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2023 Newspaper Carrier of the Year Awards Announced by PNA Foundation: Product, Position and Promptness Perseveres

HARRISBURG, Pa., July 27, 2023 – The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation has announced its 2023 Newspaper Carrier of the Year Award winners, recognizing the exemplary performance of newspaper carriers across Pennsylvania. More than a dozen carriers – from 13 to 73 years of age – were nominated for their outstanding efforts in delivering the news to Pennsylvania readers.

Alex Silfies, 13, *The Times News*, Lehighton, is recognized with first place honors. John Murray, 71, *Valley News Dispatch*, Trib Total Media, wins second place. Austin Sienkiewicz, *The Citizens' Voice*, Wilkes-Barre, is honored with third place. The judges also recognized two carriers – Michael Balint, 39, and William Gregory, 54, both of *The Times-Tribune*, Scranton – with special honorable mention awards this year.

Cash prizes and certificates suitable for framing are awarded with the first-place carrier receiving \$350. The second-place winner is given \$250 while third place captures \$150. Honorable mention recipients receive \$50. The nominating manager of the first-place winner is presented with a \$100 gift card. Sponsors of the cash prizes include The York Dispatch and RouteSmart Technologies.

In acknowledging Alex Silfies as the overall winner in 2023, the judges said they “were impressed by his enthusiasm, his commitment and his willingness to learn new things, especially at such a young age. Alex himself said that ‘providing the customers with a smile, a simple hello or even a laugh ...brightens my day.’ Alex certainly brightened our day when we reviewed his entry. He is a shining example of how important newspapers and their tireless employees are to communities,” explained the judges.

“What a difficult decision we had in selecting just five winners of this year’s contest. We were especially touched by the range of ages, from a youthful 13-year-old to a seasoned 73-year-old. Some carriers had as little as seven months of experience under their belts while others had worked for more than 28 years delivering papers in all kinds of weather. We were inspired by their abilities to juggle a variety of activities, jobs and responsibilities while focusing on providing top notch customer service. William Gregory’s commitment to PP&P – product, position and promptness – exemplifies what carriers strive for every day,” commented the judging panel.

Since 1959, the PNA Foundation’s Newspaper Carrier of the Year contest has helped Pennsylvania newspapers recognize the exemplary performance of carriers of all ages. It continues to be difficult to hire and retain reliable and talented carriers. Therefore, it is more important than ever to show exemplary carriers how much they are valued and appreciated for their contributions.

Carrier Awards will be presented locally at the nominating news organization during visits from PNA staff in the coming months.

About PNA Foundation:

The PNA Foundation is an independent, non-profit corporation organized as a public foundation. Its mission is to provide training and resources to PNA members, to develop the next generation of readers and journalists, and to educate the public on the importance of the First Amendment and the role of a free press.

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About PNA:

The PNA, founded in 1925, is the nonprofit trade association for print and digital news media in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Its mission is to advance the business interests of Pennsylvania news media organizations and to promote a free and independent press. It has more than 200 newspaper and media-related members, including daily, weekly, and college newspapers and online publications.

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