

Cortland takes home ‘Best of the Best’ award

BY KAREN L. MATTISON

Well-written articles, impressive layout, strong editing, eye-catching photos, and an informative website were among the reasons the Cortland Chapter earned the union’s prestigious Phillip H. Smith “Best of the Best” Communications Award for Overall Excellence.

According to the Capital District-area journalists who judged the annual UUP Journalism Contest, the Cortland Chapter’s newsletter and website were “superior” and deserved the union’s top award, which recognizes the most outstanding accomplishment in member communications. The award is named after former UUP president Phil Smith, who served from 2008-2013 and was instrumental in strengthening UUP’s online and print communications.

“The (work) is superior,” according to the judges. “There is so much great content in here and it’s all well written and presented. Amy Russell and Rebecca Bryan’s columns are stand-outs—they don’t skirt around the issues.”

The Cortland Chapter also received the following honors: First Award: General Excellence, *The Cortland Cause*, April 2019 and November 2019, editor Amy Russell; First Award, Best Editorial or Column, “McSweeney exposes truth about CTEs,” April 2019, written by Jaelyn Pittsley; First Award: Best Original Photo, Labor Day parade/state fair, September 2019, photographer David Ritchie; First Award: Best Website (tie), <https://www.uuphst.org/cortland>, webmaster Russell; Award of Merit, Best Publication Design, September 2019, designer Russell; and Honorable Mention, Best Original Article, “Class (temperature) struggle: The essential role of activism,” September 2019, writer Gigi Peterson.



CHAPTERS, RETIREES EARN COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

Also awarded for outstanding writing, photography, design and web-site were:

Cobleskill

First Award: Best Website (tie), <https://www.uuphst.org/cobleskill>, webmaster Patricia Lepore Moody.

Farmingdale

First Award: Best Publication Design (tie), *Unifier*, November 2019, designer Yolanda Segarra; and Honorable Mention: Best Editorial or Column, “Professionals’ Corner: Promotion or Salary Increase,” April 2019, writer Henry Espailat.

Fredonia

Award of Merit: Best Website, <https://www.uuphst.org/fredonia>, webmaster Cynthia Dietzen; and Honorable Mention: Best Publication Design, *FredUUP*, November/December 2019, designer Dietzen.

Oneonta

First Award: Best Original Article, “Tip of the hat to Sen. Jim Seward,” *Sentinel*, February 2020, writer William Simons; and Award of Merit: Best Editorial or

Column, “Ron’s Mailbag,” February 2020, writer Ron Bishop.

Stony Brook

First Award: Best Publication Design (tie), *Insight*, September/October 2019, designers Jacqueline Donnelly and Jason Torre; and Award of Merit: General Excellence (tie), September/October 2019 and January/February 2020, editor Donnelly.

UUP Retirees

Award of Merit: General Excellence (tie), *The Active Retiree*, Summer 2019 and Fall 2019, editor Jo Schaffer; and Award of Merit: Best Original Article, “How about a peace race instead of an arms race?” Summer 2019, writer Lawrence Wittner.

GREAT JOB!

“One of the most impressive things about this contest is how high the contestants raise the bar for themselves every year—and how the next year, they clear it and raise it a little bit more,” according to one of the judges. “The level of pride in the work being produced is evident. The only thing missing here is more contest