical advice that readers can use to be empowered to travel by themselves, with lots of options. Makes the reader want to book that next trip.

Second Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) - “Trips for Job Hunting During Middle Age”

Judges Comments: Great encouragement and advice for anyone who has suddenly found themselves laid off or fired.

12. Travel Column

Entries should represent how the publication serves to supply information on travel destinations. The column should appear regularly **and may not be from a syndicated writer.**

First Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) – “Leisure & Travel” by Don Mankin

Judges Comments: Written as a narrative, Mankin does a beautiful job of bringing the reader into the location with his words. Travel locations are unique and inspiring.

Second Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) – “Leisure & Travel” by Sandi Barrett

Judges Comments: Barrett highlights three incredible destinations--Romania, Vietnam, and Cambodia—highlighting different areas of each with a special focus on history and relevance.

Third Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) – “Leisure & Travel” by Cherrie Woods

Judges Comments: Woods does a great job of showcasing domestic travel and pairing it with historical relevance.

13. Feature Writing

This category recognizes quality feature writing that shows style, is clever in subject matter and is an all-around good read.

First Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) – “Thrill and Camaraderie in the Air”

Judges Comments: This feature embodies “clever in subject matter” featuring people who jump out of airplanes! Such a fun and engaging read with great interviews.

Second Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) - “Older Pets and Owners Pair Up”

Judges Comments: Great anecdotes about a moving subject.

Third Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) - “Time Travel with Interpreters”

Judges Comments: A neat history lesson paired with those who do a deep dive on historical life.

14. Special Section in the publication

Entries are special sections or pull-out guides covering any subject. These sections should be written, edited and presented in a manner that is lively and useful to the reader. Do not submit annual resource guides under this category.

First Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) – Senior Living Options

***Judges Comments:** This section includes unique topics (like virtual reality) to indoor herb gardens and housing options. Unique and interesting.*

15. Topical Issue

Entries should be a single story on an important and timely senior issue or promotion of a community projects or events.

First Place: Beacon Newspapers (Maryland) - “Riverwood Woodworkers Make Beds for Kids”

***Judges Comments:** A heartwarming article about senior living residence building beds for underserved kids and serving their community.*

Design Categories

No Entries submitted

Advertising & other Categories

No entries submitted

NAMPA 2026 Awards for Internet Categories (**Division Category is not applicable**)

General Instructions

The website must show originality of idea, good layout and design.

33. Website Self Promotion

Submit an ad printed in your publication promoting the use of your website. Entries are judged on the merit of the idea and the presentation. (Division category is not applicable)

First place: The Best of Times (Louisiana)

Judge's Comments: Clear copy and branding with a call to action.

34. Website General

Excellence

The publication's website will be judged on ease of navigation, content and design. (Division category is not applicable)

First place: The Best Times (Tennessee)

Judge's Comments: Modern website with dynamic header images. Clear navigation and headlines. A great example for other publications to look at.

Second place: The Vegas Voice (Nevada)

Judge's Comments: Strong use of imagery, navigation with high contrast, and clear ties to the print publication.

Third place: The Best of Times (Louisiana)

Judge's Comments: Concise links to articles. Clear navigation. Could benefit from some modern updates that better visually communicate stories, but still a great hub of information.