

# **Arizona Press Club 2005 Awards Competition for the Best Journalism in Arizona Best of Writing and Reporting**

## **ELIGIBILITY**

The contest is open to anyone who regularly works in the production of news for any Arizona newspaper, periodical or news service. Trade publications, student media and house organs do not qualify.

Entries must have been originally published in 2005. All entries must be produced for the editorial department of an Arizona publication, news Web site or wire service. Work produced for advertising, marketing or other departments is not eligible.

A majority of the stories in a series must have been published in the contest year. Online entries are eligible providing they were published under the auspices of an Arizona newspaper, periodical or news service.

Stories that comprise a project can be reported and written by a single news outlet or by more than one Arizona media outlet — i.e., two newspapers within a chain — working together. Stories partially or fully reported or written by newspapers not based in Arizona are not eligible.

## **ENTRY FEES**

- Dailies under 35,000 circulation and non-dailies under 75,000 circulation: \$10/person contest fee plus \$5 for each entry.
- Dailies with circulation of 35,000 and over, non-dailies with circulation of 75,000 and over: \$30/person contest fee plus \$10 for each entry.

**NOTE: If a smaller publication is distributed inside a large circulation publication, use the circulation of the larger publication in order to determine which category to enter.**

## **IMPORTANT CHANGE REGARDING MULTIPLE BYLINES**

**Entries with at least five contributors may be submitted as a staff entry at an entry fee of \$50. No individuals may be named on the entry form and winning certificates will list only “staff,” not individual names. If you want multiple individuals listed on certificates and in the contest winners’ brochure, each person listed on the entry form must pay a separate category entry fee (\$5 per person for small- and mid-sized publications and \$10 per person for large publications) as well as a one-time contest entry fee (\$10 per person for small- and mid-sized publications and \$30 per person for large publications. The contest fee needs to be paid only once, while the category entry fee needs to be paid for each category entered).**

## **Other fees**

- Community Journalist of the Year: \$10.
- Virg Hill, Photojournalist and Designer of the Year awards: \$25.

Unpaid or improperly submitted entries will be disqualified and entry fees will not be refunded.

## **DEADLINE**

**Entries must be received at the Press Club post office box by Jan. 23 unless entrants make special arrangements with contest chair Jill Jordan Spitz ([jspitz@azstarnet.com](mailto:jspitz@azstarnet.com) or 520-573-4177) in advance. Entries will not be opened until the Thursday before the Jan. 28 pack-up day and only by the contest chair.**

### **Mail entries to:**

Arizona Press Club, P.O. Box 16427, Phoenix AZ 85011-6427

## **JUDGING**

Entries will be judged by out-of-state journalists selected by the board of directors. Judges' decisions are final, unless winning entries do not conform to rules.

## **AWARDS CEREMONY**

Winners will be announced at the annual awards banquet, May 6, 2006 at the Heard Museum in Phoenix.

## **GENERAL RULES**

### **Ethics and disqualification**

The Arizona Press Club promotes ethical journalism and recognizes that contest rules cannot envision every potential breach of professional standards. The club reserves the right to disqualify any entry or withdraw any award, based on ethical violations or violations of the rules as noted in the rules, as deemed by the board. Entries that do not conform to the rules will be disqualified. If an entry is disqualified, the prize will be awarded to the next place winner. Disqualified entrants will forfeit their entry fees.

### **Circulation categories**

A - Small: Daily and non-daily newspapers with circulation less than 35,000.

B - Medium: Any publication with circulation up to 75,000.

C - Any publication: No circulation restrictions. Includes wire services.

Note: If an entry has material that appeared in two or more publications under the same ownership, the combined circulation of those publications must be used to determine the proper category. A daily newspaper is published five or more days a week.

**(NOTE: If a smaller publication is distributed inside a large circulation publication, use the circulation of the larger publication in order to determine which category to enter.)**

### Grievance policy

For problems, concerns and complaints about the contest, the contest chairperson shall notify the Grievance Committee (president and executive officers). The committee will rule on the matter or forward it to the full Press Club board for final approval.

### Disclaimer

The Arizona Press Club is not responsible for lost, mislaid or damaged entries but will take reasonable care processing the entries.

## **AWARDS**

- If more than one person contributed to a winning entry, each person will receive a certificate and a share of the money.
- If two entries tie for first place, the award money will be split between the winners.
- If there is a tie for first place, no second-place award is given. If there is a tie for second, no third-place award is given.
- First place is \$100 and an award and a certificate.
- Second place is a certificate.
- Third place is a certificate.

## **ENTRY PROCEDURES**

- Entries must be submitted exactly as they were published.
- Nominating letters will be allowed in the following categories only:  
Breaking news reporting, Don Bolles Award, Virg Hill Award, Photographer of the Year, Designer of the Year and Community Journalist of the Year.
- All entries must include a signed entry form. The form is the last two pages of this document and may be copied. If more than one person contributed to an entry, only one of the entrants or a representative has to sign. List headlines completely to help identify entries.
- Enter as many times and in as many categories as desired. However, no story may be submitted more than once, except the Virg Hill Award, Community Journalist of the Year, Photographer of the Year, Designer of the Year and other exceptions as noted.
- Entries must be neatly packaged in an 8 1/2 x 11-inch file folder with a completed entry form stapled to the outside. Larger folders are allowed for Virg Hill entries. Do not staple the folder shut. Please do not use more than two staples to affix the entry form to the folder.
- **Spanish-language publications can enter any category provided that — except in Spanish-language writing categories — all stories, headlines and captions are translated into English.**
- Entries will not be returned.

## ENTRY PREPARATION

Categories A, B and C — writing and reporting

Entries may include clips, tear sheets or legible copies. Complete printouts from electronic databases that maintain verbatim copies may be submitted, provided they include proof of publication. Entries may include headlines, graphics illustrations and photographs.

## CONTEST CATEGORIES

### WRITING CONTEST QUESTIONS?

Contact Jill Jordan Spitz at (520) 573-4177 or [jspitz@azstarnet.com](mailto:jspitz@azstarnet.com)

### **A - SMALL: DAILY AND NON-DAILY NEWSPAPERS WITH CIRCULATION LESS THAN 35,000.**

#### **A1. Politics/government reporting**

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about any political or government event or topic.

#### **A2. Public safety reporting**

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about any public safety event or topic.

#### **A3. Environmental/health reporting**

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about any environmental or health event or topic.

#### **A4. Education reporting**

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about any education event or topic.

#### **A5. Sustained coverage**

Up to five stories showing sustained coverage by a single reporter on a single subject or up to five stories of a series. May also include sidebars.

#### **A6. Lifestyle reporting**

A single feature story, and any sidebars, about people and the way they live.

#### **A7. Personality profile reporting**

A single feature story, and any sidebars, detailing the life of a person.

#### **A8. Business reporting**

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about any business event or topic.

#### **A9. Sports reporting**

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about any sporting event or sports topic.

#### **A10. Commentary/analysis**

A single column, commentary, analysis or editorial.

#### **A11. Layout/design**

A full page or double truck from any section of the newspaper dealing with a single topic or packaging a variety of unrelated stories and art.

## **B - MEDIUM: ANY PUBLICATION WITH CIRCULATION UP TO 75,000.**

### **B1. Politics/government reporting**

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about any political or government event or topic.

### **B2. Public safety reporting**

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about any public safety event or topic.

### **B3. Environmental/health reporting**

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about any environmental event or topic.

### **B4. Education reporting**

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about any education event or topic.

### **B5. Sustained reporting**

Up to five stories, and any sidebars, featuring sustained coverage of a continuing story.

### **B6. Lifestyle reporting**

A single feature story, and any sidebars, detailing people and their lives.

### **B7. Personality profile reporting**

A single feature story, and any sidebars, detailing the life of a person.

### **B8. Business reporting**

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about any business event or sports topic.

### **B9. Sports reporting**

A single news or feature story, and any sidebars, about any sporting event or sports topic.

### **B10. Commentary/analysis**

A single column, commentary, analysis or editorial.

### **B11. Layout/design**

A full page or double truck from any section of the newspaper dealing with a single topic or packaging a variety of unrelated stories and art.

## **C. ANY PUBLICATION: WRITING & REPORTING**

### **C1. Investigative reporting — Don Bolles Award**

*Bolles, an investigative reporter for the Arizona Republic, was fatally wounded June 2, 1976, when a bomb exploded in his car outside a Phoenix hotel. He died 11 days later.*

One or more pieces on a single subject — published on a single day or over the year — that are the result of extensive research and original investigation. May also include sidebars. Entrants may include a one-page letter explaining the obstacles overcome in reporting the story.

## **C2. John Kolbe Politics and Government Reporting Award**

*Political reporter and columnist John Kolbe wrote about Arizona politics for more than a quarter century for the Phoenix Gazette and the Arizona Republic. He died in 1999.*

A single story or series presented within an eight-day period concerning local, state or federal government, politics or campaigns.

## **C3. Breaking news reporting**

A single day's reporting of one or more pieces of unscheduled news reported and written in a single shift. May also include sidebars. Entrants may include a one-page letter explaining deadline circumstances.

## **C4. Sustained reporting**

Up to five stories demonstrating sustained coverage on a single subject. May also include sidebars.

## **C5. News beat reporting**

Up to five stories by a single reporter that demonstrate expertise and knowledge of a particular news beat. May also include sidebars. At least one story must be written on deadline, in a single shift, and must be marked in the entry packet as a deadline story.

**One double byline is allowed.**

## **C6. Project reporting**

A preconceived project reported and written by a single journalist or a team of journalists. Stories can be reported and written by a single news outlet or by more than one Arizona media outlet — i.e., two newspapers within a chain — working together. Stories partially or fully reported or written by newspapers not based in Arizona are not eligible. A project may be of any length on any subject and include all accompanying sidebars. Must be clearly identified as a project or series and must show continuity between pieces and within the entire series or package.

## **C7. Environmental reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning natural resources, growth and development, and related topics. May also include sidebars.

## **C8. Science and technology reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning trends, discoveries or trends in science or technology. May also include sidebars.

## **C9. Health reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning advances in treatment, research and knowledge. May also include sidebars.

## **C10. Public safety reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning all aspects of law enforcement, courts, corrections, fire and rescue, and related areas. May also include sidebars.

## **C11. Religion, faith or values reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning the impact of religion and values. May also include sidebars.

## **C12. Diversity reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning a minority group or issue. May also include sidebars.

**C13. Education reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning education and related topics. May also include sidebars.

**C14. Immigration reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning immigration and related topics. May also include sidebars

**C15. Military reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning the military and related topics. May also include sidebars

**C16. Children, families and seniors issues reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning children, families, seniors and related topics. May also include sidebars

**C17. Growth and development reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning growth, development and related topics. May also include sidebars

**C18. Consumer reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning consumer reporting and related topics. May also include sidebars

**C19. Sustained neighborhood reporting**

A portfolio of up to five stories that demonstrate informed coverage of a particular community or neighborhood.

**C20. Words, pictures and presentation**

A special section or multi-page package judged for the way its words, photographs, graphics and design work together to tell a story.

**C21. Features beat reporting**

Up to five stories by a single reporter that demonstrate expertise and knowledge of a particular features-oriented beat. May also include sidebars. One double byline is allowed.

**C22. Lifestyle reporting**

A single story, along with any sidebars, on a single subject published the same day. Entries should not be tied to a specific event or an issue but rather focus on individuals or families and their lifestyles, philosophies, problems and activities. Can include such topics as health, food, fashion and consumer issues.

**C23. Personality profile**

A single story and any sidebars that give an in-depth look at an individual.

**C24. Slice of life reporting**

A single story, along with any sidebars, about people and their lives.

**SPORTS**

**C25. Sports breaking news reporting**

A single story and any sidebars, published on the same day, reported and written in a single shift, on any sports event or situation.

**C26. Sports enterprise reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period on any sports event, person or situation.

**C27. Sports beat reporting**

Up to five stories by a single reporter that demonstrate expertise and knowledge of a particular sports beat. May also include sidebars. At least one story must be written on deadline, in a single shift, and must be marked in the entry packet as a deadline story. One double byline is allowed.

**BUSINESS****C28. Business breaking news reporting**

A single business news or feature story reported and written in a single shift. May also include sidebars.

**C29. Business enterprise reporting**

Up to five parts of a single story presented within an eight-day period concerning business or financial issues.

**C30. Business beat reporting**

Up to five stories by a single reporter that demonstrate expertise and knowledge of a particular business beat. May also include sidebars. At least one story must be written on deadline, in a single shift, and must be marked in the entry packet as a deadline story. One double byline is allowed.

**OPINION WRITING****C31. News column writing**

Three news columns from any section of the publication.

**C32. Sports column writing**

Three sports columns from any section of the publication.

**C33. Business column writing**

Three business columns from any section of the publication.

**C34. Editorial writing**

Three opinion pieces expressing views of a publication as an institution, not those of an individual writer, and advocating a position or course of action.

**C35. First-person column writing – Don Schellie Award**

*For more than 22 years, Don Schellie, a columnist for the Tucson Citizen, turned out thousands of finely crafted, upbeat columns in a simple feeling and style. He died of lung cancer at the age of 50 in 1983.*

**Three columns told from a personal point of view.**

**C36. Humor column**

Three humor columns.

**C37. Lifestyle column**

Three columns regarding entertainment, fashion, relationships, food, home decor, gardening, shopping or wellness.

**C38. Food reviews**

A single critique of a restaurant or dining experience.

**C39. Visual and performing arts criticism**

A single general critique of any visual art form except for film, video or television. Judged for clarity, informed reasoning and effectiveness.

**C40. Music criticism**

A single general critique of any live or recorded music performance. Judged for clarity, informed reasoning and effectiveness.

**C41. Film, video and television criticism**

A single general critique of a film, video or television program or event.

**HEADLINE WRITING****C42. News headlines**

Any three headlines composed by the same person. Include stories that the headlines accompanied.

**C43. Feature headlines**

Any three headlines composed by the same person, generally of a no-count variety, for feature and special-project applications.

**D. SPANISH LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS****D1. News (General) reporting**

A single general news report and any sidebars published on the same day.

**D2: Personality profile/feature writing**

A single piece and any sidebars that highlight the life of an individual.

**D3. Business reporting**

A single general news report and any sidebars published on the same day.

**D4. Sports reporting**

A single general news report and any sidebars published on the same day.

**D5. Entertainment reporting**

A single general news report and any sidebars published on the same day.

**H. ANY PUBLICATION — ONLINE****H1. Creative use of medium**

Use of content, design, navigation, multimedia, interactivity, personalization and community in providing service to users. An entry consists of a single story, a series, a package or an information application. Online entries consist of a live link or a CD copy.

**H2. Breaking news**

Each entry may be a single story, a package or an information application published during a single midnight to midnight cycle. Entrants may include a one-page letter explaining the deadline circumstances under which the work was produced.

## **VIRG HILL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR**

- AWARD: \$250
- ENTRY FEE: \$25

*This award, the Press Club's most prestigious, is named after Virg Hill, a popular political columnist and reporter for The Phoenix Gazette. Hill died of a heart attack while covering the Arizona House of Representatives in January 1969 at the age of 62. Because of his wit, he was often sought as an after dinner speaker. The award was created in December 1969.*

The Virg Hill Award goes to the writer or editor who, in the opinion of the judges, has done the best work during 2005. The winner will be selected by three out-of-state judges.

- Entries shall include at least five and no more than eight main stories (sidebars may also be included and do not count as part of the total).
- Up to two of those stories may have a double or multiple byline. All others must have a single byline.
- Entries may include a one-page letter explaining the obstacles overcome in reporting one or all of the stories in the entry.
- Entrants must submit **FOUR COPIES OF THE COMPLETE PACKAGE**, including stories, letters and explanations. One copy goes to each judge, and the fourth is kept by the board.
- The winner will receive \$250 and an award vase, first runner up an award vase and second runner up a certificate.

## **PAST WINNERS OF THE VIRG HILL AWARD**

2004 — Robert Anglen, The Arizona Republic  
2003 — Susan Carroll, The Arizona Republic  
2002 – Susan Carroll, Tucson Citizen  
2001 - Amy Silverman, New Times  
2000 - Laura Laughlin, New Times  
1999 - Amy Silverman, New Times  
1998 - Terry Greene Sterling, New Times  
1997 - Paul Rubin, New Times  
1996 - Tony Ortega, New Times  
1995 - John Dougherty, New Times  
1994 - John Dougherty, New Times  
1993 - Mark Flatten, Tribune Newspapers  
1992 - John Dougherty, Tribune Newspapers, Southwest Sage  
1991 - Chuck Kelly, Randy Collier, The Arizona Republic  
1990 - Cathryn Creno, The Arizona Republic  
1989 - Terry Greene, New Times  
1988 - Deborah Laake, New Times  
1987 - Terry Greene, New Times  
1986 - Paul Rubin, New Times

1985 - Jane Kay, Arizona Daily Star  
1984 - Ray Ring, Arizona Daily Star  
1983 - Charles Bowden, Tucson Citizen  
1982 - Jana Bommersbach, New Times  
1981 - Jon Kamman, Arizona Daily Star  
1980 - Bob Lowe, Clark Hallas, Arizona Daily Star  
1979 - Jerry Seper, The Arizona Republic  
1978 - John S. Long, Arizona Daily Star  
1977 - Tom Kuhn, The Arizona Republic  
1976 - Robert J. Early, The Arizona Republic  
1975 - Alex Drehsler, Arizona Daily Star  
1974 - Lois Boyles, The Phoenix Gazette  
1973 - Don Bolles, The Arizona Republic  
1972 - Gene McLain, KTAR-TV  
1971 - Albert J. Sitter, The Arizona Republic  
1970 - Bill Sherman, KTAR-TV  
1969 - Walter W. Meek, The Arizona Republic

## **COMMUNITY JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR**

- AWARD: \$250
- Entry fee: \$10

*The Community Journalist of the Year Award is given to the writer or editor of a weekly or small publication who, in the opinion of the contest judge, has done the best work in 2005 to enhance the goals of the journalism profession and the quality of life in the community.*

- Entries should include no more than 12 samples of the entrant's work, such as news and feature stories, photographs, page designs and editorials. Sidebars are not included in that total.
- Entries also should include a one-page letter explaining the qualities of the individual's work.
- The winner will receive \$250 and an award vase, first runner up - an award vase, and second runner up - a certificate.

## **PAST COMMUNITY JOURNALISTS OF THE YEAR**

2004 — Al Stevens, Fountain Hills Times  
2003 — Jim Keyworth, Payson Roundup  
2002 – Jim Nintzel, Tucson Weekly  
2001 - Bob Svejcar, Northwest Explorer  
2000 - Monica Alonzo-Dunsmoor, Daily News-Sun  
1999 - Patrick Cavanaugh, Northwest Explorer  
1998 - RuthAnn Hogue, Surprise Today  
1997 - Anne Ryman, Paradise Valley Independent  
1996 - Anne Ryman, Paradise Valley Independent  
1995 - Jeff Ofstedahl, Echo Magazine  
1994 - Angela Gonzales, The Business Journal  
1993 - Anne Ryman, Sun Cities Independent  
1992 - Michael Hart, Glendale Star

# Arizona Press Club 2005 Entry Form

Category Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Headlines and dates of publication. Every headline in the entry must be listed, with the date of publication following. For example: "Dog bites man" (1-24), "Man bites back" (2-3)**

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Name of entrant \_\_\_\_\_

Publication \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Eligibility Certification

**I certify that I am eligible for membership in the Arizona Press Club and have paid all applicable contest fees. IN ENTERING THIS CONTEST, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ALL DECISIONS REGARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS AND JUDGING OF ENTRIES AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF AWARDS IS DONE AT THE COMPLETE AND SOLE DISCRETION OF THE ARIZONA PRESS CLUB. IF AN ENTRY IS DISQUALIFIED, I MAY APPEAL THE DECISION TO THE BOARD OF THE ARIZONA PRESS CLUB, WHOSE DECISION CONCERNING THE APPEAL SHALL BE FINAL. IN ENTERING THE PRESS CLUB CONTEST, I HEREBY RELEASE THE PRESS CLUB, ITS BOARD, OFFICERS AND AGENTS FROM ANY LOSS, CLAIM, DAMAGE OR INJURY THAT I MAY SUFFER FROM ENTERING OR PARTICIPATING IN THE CONTEST. BY MY SIGNATURE BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE LANGUAGE AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS.**

**NOTE: Journalists who work in the production of news for any Arizona newspaper, periodical or news service are eligible Press Club members.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Entries that do not conform to the rules will be disqualified and fees will not be returned.**

## IMPORTANT CHANGE REGARDING MULTIPLE BYLINES

**Entries with at least five contributors may be submitted as a staff entry at an entry fee of \$50. No individuals may be named on the entry form and winning certificates will list only "staff," not individual names. If you want multiple individuals listed on certificates and in the contest winners' brochure, each person listed on the entry form must pay a separate category entry fee (\$5 per person for small- and mid-sized publications and**

**\$10 per person for large publications) as well as a one-time contest entry fee (\$10 per person for small- and mid-sized publications and \$30 per person for large publications. The contest fee needs to be paid only once, while the category entry fee needs to be paid for each category entered).**

(To be filled out by publication, or individual if not entering as a group; choose one)

**1. Dailies under 35,000 circulation and non-dailies under 75,000 circulation. (NOTE: If a smaller publication is distributed inside a large circulation publication, use the circulation of the larger publication in order to determine which category to enter.)**

A. No. of people entering \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
B. No. of regular entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
C. No of staff entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
D. Virg Hill/POY/DOY \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
E. Comm Journalist \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL DUE (A+B+C+D+E):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Dailies with circulation of 35,000 and over, nondailies with circulation of 75,000 and over.**

A. No. of people entering \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
B. No. of regular entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
C. Staff entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
D. Virg Hill/POY/DOY \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL DUE (A+B+C+D):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Entries must be received at the Press Club post office box by Jan. 23 unless entrants make special arrangements with contest chair Jill Jorden Spitz ([jspitz@azstarnet.com](mailto:jspitz@azstarnet.com) or 520-573-4177) before that day. Entries will not be opened until the Thursday before the Jan. 28 pack-up day and only by the contest chair.**

**Mail entries to:** Arizona Press Club, PO Box 16427, Phoenix AZ 85011-6427

This year's Arizona Press Club banquet will be held May 6, 2006 at the Heard Museum in downtown Phoenix.