

To: OPSWA Members
From: OPSWA Officers and Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Media Relations
Re: Annual Writing and Photography Contest, Other Updates

January 5, 2021

Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association Update

Greetings OPSWA members and thanks for your coverage of high school sports. Please see below for several updates and announcements, including being a part of the writing and photography contest (judges are needed!), being considered for an OPSWA officer position, the Hall of Fame, ID badges and more.

All OPSWA members are encouraged to enter the annual contest, as this is the only source of funding for the OPSWA. Please see below for details and submit entries by March 1, 2022.

OPSWA Member Meeting

We are hoping for an in-person OPSWA member meeting in late April at the OHSAA office. The last two in-person meetings were cancelled due to the pandemic. Please keep an eye out for the date and details if we can have an in-person meeting this April. The meeting will include officer elections, announcing the contest winners and discussing OPSWA topics.

OPSWA Officers and Website

The current OPSWA officers were elected at the statewide meeting in April 2019 and their terms expire in April 2022 (voting for officers will take place in April 2022). Any OPSWA members who are interested in being an officer should notify Tim Stried to be placed on the ballot. OPSWA officers select the Hall of Fame, vote for All-Ohio teams, determine membership benefits, etc.

President: Eric Frantz, MaxPreps and Dayton Daily News

Vice President: Scott Halasz, Xenia Daily Gazette

Vice President: John Cummings, Miami Valley Newspapers

Vice President: Greg Shoemaker, TriStateFootball.com

OPSWA Website: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA>

Annual Writing and Photography Contest Details

The entry process for the annual OPSWA writing and photography contest is now open. The submission deadline is March 1. The contest includes articles and photos about Ohio high school sports published in print or online between Jan. 1, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2021. The cost is \$15 per person to enter the contest, which is the OPSWA's only source of funding, so please enter the contest to support the OPSWA. Members serve as judges in the contest, while Tim Stried coordinates the judges packets, tabulating results, etc.

Minimum Two Entries (Maximum of Three) Per Category:

Sportswriters and photographers must submit at least two pieces per category that they enter, with a maximum of three pieces per category. Entries by the same author or photographer within a category will be given one collective score, instead of separate scores for each entry. Entrants shall use one entry form for all the articles or photos within each category (not a form for each entry). Writing contest entries must be printed on regular 8.5x11 paper so that copies can be made to send to the judges. Photos can be printed on any size paper, as they are not copied and mailed to judges.

Categories:

Sportswriters and photographers must enter the correct category! Brief descriptions are below, but please see the full explanation, along with the contest entry form, at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/contests>

- Investigative/Enterprise – typically either a multiple-part series over one subject, or one lengthy piece with numerous sources and different angles about an issue (not a feature story or opinion piece or previews/team capsules).
- News Story – typically some kind of breaking news element (not game stories or features).
- Feature Story (story telling) – good features often have a lyrical voice to some degree and a unique quality (not newsy or formulaic).
- Column – must have a strong amount of opinion or perspective, not simply a unique game recap or feature.
- Game Recap Story – cover all the basic elements of a contest, but with some sort of flair that grabs the readers’ attention.
- Action Photograph – from an athletic contest
- Posed Photograph – the photographer poses the subject(s) for the shot, often with special lighting, props, etc.

Divisions: (daily newspapers have four or more issues per week)

Division I: Daily Circulation over 25,000 (11 newspapers, see list on contest application form) and Websites

Division II: Daily Circulation between 10,000 and 25,000

Division III: All other daily newspapers

Division IV: Non-daily newspapers and specialty publications

Call for Judges

The annual OPSWA writing and photography contest is judged by OPSWA members. Any OPSWA member interested in being a judge should notify Tim Stried. Every category has at least two judges, with the final results being the average score of the two judges.

OPSWA Membership List

Please check the district membership lists, and if you are aware of any edits, please email Tim Stried at tstried@ohsaa.org. The membership lists are posted at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/membership>. The goal is that OPSWA members utilize the list to communicate with other members for such things as exchanging information on out-of-area opponents, facility details, etc.

OPSWA Members Encouraged to Join All-District Voting Process

Since 2017, the OPSWA has coordinated the All-District and All-Ohio teams in football and basketball. All OPSWA members are encouraged to be a part of the selection process for the all-district teams in football and basketball. The All-Ohio teams are based on the work and nominations of the district committees. Please contact your district chairperson to be a part of the process.

Northeast Lakes: John Kampf, Willoughby News-Herald

Northeast Inland: Chris Beaven, Canton Repository

Northwest: Mark Hazelwood, Sandusky Register

Southeast: Paul Boggs, Portsmouth Daily Times

East: Jeff Harrison, formerly with Cambridge Daily Jeffersonian

Central: Steve Blackledge, PressProsMagazine.com, formerly with Columbus Dispatch

Southwest: John Cummings, Miami Valley Newspapers; Eric Frantz, MaxPreps and Dayton Daily News; Greg Shoemaker, TriStateFootball.com

Hall of Fame

The 2020 induction class for the OPSWA Hall of Fame will be honored at the upcoming 2022 boys basketball state tournament. They include Craig Dunn (Logan), Mark Huber (Wilmington), and the late Pat Galbincea (Cleveland Plain Dealer). The Hall of Fame ceremony did not take place in 2020 or 2021 due to the pandemic.

The complete OPSWA Hall of Fame list is posted at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/HOF>

OPSWA ID Badges Available

The OHSAA produces ID badges for OPSWA members that include the member's photo and their media outlet logo(s). Any OPSWA member that wants a new ID badge should email their headshot and media outlet logo, if desired to Tim Stried. There is no cost for the ID badge and a green OHSAA lanyard is included.

Tim Stried

Director of Media Relations

Ohio High School Athletic Association

614-267-2502, ext. 124

tstried@ohsaa.org

www.OHSAA.org

www.Twitter.com/OHSAASports

4080 Roselea Place

Columbus, OH 43214