

The AVBOB FCJ Excellence Awards – 2021

Presented by the Forum of Community Journalists NPC



ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The AVBOB FCJ Annual Excellence Awards is aimed at encouraging excellence and rewarding meritorious work in local and community print media. Only permanent and regular freelance editorial staff members working for such media in South Africa may enter. Regular freelance means such a person must contribute to your publication at least once a month on average.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Please read through the instructions for entering very carefully as these have changed from previous years. Entrants not adhering to the instructions/rules will be disqualified.

1. The competition covers the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.
2. The **closing date** for entries (in all the categories) is **Monday 25 July 2022 at 17:00**.
3. For enquiries about entries, contact the FCJ Executive Director Marietta Lombard on 082 853 7817 or convenor of the judges Mr Andre Gouws at 33661944@g.nwu.ac.za
4. The decision of the judges will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into. The judges reserve the right to make no award if insufficient entries are received or they feel that none of the entries in a particular category are sufficiently meritorious.
5. Please see **How to enter below**, and each entry form for specific instructions on how to enter per category.
6. Remember to enter the new category for best community involvement.
7. The awards ceremony will be held in October 2022.

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HOW TO ENTER

All entries should be electronic, **in PDF format only**. Entries that are not in the correct format will be disqualified. No JPGs or any other format will be accepted, except in the photography category and the Avbob Best Community Involvement Award. In the Writing and Digital categories all articles that you wish to enter should be in **ONE PDF document** only. See the entry forms for instructions about the other categories and specific **naming conventions**. The entry form for each category should be added to the top of your PDF, as the first page. To combine PDFs, use Adobe Acrobat or any free program, such as PDF Converter, or paste your entries into one Word document and then save the Word document as a PDF file.

When your PDF is ready, you should create a Google Drive folder with your entries and share your folder with the convening judge, Mr Andre Gouws, at 333661944@g.nwu.ac.za. Please make sure to change the sharing settings to “Anyone with link can edit”.

WRITING CATEGORIES

Complete a separate entry form for each category and include it at the top of your single PDF document, in your folder.

Alet Roux Award

Journalists (who are permanently employed) with fewer than three years' experience who enter any category will automatically be considered for the Alet Roux Award, for best newcomer.

Journalist of the Year

Journalists who enter any category will automatically be considered for the Journalist of the Year Award. Thus, you do not have to enter for this category separately. You are, therefore, encouraged to enter various categories.

Categories

1. Investigative reporting:

A maximum of 20 articles, **including** follow-ups.

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2. **Headlines:**

Enter five (5) headlines, with the accompanying articles. The impact and creativeness of the headlines and relevance to the articles will be judged – not the article content.

3. **Hard news:**

Enter ten (10) articles in total, **including** follow-up articles.

4. **Human interest:**

Enter a maximum of 5 articles only.

5. **Editorial comment,**

Enter a maximum of 5 articles only.

6. **Columns**

Enter a maximum of 5 columns.

7. **Sport:**

Enter a maximum of 5 articles only.

8. **Digital reporting:**

Enter a maximum of 5 digital stories only.

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORY

Complete a separate entry form for each category and include it at the top of your PDF document in your folder. **For this category original JPGs of your pictures are also required.** You need to enter a JPG of your photo AND a PDF of the page in the newspaper where it was published so that judges can see how the photo was used in the newspaper. Remember that all your PDF newspaper pages should be part of a single PDF document. In all photography categories (News, Sport and General) entries will be judged as a portfolio.

Photographer of the Year

The Photographer of the Year will be selected from all entries. You do not need to complete a separate entry form for the Photographer of the Year. Once you enter any photography category, you become eligible for the Photographer of the Year category. Versatility is important in the Photographer of the Year category, therefore you are encouraged to enter more than one category.

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Categories and number of photographs required

News, Sport and General: A maximum of 5 photographs each.

FRONT PAGE CATEGORY

(Sections: Corporate-owned paid newspapers, Corporate-owned free newspapers and any other community/local newspapers, not owned by any of the major media groups).

The portfolio of three front pages as a whole (and not individual front pages) will be judged. These three front pages must all be part of a single PDF document.

Number of front pages: Three (3) original front pages.

You may enter any three front pages from 2021.

Format of entries:

Enter a single PDF of your three front pages, **clearly naming it** as an entry for the correct category; with the name of the newspaper and the exact category, for example BloemnewsFrontpageCorporatePaid2021.pdf

CATEGORY: NEWSPAPERS

1. Corporate-owned paid newspapers, circulation above 5 000.
2. Corporate-owned paid newspapers, circulation below 5 000.
3. Corporate-owned free newspapers (pagination of more than 24 pages).
4. Corporate-owned free newspapers (pagination of 24 pages or less).
5. Independent commercial newspapers and any other community/local newspapers (not owned by any of the major media groups).
6. The portfolio of three newspapers (and not individual editions) will be judged.

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Number of newspapers: Three (3)

You may enter any three editions from 2021.

Format of entries

You should enter the complete edition as a PDF file. In this category you should enter the three editions as a separate PDF each. Save all three editions in a folder that contains the newspaper name, category, and date, for example TheRepCorporatePaid20August2021. You may also provide links to the complete e-publications, but it is your responsibility to ensure that the links are active. If they are not active, the e-publication cannot be adjudicated. Provide the links to the e-publications on the entry form and save the entry form as in the abovementioned example.

AVBOB BEST COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD

Community journalists are an integral part of their communities. They are not only known for being the voice of their readers, but also for their active involvement in initiating community projects based on their knowledge of their community's needs and challenges.

To acknowledge this, AVBOB which is known for its philanthropic support in communities, is introducing an exciting new category which acknowledges the community journalist and local news teams' involvement and dedication to the communities they serve.

BEST COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Most newspapers successfully run multiple promotions every year - many that have stood the test of time - as part of what they routinely do.

We recognise and appreciate the effort involved and the extremely valuable role these projects play in the interaction between local media and the communities they serve.

Judges will take into account the uniqueness of the project, the newspaper's social investment into their communities, its impact and relevance to the community it serves and the extent to which staff initiated and were involved in the project.

How to enter

To qualify, a detailed description of the project must be submitted as well as a portfolio illustrating how it was rolled out.

Enter a portfolio of articles, online content which can include video and audio showcasing the project initiated by the publication.

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The portfolio can include PDF files of pages, links and social media posts. Also include a short profile of the beneficiary.

Detailed instructions on how to enter can be found on the entry form.

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