

Editor's Notebook: Chronicle wins 12 NINA awards

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The Kane County Chronicle picked up 12 awards at the annual Northern Illinois Newspaper Association conference at the end of October.

Staff won first-place awards for best special section, best website, best technology/medical story (Ashley Sloboda) and best in-depth news story (Brenda Schory); second-place awards for best general feature (Brenda Schory), best personality profile (Ashley Sloboda), best business/financial/consumer story (Ashley Sloboda), best technology/medical story (Ashley Sloboda), best online photo gallery (Sandy Bressner) and best education reporting (Ashley Sloboda); and third-place awards for best business/financial/consumer story (Ashley Sloboda) and best columnist (Pam Otto).

In addition, the Kane County Magazine – a sister publication of the Chronicle – won a first-place award for best niche publication.

Of the first-place award for best special section, which was for our 2015 Everyday Heroes section, the judges wrote: "Inspiring and appealing subject matter; strong environmental portraits and photo use; clean and consistent design and format. Especially liked the 'lowdown' boxes – including the fun fact. And inspiring to readers, too!"

(Note to readers – the 2016 Everyday Heroes section will be in papers Nov. 10. Stay tuned!)

Of the first-place award for best website, the judges wrote: "Appealing and easy to navigate. The inclusion of times and dates stories are posted and updated gave this site the edge."

NINA was founded in 1962 to promote the newspapers of northern Illinois, develop programs to enhance the profession and promote good fellowship among its members. The awards ceremony took place in DeKalb.

Kathy Balcazar is editor of the Kane County Chronicle, Elburn Herald and Sugar Grove Herald and is a member of the Northern Illinois Newspaper Association Board. Contact her at kbalcazar@shawmedia.com or 630-845-5368. Learn more about NINA at ninaonline.org.