

2023 Azbee Awards of Excellence Heartland Region Award Winners (Alphabetical by publication name)

Automotive News (Crain Communications)

Category: All Content - Data Journalism

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Buy-Sell Bonanza

Melissa Burden, Editor; Jack Walsworth, Reporter; Amy Wilson, Director; Heather Rowe, Senior Data Researcher; Amy Butters, Copy Editor; Victor Galvan, Web Editor; and Steve Massie, Design Director

Category: All Content - Enterprise News Story

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Dealerships' service business is strong, but not without challenges

Lindsay VanHulle, Reporter

Category: All Content - Government Coverage

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: LIFO

Audrey LaForest, Reporter; Larry Vellequette, Reporter; and Lindsay VanHulle

Category: All Content - Overall Headline Writing

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Final Assembly headlines

Nick Bunkley, Director of Automaker Coverage; Tim Good, Graphics/Copy Editor; Michele Jacques, Copy Editor; and Elizabeth Hardy, Copy Desk Manager

Category: Online - E-Newsletter

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: The Intersection

Victor Galvan, Web Editor and Jamie Butters, Executive Editor

Category: Online - Online Breaking News Coverage

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: EV Tax Credits

Audrey LaForest, Reporter

Category: Online - Podcast

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Daily Drive

Jamie Butters, Executive Editor; Jake Neher, Coordinating Producer, Audio; and Kellen Walker, Podcast Host and Producer

Category: Online - Web Feature Article, Industry

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: 6-Figure Frontier

Richard Truett, Reporter and Victor Galvan, Web Editor

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Cannabis Business Times (GIE Media, Inc.)

Category: All Content - Impact/Investigative

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Inflated

Patrick Williams, Managing Editor; Zach Mentz, Senior Editor; Noelle Skodzinski, Editorial Director; Michelle Simakis, Editor-in-Chief; Theresa Bennett, Editor; and Eric Sandy, Digital Editor

Category: Design - Feature Article Design, 12 or More Issues per Year

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Tommy Chong - The Elder Statesman

Katelyn Mullen, Art Director; Michelle Simakis, Editor-In-Chief; and Ashley Marie Myers, Photographer

Category: Design - Front Cover - Illustration

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Inflated

Katelyn Mullen, Art Director and Cat Sims, Illustrator

Category: Online - Online Breaking News Coverage

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: President Biden's Historic Cannabis Announcement

CBT Editorial Staff

Category: Online - Web Feature Article, Industry

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: A Portrait of One of Medical Cannabis's Last Holdouts

Tony Lange, Associate Editor

Club + Resort Business (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: Design - Feature Article Design, 12 or More Issues per Year

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Historic Past With Eyes on the Future

Erin Canetta, Creative Director and Rob Thomas, Editor in Chief

Club + Resort Chef (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: All Content - Group Profile

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Ansley's Next Chapter

Isabelle Gustafson, Senior Editor

Category: All Content - Individual Profile

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Cosmic Lessons

Joanna DeChellis, Editor

Category: All Content - Q&A

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Redefining Kitchen Culture at Columbine CC

Joanna DeChellis, Editor

2023 Azbee Awards of Excellence Heartland Region Award Winners (Alphabetical by publication name)

Compact Equipment (Benjamin Media Inc.)

Category: All Content - Regular Column, Staff-Written

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Editor at Large

Keith Gribbins, Publisher, Compact Equipment

Craft Brewing Business (CBB Media Inc.)

Category: Online - Web Feature Series

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: The CO2 Shortage

Keith Gribbins, Editor

CStore Decisions (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: Print - Feature Article, 12 or More Issues per Year

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Independent Operators Persevere

Erin Del Conte, Executive Editor

Design World (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: All Content - Editorial

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Insights

Paul J. Heney, VP, Editorial Director

Category: All Content - Individual Profile

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Leadership in Engineering: Embracing the soft skills

Paul J. Heney, VP, Editorial Director

Category: Design - Opening Page/Spread - Photo

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Scan and Print

Mark Rook, Vice President Creative Services

Category: Design - Opening Page/Spread - Photo

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Bearing life and effects of harsh operational environments

Mark Rook, Vice President Creative Services

Fleet Equipment (Babcox Media Inc.)

Category: Online - Trade Show/Conference Coverage

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: ACT Expo: Exciting trucking highlights from the show floor

Ashley Mizer, Director, Editor; Patrick Roberts, Producer; David Sickels, Host; Tess Lovrak, Associate Editor; Tammy House, Senior Art Director and Jason Morgan, Content Director

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Fluid Power World (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: Design - Opening Page/Spread - Illustration

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Pack Expo heads back to the Midwest
Mariel Evans, Graphic Designer

Category: Print - Regular Department

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Fluid Power World's Design Notes
Mary Gannon, Editor-in-Chief and Mariel Evans, Graphic Designer

FSR Magazine (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: Design - Best Use of Color

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: The Modern Hotel Restaurant
Nicole Duncan, Editor and Erica Naftolowitz, Art Director

Category: Design - Front Cover - Photo

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Thomas Harvey Cover
Nicole Duncan, Editor and Erica Naftolowitz, Art Director

Category: Design - Opening Page/Spread - Typographic

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Secrets of the Suburbs
Nicole Duncan, Editor and Erica Naftolowitz, Art Director

Garden Center magazine (GIE Media, Inc.)

Category: All Content - Company Profile

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Open invitation
Kate Spirgen, Editor

Category: All Content - Editor's Letter

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Garden Center magazine Editor's Notes
Kate Spirgen, Editor

Category: Design - Front Cover - Photo Illustration

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Haute houseplants
Tiana Kropko, Art Director

Category: Print - Feature Article, 12 or More Issues per Year

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Tick tick tock...
Julianne Mobilian, Associate Editor

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Garden Center magazine (GIE Media, Inc.)

Category: Print - Feature Article, 12 or More Issues per Year

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: New life

Kate Spirgen, Editor

Category: Print - Special Issue or Supplement

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: 2022 Top 100 Independent Garden Centers

Kate Spirgen, Editor; Julianne Mobilian, Associate Editor; and Jolene Hansen, Contributing Writer

Category: Print - Special Section

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: 2022 Houseplant Report

Kate Spirgen, Editor

Hotel News Now (CoStar Group)

Category: All Content - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Pushing Through the Stigmas: Women in Hospitality Navigate the Corporate Ladder

Dana Miller, Senior Reporter

Category: All Content - Overall Headline Writing

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Hotel News Now 2022 Headlines

Hotel News Now Editorial Team

Category: Online - Online Breaking News Coverage

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Hurricane Ian's Hotel Impact

Hotel News Now Editorial Team

Category: Online - Online Single Topic Coverage by a Team

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Russian Invasion of Ukraine Severs Ties With Western Hotel Firms

Hotel News Now Editorial Staff

Category: Online - Trade Show/Conference Coverage

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: 2022 Hotel Data Conference

Hotel News Now Editorial Team

Lawn & Landscape (GIE Media, Inc.)

Category: Design - Best Use of Color

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: State of the Industry Report

Stephanie Antal, Art Director

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Lawn & Landscape (GIE Media, Inc.)

Category: Design - Front Cover - Photo Illustration

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Lawn & Landscape January cover

Stephanie Antal, Art Director and Graham Hutchings, Illustrator

Category: Design - Opening Page/Spread - Photo Illustration

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: The way of the robot

Stephanie Antal, Art Director and Graham Hutchings, Illustrator

Medical Design & Outsourcing (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: All Content - Company Profile

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Endiatx's pill-sized robot sees and swims inside the stomach

Jim Hammerand, Managing Editor; Matthew Claney, Senior Art Director; Chris Newmarker, Executive Editor; and Hardy Wilson, Photographer

Category: All Content - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Diversity in medtech: 2022 markedly the best for women in medtech

Danielle Kirsh, Senior Editor

Category: All Content - Enterprise News Story

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: FDA can't explain drop in device recalls, but experts point to COVID disruptions

Danielle Kirsh, Senior Editor

Category: Design - Feature Article Design, 11 or Fewer Issues per Year

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Endiatx's Pill-Sized Robot Sees and Swims Inside the Stomach

Matthew Claney, Senior Art Director; Jim Hammerand, Managing Editor; and Hardy Wilson, Freelance Photographer

Category: Design - Opening Page/Spread - Photo

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Endiatx's Pill-Sized Robot Sees and Swims Inside the Stomach

Matthew Claney, Senior Art Director; Jim Hammerand, Managing Editor; and Hardy Wilson, Freelance Photographer

Category: Design - Publication Design

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Medical Design & Outsourcing

Matthew Claney, Senior Art Director

Category: Print - Regular Department

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Pharma

Brian Buntz, Pharma Editor

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Medical Design & Outsourcing (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: Print - Special Issue or Supplement

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: The Medtech Big 100

Chris Newmarker, Exec. Editor; Jim Hammerand, M.E.; Matthew Claney, Sr. Art Director; Danielle Kirsh, Sr. Editor; Brian Buntz, Pharma Editor; Sean Whooley, Associate Editor; and Tom Salemi, DeviceTalks

Nursery Management (GIE Media, Inc.)

Category: Design - Front Cover - Photo Illustration

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Welcome to Crablandia

Tiana Kropko, Art Director

Pest Management Professional (North Coast Media)

Category: Design - Front Cover - Illustration

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Rodent Horror Stories

Marty Whitford, VP of Content; Tracie Martinez, Art Director; and Chris Whetzel, Freelance Illustrator

Category: Design - Front Cover - Special Issue or Supplement

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: PMP 2023 State of the Industry

Pete Seltzer, VP of Graphic Design and Production; Tracie Martinez, Art Director; Courtney Townsend, Graphic Designer; and Chris Whetzel, Freelance Illustrator

Category: Print - State of the Industry

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: PMP 2023 State of the Industry

Marty Whitford, VP of Content; Heather Gooch, Editor-in-Chief; Diane Sofranec, Senior Editor; Tracie Martinez, Art Director; Courtney Townsend, Graphic Designer; and Chris Whetzel, Freelance Illustrator

PracticeLink Magazine (PracticeLink)

Category: Print - How-To Article

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Your job-search timeline

Ken Allman, Founder & CEO; Laura Hammond, Editor; and Jack Brannen, Art Director

Category: Print - How-To Article

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: 5 red flags physician recruiters notice (and how to turn them green)

Ken Allman, Founder & CEO; Laura Hammond, Editor; and Jack Brannen, Art Director

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PracticeLink Magazine (PracticeLink)

Category: Print - How-To Article

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: How to pick a place you'll love

Ken Allman, Founder & CEO; Laura Hammond, Editor; and Jack Brannen, Art Director

Category: Print - Single Topic Coverage by a Team

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Contracts & Compensation

Ken Allman, Founder & CEO; Laura Hammond, Editor; and Jack Brannen, Art Director

QSR magazine (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: Design - Front Cover - Photo

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: QSR 292

Tory Bartelt, Art Director

Category: Design - Opening Page/Spread - Photo Illustration

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: How to Sustain a Chain

Tory Bartelt, Art Director

Category: Design - Publication Design

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: QSR magazine

Tory Bartelt, Art Director and Erica Naftolowitz, Graphic Designer

Seaside Retailer (Breakwall Publishing)

Category: All Content - Company Profile

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Finding Her Happy Place

Brooke Bilyj, Contributing Editor

Security (BNP Media Inc.)

Category: All Content - Regular Column, Contributed

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Leadership & Management

Michael Gips, Contributing Columnist

Smart Business Magazine (Smart Business Network Inc.)

Category: All Content - Company Profile

Award Level: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Taking the Helm

Brooke Bilyj, contributing writer

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Solar Power World (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: Design - Opening Page/Spread - Illustration

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Solar Developers Are Ready to Meet U.S. Clean Energy Goals. The Grid Isn't.
Allison Washko, Senior Graphic Designer

Category: Print - Special Section

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Special Section: Federal Solar Policy

Kelly Pickerel, Editor in Chief; Kelsey Misbrenner, Managing Editor; and Billy Ludt, Senior Editor

Tire Review (Babcox Media Inc.)

Category: Online - Video - News and Feature

Award Level: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Happier Tire Technicians Means Higher Profits

David Sickels, Senior Editor; Christian Hinton, Associate Editor and Bryce Johnson, Video Editor

Today's Medical Developments (GIE Media, Inc.)

Category: Design - Infographics

Award Level: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Medical Infographics

Stephanie Antal, Art Director