



AP Robert Gallimore Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Service in the Public Interest

- **David Seidel, WVTF-FM, Roanoke**

West Virginia Lifetime Achievement Award

- **D.K. Wright, WTRF-TV, Wheeling**

Scholarship Award

- **Hunner Moore, West Virginia University**

**Combined Divisions (TV/Radio):**

**Best Podcast-Audio**

*First Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Trey Kay and Christina Stella  
"Us and Them: SNAP. Do the Hungry  
Get More Policy Than Nutrition?"

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Trey Kay and Mitch Hanley  
"Us and Them: Compassion Fatigue"

**TV I/Large Market:**

**Best Spot News**

*First Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

"Huguenot Graduation Shooting"

This was a well-done entry. From the top of the 6pm, this was a well-thought out, produced-up show. From process language conveying urgency to graphics (map) showing location of the danger, this felt like important breaking news without feeling chaotic. Got people the info they needed in the moments after the shooting as well as comprehensive coverage for the later newscast.

*Second Place*

**WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA**

Frank Jones  
"Graduation Mass Shooting"

Another very well done response to this breaking news. Appreciated seeing a bit of the original reporting and the very comprehensive 11pm block with important new info.



**Best Continuing News**

*First Place*

**WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA**

Frank Jones

"This Is a Mental Health Crisis: The  
Death of Irvo Otieno"

*Second Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

"Huguenot Graduation Shooting"

**Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington,  
WV**

Keith Morehouse, Jim Treacy and  
Joseph Payton

The innovation and energy of WSAZ Sports rises up in multiple ways, including Fired Up Friday, an hour-long Marshall-N.C. State football pregame show that found local angles in basketball, Herd That summer hoops and a 14-year-old female drag racer. A bonus: the 1-on-1 with Randy Moss. Great job.

*Second Place*

**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**

Mark Martin and Jason Hurst

The commitment to local sports by WCHS includes live HS football telecasts, an all-star game, Marshall weekly shows and a state golf tournament. Friday Night Rivals is a must see for HS football fans. Strong entry in a very competitive division.



**Best Documentary or In-Depth**

*First Place*

**WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA**

John Carlin, Jeff Perzan and Maisy Carvalho

"On the Frontline"

This is an extremely balanced report, using the local angle to explain a very complicated international issue. The local national guard troops, tasked with securing the border, a mission they know is essential, were shown to have great compassion for the immigrants. The immigration dilemma was portrayed in a way that the viewer understood that most were simply trying to find a better life for their families. The humanity of everyone involved in the story was conveyed to the viewer. Yet, it was clear that this very human sentiment is not the only factor that can be considered when examining the immigration dilemma as others with criminal and other motives are also stopped at the border. This is one of the best reports I have seen on the border issue.

*Second Place*

**WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA**

Kevin Romm

"Catching Kathleen's Killer"

The solving of a cold case murder is not an unfamiliar story, but this documentary is well produced and extremely well edited to build interest and understanding of the time and patience it takes to bring such a killer to justice. The producer focused on and profiled an interesting and laudable character to identify with the viewer. Det. Jonathan Smith is a savvy, dedicated and relentless officer in his quest for justice. Through him we, along with the victims family, find answers we craved and a resolution of the case. Well done.

**Best Light Feature**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

GeNienne Samuels and Brad Wilson

"Sam's Purpose: Make Every Breath Count"

Great Nats, pacing, shooting. Great editing. Loved his story. Thanks for sharing.

*Second Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Joi Fultz and Brad Wilson

"Gifted Hands"

Loved the editing and the nats. Way to take me there. Really loved this story.



**Best Serious Feature**

*First Place*

**WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA**

Alex Littlehales and Adrian Guerra  
"Greenbook"

This was all around the clear winner for this category. Wonderful incorporation of music, visuals, interviews, graphics, and heart. Overall a masterpiece.

*Second Place*

**WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA**

Jessica Larche and Lydia Johnson  
"Chesapeake Basketball Coach Fights to Clear His Name"

This is a fantastic entry and a strong second place. Hearing the story of the basketball coach, his mother, and friend was inspiring. Overall great work done on interviews, camera shots, B-roll, nat sound pops, visuals, and flow.

**Best Sports Feature**

*First Place*

**WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA**

Bethany Reese and Adrian Guerra  
"Mia Makes Moves"

Good interview setting. Good cinematography. Very strong primary interview.

*Second Place*

**WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA**

John Carlin and Sarah Tabor  
"Kinzie Goes Downhill"

Impactful in difficult settings. Strong story telling.

**Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter**

*First Place*

**WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA**

Alex Littlehales

Great creativity, storytelling and diversity in the stories chosen. Great use of modern media technology. Alex demonstrated versatility in the pieces he showed.

*Second Place*

**WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA**

Desiree Montilla



**Best Reporter**

*First Place*

**WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA**

Alex Littlehales

Great command and confidence are evident in content. Great range of storytelling skills.

*Second Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Elizabeth Holmes

On screen command and knowledge of the stories are impressive.

**Best Specialty Reporting**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

GeNienne Samuels

"Medical Reporting"

Powerful storytelling. Touching moments... woven together by sensitive words and imaginative photography and editing. GeNienne's pieces aim for the heart.

*Second Place*

**WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA**

John Carlin, Carter Malpass and Sarah

Tabor

"John Carlin's Outdoors"

John's writing is personal and natural. For city dwellers, he explains fly fishing in a way that draws the viewers in without a hint of condescension. John, Carter, Sarah, your pieces take us on a trip. The glorious sweep of nature is part of each story, as it should be. But you are able to adapt to your surroundings as well. The piece about Kinsey was moving.



**Best Spot News Photography**

*First Place*

**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**

Emmanuel Jaime and Matt Durrett  
"Regal Apartments Fire"

The coverage was constant. Each segment provided something new, even if it was minor, whether it was new information, new footage, new interviews, everything was fresh. The footage was compelling throughout. The piece stayed out in the field a majority of the time, and it didn't show a studio shot until the end.

*Second Place*

**WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA**

"Central Virginia Wildfires"

I liked the team coverage from different angles, put so many resources out there to provide the latest information, even having the chief meteorologist out there doing a selfie shot. The footage was also compelling. Your constant fresh video really stood out.

**Best Feature Photography**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Enza Marcy and Greg McQuade  
"Smith Point Sea Rescue: They  
Wouldn't Have Survived"

Creative shots, creative editing and good storytelling. This story was given great impact with the interview of volunteer first responders who risked their lives to save people, especially on the day they highlighted.

*Second Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Joe Valdez and Greg McQuade  
"Lee Harvey Oswald's Ride: It Is an  
Eerie Connection"



**Best Multi-Platform Story**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

"Mass Shooting at High School Graduation"

From on air to digital, this news team did a fantastic job with breaking news. Compelling sound and pictures only strengthened the coverage.

*Second Place*

**WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA**

"Virginia Beach Tornado: The First 24 Hours"

Great team coverage. Really felt like they were on top of what was happening.

**Best Investigative Reporting**

*First Place*

**WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV**

Curtis Johnson and Kristen Bentley  
"False Security"

*Second Place*

**WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV**

Sarah Sager, Kristen Bentley and Jay Melvin  
"The Secret Next Door"

**Best Website**

*First Place*

**WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV**

Alyssa Hannahs and Eric Fossell

Best organized of the group, easiest to find information.

*Second Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Not too cluttered with ads. Strong placement of top stories.



**Best News Promo**

*First Place*

**WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA**

Ashly Richards and Pete George  
"Mass Shooting"

Compelling coverage of a tragic event.

*Second Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Brandy Brown and David Stotts  
"Reopen the Case: Sam Flougher"

Compelling images and script. Great sound and impactful spot.

**Best Station Promo**

*First Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

"News Where We All Live"

Well scripted and warm promo. The storytelling and images used showcased a strong connection to the community.

*Second Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

David Stotts, Brandy Brown and Enzo Domingo  
"A Voice for All"

Captured the essence of Richmond well. And very clever nod to VO artist.

**Best Newscast**

*First Place*

**WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA**

Frank Jones

The content and pacing in the newscast is why this was my fist place newscast. The content, creative angles and storytelling won this.

*Second Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Sarah Mickle, Jennifer Carr and Robert Hughes  
"Deadly Graduation Day Shooting"

The best open in the category. Great content and angles, you delivered on what you said you would. This was a very close category at the top.





**Best Weathercast**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Zach Daniel, Mike Stone and Chris Munnings

"Zach at the Floodwall: Hurricane Season Begins"

Great use of resources. Very creative and out of the box weather storytelling.

*Second Place*

**WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA**

Jeff Haniewich, Chris Michaels and Parker Beasley

"The Matt's Creek Wildfire"

Solid fire weather coverage.

**Best Weathercaster**

*First Place*

**WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA**

Steve Fundaro

Big personality, creative storyteller.

*Second Place*

**WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA**

George Flickinger

Great use of technology to explain the weather and incorporating process journalism into weather coverage.

**Best TV News Anchor**

*First Place*

**WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA**

Marielena Balouris

Marielena came across as so natural: so conversational while still being really informative. She's great in the studio and out in the field, what a great cameo from Paris!

*Second Place*

**WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA**

John Carlin

Great in the studio and out in the field. An all-around great anchor who I'm sure has lots of loyal viewers!



**Best TV Sports Anchor**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Lane Casadonte

Lane's conversational and informational tone really connects with viewers. Great job. Very nice work on the gymnastics coach profile.

*Second Place*

**WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV**

Joseph Payton

Joseph's high-energy impact, along with the innovative in-person pieces on "Fired Up Friday" elevated this entry in a very competitive category. Well done.

**Best Producer**

*First Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

Katie Wells

The producer and the team did a great job of telling this story using compelling NATS and SOTS while maintaining an appropriately somber tone.

*Second Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

Jessica Wetzler

Good urgency off the top. They did a good job of selling it as 'breaking now.'

**Best Team News Coverage**

*First Place*

**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**

"Regal Apartments Fire"

WCHS team delivers on breaking news. Again. Very solid work, allowing the field crews to fill in the gaps with live witness interviews. I love how your anchors have old-school reporter notebooks, keeping track of the details. The team used multiple tools effectively. Not only working with live crews, but also folding in the meteorologist, weather cameras and social media. This coverage was clearly an endurance contest, and WCHS covered it with stamina and vision.



*Second Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

"Death of Irvo Otieno - Video Released"

The WRIC team provided thorough coverage after the video of Otieno's in-custody death was released. The team coverage was well-framed, and the story angles were clearly defined to provide answers the audience needed to know -- Breaking down the video... the 911 calls... family reaction... the charges... well done.

**Best Old Dominion Heritage**

*First Place*

**WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA**

Greg McQuade and Curtis Akers  
"'I Have a Story' Secretariat: It Was Thrilling to Watch Perfection"

The editing was phenomenal, and the shooting was not far behind. Very creative. Great use of music and sound to create emotion. This was a story that I did not care about when I pushed play. I could not get enough of the characters and the story by the time it was over.

*Second Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

Deanna Allbrittin and Forrest Shelor  
"Retracing My Roots"

What an amazing personal story. It takes a lot of courage to open up for a story this personal. I wanted more...how could I do this? I think this could be a special or web/streaming series.

**Best Mountain State Heritage**

*First Place*

**WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV**

Brad Rice  
"Traveling West Virginia"

Production is well done and packaged up nicely.

*Second Place*

**WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV**

Pat Simon  
"Mountain Stage Turns 40!"

Great topic for viewers to experience.



**Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism**

*First Place*

**WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA**

"Voices Against Violence"

*Second Place*

**WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington,**

**WV**

Joseph Payton and Jay Melvin

"Fired up Friday: Turning up the Heat"

**Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA**

Frank Jones

Impressive story coverage as a team. Newscasts are tight and cover a wide range of topics.

*Second Place*

**WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA**

A very close second place in this category.

**TV II/Small Market:**

**Best Spot News**

*First Place*

**WTAP-TV, Parkersburg, WV**

"August Storms"

Nice showcasing of weather team, propped up by reporters in the field giving a look at the flooding conditions earlier in the day. Meteorologist helped to convey the seriousness of the situation as it was happening.

*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Maggie Glass

"Attempted Abduction at UVA"

Good coverage of an attempted abduction that was sure to have the community on edge. The reporter stuck with the story from incident to conclusion.



**Best Continuing News**

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

"The Escape of Sean Williams"

Thorough, consistent, well-told, well-shown; updates reused some elements, but each update felt fresh and new, always pushing the story forward (new, now, next). Incredible work. What a twist!!

*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

"Charlottesville's Tent City"

Well told from a variety of angles, consistent with voice and representation (homeless people, businesses, city leaders, advocates, opponents). Difficult to tell such a complex and multi-faceted story with no real solution. Timeline and storytelling are well-established, with consistent narratives and storylines throughout. Well done.

**Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV**

Rob Metzger, Jack Hillgrove and Bill Phillips

A very strong entry in a competitive division. WTOV rises to the top with a variety of coverage ranging from WVU football to Pirates to Steelers, all well done, along with a generous amount of live high school play-by-play telecasts. The Nardo brothers coaching profile was a nice touch. Terrific.

*Second Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**

Jarvis Haren

Everything JMU, including the "LET US BOWL" and ESPN Gameday segments. This is really well done and innovative. Very nice overhead video to start off the Wayne Comer piece and (love it!) a feature on a female football player.

**Best Documentary or In-Depth**

*First Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Isabel Cleary

"Charlottesville Family Deals With Rat Infestation"

Isabel kept reporting the story to the benefit of the residents of this rat-infested apartment complex. Disgusting. Unacceptable. But sadly, all too common for low-income housing and weak city inspection programs. Reporter did good job explaining steps she took to get property owners. I hope the reporter checks back in a year on the complex. This is quality local reporting.



*Second Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-  
Lewisburg, WV**

Autumn Collins

"Honoring Black History: Tragedy in  
the Tunnel"

Definitely in-depth, solid coverage of an important topic.  
Reporter interviewed a range of different people and did a  
good job highlighting key individuals of the Black culture.

**Best Light Feature**

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Kristen Quon

"Kingsport Barber Still Cutting Hair at  
90"

This is a well-produced story that weaves effective writing  
together with nice video and memorable sound.

*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Marty Hudtloff

"Greene County Man Is Mustache  
Champion"

I couldn't get enough of the interview subject's unusual and  
seemingly ever-changing facial hair!

**Best Serious Feature**

*First Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Anahita Jafary

"Iranians in Charlottesville"

Good use of sound and historical perspective was  
appreciated.

*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Anahita Jafary

"Defibrillators in Central Virginia  
Schools"

This was well done and easy to watch. Took a potentially  
boring subject and made it interesting.



**Best Sports Feature**

*First Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**

Jon Surratt

"Tazewell Girls Softball"

Best overall story. Lots of interviews to support piece. Good story telling and production values.

*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Marty Hudtloff

"UVA Rower Skylar Dahl"

**Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter**

*First Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Dryden Quigley

WVIR's Dryden Quigley did a sound job of storytelling by letting the subject explain and was well edited.

*Second Place*

**WTRF-TV, Wheeling, WV**

Baylee Martin

WTRF's Baylee Martin was energetic, upbeat, did a good job with the baking business complete business and appeared to enjoy doing her job, which made watching her segments fun.

**Best Reporter**

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Caleb Perhne

A well-rounded body of work reflecting well-produced stories.

*Second Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**

Michael Staley

Strong on-camera presence and ability to talk viewers through different situations.



**Best Specialty Reporting**

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Andrew McClung

"The Good Stuff"

*Second Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Heather Williams

"The Streets of Chicago"

**Best Spot News Photography**

*First Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**

Jessica Nuzzo

"Firefighting"

Without a doubt, WVVA-TV's firefighting story stood out and above by using spot footage, natural sound and letting witnesses and firemen tell the story with no reporter standup or voiceover dialog.

**Best Feature Photography**

*First Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV**

Larry Marris

"Veterans Voices: Herb Wheeler"

WVNS's storytelling by their photojournalist overshadowed everyone else with natural sound, the subjects doing the storytelling, etc. instead of reporters. First place included historical references which was enlightening and gave background to the model plane story.

*Second Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV**

Larry Marris

"FLP Rocket Launch"

Second place utilized nice angles and split screens for juxtaposed viewing.





**Best Multi-Platform Story**

*First Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

"Standoff Ends in Officer Involved Shooting"

*Second Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**

Caleb Perhne  
"Hope for the Homeless"

**Best Investigative Reporting**

*First Place*

**WDTV-TV, Bridgeport, WV**

Tanner Gilmartin, John Blashke and Chris Yost  
"Senators Call for Investigation Into Alleged Serious Misconduct at FCC Hazelton"

If I hadn't read the narrative, I am not sure I would have selected this piece, but the narrative provided context that gives this story an upper hand. Two young reporters, spending hours a day to investigate a tip, and holding the material until the story broke. The interviews and video footage of locals was great, too. I hope this award provides a motivational boost for these two young reporters to continue digging.

*Second Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV**

Jessica Farrish  
"Southern Regional Jail Concerns"

Disturbing jail abuse seems to be a national problem. But this reporter followed the story with breaking details that eventually resulted in guards being charged.

**Best Website**

*First Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV**

Brandon Eanes, Seth McVey and Danielle Sandler

I liked the layout and I really liked that your podcast is accessible on the site as well.



*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

John Early, Julia Ocasio and Caroline Rawlins

Good comprehensive site. All the departments of the station are represented well and are effective.

**Best News Promo**

*First Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**

Caleb Swortzel and Stephen French  
"First Alert Weather"

Liked that they used a viewer email. Great concept.

*Second Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV**

David Mott  
"What's in the Water?"

Fantastic concept. Love the ink blots. Great effect for a story about water quality.

**Best Station Promo**

*First Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV**

David Mott  
"We're All in This Together"

Fantastic imagery. Most polished looking. Great use of graphics and effects.

*Second Place*

**WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Alex de Montbel and Joey Kinsley  
"Lego Masters"

I love this concept. Super cute idea!



**Best Newscast**

*First Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Josh Irvine and Kristen Cauley

Good job owning the big story of the day. Branding team coverage good energy off the top. Good use of sound in headlines.

*Second Place*

**WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV**

Tygra de Mello, Kayvon Ezami and Chad Merrill

"Fabulous Football Friday: Live From Greenbrier West High School"

Liked taking the energy off the top live in the field, good enterprise stories.

**Best Weathercast**

*First Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**

Katherine Thompson, Jeffrey Hoole and Collin Rogers  
"August Storms"

This station was on top of this storm, giving ample advance warning to viewers to be weather aware. Good showcasing of how the forecast developed across the day, and how the three meteorologists conveyed the sense of urgency and risk involved with this tornado threat.

*Second Place*

**WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV**

Jeff Oechslein, Nathan Shutt and Amanda Verrier

Nice delivery in informing the viewers of the threat of flooding in the viewing area. All three meteorologists did a great job following this weather story across the day, keeping viewers informed.

**Best Weathercaster**

*First Place*

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV**

Bradley Wells

Bradley's personality leaps off the screen, whether he's working a joke into his weathercast, or presenting information on a more serious weather event. Incredibly enjoyable to watch!



*Second Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**  
Aubrey Urbanowicz

Aubrey's experience is evident as she showcased her skill both at the weather wall, and out in the field. Her tornado story involved good storytelling, and her live shots were engaging.

**Best TV News Anchor**

*First Place*

**WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA**  
Ric Young

Ric has a pleasant, easygoing delivery and a commanding style. His rhythm and tone make the broadcast easier to digest.

*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**  
Kasey Hott

Kasey's delivery shows industry veteran. She has a direct, smooth and commanding style that makes what she does look effortless.

**Best TV Sports Anchor**

*First Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**  
Marty Hudtloff

I'm sure he's been told this before, but Marty's energy, attitude and delivery make for an exciting sportscast. And he's equally strong both at the desk and live in the field.

*Second Place*

**WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA**  
Anne-Parker Coleman

Anne-Parker comes across as a high-energy, high-confidence anchor with a lot of knowledge. Creative storytelling as well!

**Best Producer**

*First Place*

**WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA**  
Caleb Perhne

Good use of studio and video available, strongly written, pulls no punches; good use of local ties. Especially impressive for weekend work.

*Second Place*

**WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA**  
Keith Beasley

Good use of local content throughout; well-written, good personality opportunities for anchors.



**Best Team News Coverage**

*First Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

"Charlottesville HS Closes After Incident"

*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Destini Harris and Maggie Glass  
"Charlottesville HS Reopens"

**Best Old Dominion Heritage**

*First Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

Bria Stith and Dryden Quigley  
"Indictment Against John Henry James Dismissed"

Interesting and well done. Impressed by the amount of research put into the John Henry piece.

*Second Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**

Clayton McChesney  
"Crystal Concert"

**Best Mountain State Heritage**

*First Place*

**WTRF-TV, Wheeling, WV**

"Veterans Voices"

Very nice collection of stories from local veterans.

*Second Place*

**WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV**

Robert Castillo  
"Former Coal Town Rebirth"

A relatable piece with interesting perspective.



**Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism**

*First Place*

**WTRF-TV, Wheeling, WV**

"No One Walks Alone"

An excellent job bringing me into the story, giving me the experience of what these veterans are dealing with. And actually doing something to help them by starting the 'No One Walks Alone: A Veterans Suicide Awareness Walk' as well letting people know how to help and where veterans can get help.

*Second Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

"Charlottesville Rewrites Zoning Ordinance"

**Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA**

I thought 29 News did an excellent job showcasing a wide variety of impactful stories important in their community. It wasn't just crime. It had severe weather, crime, human interest, safety. And that's what we're supposed to do -- cover and inform our community.

*Second Place*

**WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA**

Chelsea Church, Kayla Brooks and Ethan Estrem



**Radio I/Metro:**

**Best Spot News**

*First Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

Sandy Hausman  
"Quaker Run Fire"

This story had a good use of natural sound throughout, and I even learned something about fires, which is hard to do here in California. Far and away the best entry.

*Second Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Whitney Evans, Lilly Knoepp and  
Riley Thompson  
"A Regional Look at Abortion Access,  
One Year After the Fall of Roe v.  
Wade"

The topic and span of the story were very important, and the pieces were well thought out. Whitney's voice is wonderful.

**Best Continuing News**

*First Place*

**WHRO-FM, Norfolk, VA**

Katherine Hafner  
"Norfolk's Floodwall Plan"

All good reporting.....this one was tough!

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Emily Rice  
"West Virginia's Opioid Settlement  
Money"

**Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV**

Ben Cover

These were two good entries. Both stations seem to have a strong commitment to cover local and regional sports. I picked WMUL for the first-place award because we heard a broader range of work, from reporting about Marshall University sports to play-by-play to sports talk.

*Second Place*

**WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA**

Greg Roberts, Randy Leftwich and  
Leonard Wheeler



**Best Documentary or In-Depth**

*First Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

Mallory Noe-Payne

"Branded: The Fight to Restore  
Voting Rights"

The story-telling and writing are engaging and unique. The interviews are good, and the topic is an important one.

*Second Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Shaban Athuman, Whittney Evans  
and Connor Scribner

"Healthy City"

This series is ambitious and extensive. Good work of natural sound and interviews. Way to tackle a large number of issues in a news format!

**Best Light Feature**

*First Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Rebecca Williams

"Wassailing Helps Singers in Asheville  
Connect to Ancestral Roots"

This story went through the layers of wassailing. Excellent use of nat sound...very informative in regards to the historical aspect as well.

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Wendy Welch

"Appalachian Mushroom Experts  
Welcome Sprouting Newbies"

Wonderful story telling...and use of nat sound.

**Best Serious Feature**

*First Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

Craig Wright

"Problem Gambling"

Problem Gambling seems to cover the issue from several angles.

*Second Place*

**WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA**

Gene Marrano

"Cult Life"

Covers a controversial subject in a fair way, without being confrontational.





**Best Sports Feature**

*First Place*

**WHRO-FM, Norfolk, VA**

Connor Worley

"MEAC Makes Mark on HBCU Esports  
With First Championship  
Tournament"

This story wins because it of its uniqueness. It tells us about a collegiate conference sporting championship for an activity that many would never call a sport. It has other interesting elements, including the HBCU angle and using this as a way to lure college students into the STEM careers.

*Second Place*

**WLNI-FM, Lynchburg, VA**

Dennis Carter, Rich Roth and Derek  
Beard

"The Sportsline's Deep Dive Into the  
VHSL"

This is not a traditional sports "feature story", but these talk radio excerpts take us into the world of high school sports in Virginia with its own conflict and human intrigue.

**Best Sports Play-by-Play**

*First Place*

**WQLU-FM, Lynchburg, VA**

Riley Clingman

"Ohio Bobcats vs. Liberty Flames  
Men's Hockey"

**Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter**

*First Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Patrick Larsen

This reporter covered various aspects of what is going on in this community. Well layered and thought out.

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Briana Heaney

"Many West Side Residents Are  
Frustrated They're Still in the Cold"



**Best Reporter**

*First Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**  
Sandy Hausman

What great stories on the lynching and the correctional officer. They're engaging and well reported. The sound is good and the interviews are well done. Kudos.

*Second Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**  
Jahd Khalil

Quite a good collection of audience-focused public affairs reporting. Stories are tight with good sound. Well done.

**Best Talk Show**

*First Place*

**WLNI-FM, Lynchburg, VA**  
Mari White, Brian Weigand and  
Anthony McAvoy  
"The Morningline on WLNI"

The hosts were respectful, even in offering their opinions. They deftly handled callers and directed a civil discussion. I'm not a big talk radio listener, but this one kept my attention.

**Best QA (One-on-One) Interview**

*First Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**  
Bill Lynch  
"Interview With an Appalachian  
Village Witch"

I really liked this. The interviewer knew enough to ask good questions and the interviewee was articulate and natural and good humored. The rapport between them was a strength of this entry. The subject matter was new to me and interesting and I had no problem listening the whole way through.

*Second Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**  
Ian Stewart  
"Veronica O. Davis: Civil Engineer,  
Transportation Planner, Self-  
Described Transportation Nerd"

This was a strong piece for a few reasons. One, it sounded natural. It wasn't edited too tightly. The subject matter, about community fridges, was new to me. And the interview was fairly short, which meant the producer emphasized the important topics and then stopped before it got boring.



**Best Specialty Reporting**

*First Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Ben Paviour

"Politics/Criminal Justice"

This is an excellent report....

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Emily Rice

"Unwinding Medicaid"

Covering crucial issue.

**Best Multi-Platform Story**

*First Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Megan Pauly and Connor Scribner

"Unchecked: Inside Richmond Public Schools Fire Inspections"

Wow, great series on the Richmond schools fire safety. Good coverage, stories, graphs and practical info. Well done.

*Second Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Shaban Athuman

"Iwacu: A Journey to Rediscovering Home"

**Best Station Promo**

*First Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**

Whittney Evans

"Curious Commonwealth"

From the music to the script and delivery, this was delightful.

*Second Place*

**WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV**

Zane Bowles

"Witchcraft"



**Best Newscast**

*First Place*

**WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA**  
"Election Day in Virginia"

The newscast was fast-paced, and jampacked. I appreciated the governor tape being turned around quickly, even if I wish it had been better quality. Good work.

*Second Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**  
Craig Wright

The reporter wraps are all well-done and include in-person tape, which made the newscast more engaging.

**Best Radio News Anchor**

*First Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**  
Jeff Bossert

This entry wins because it has a lot of good content in a short time frame, well narrated by the host. That content was timely and includes good sound from the field.

*Second Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**  
Craig Wright

Another fine newscast with a host who has good material to work with. The third story about the state regulatory commission that doesn't have a quorum had me shaking my head. I liked the way the reporter voiced it.

**Best Radio Sports Anchor**

*First Place*

**WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV**  
John Boggess

The reporter should keep refining the storytelling. He has a passion for his craft.

**Best Old Dominion Heritage**

*First Place*

**VPM News, Richmond, VA**  
"Curious Commonwealth"

Informative reports. Winners made stories captivating. Pieces were not too long, but good length to hold listener attention.

*Second Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**  
Roxy Todd  
"Searching for the Bog Turtle"



**Best Mountain State Heritage**

*First Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Zack Harold

"A Family Heirloom in Your Grocer's Freezer"

Who doesn't like a story about food? The report artfully weaves in elements of the who, what, where and how into a story that the listener would want to hear to the end.

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Trey Kay and Todd Melby

"A Fiddler Contemplates the Fate of the Mountain State"

**Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism**

*First Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Mitch Hanley, Emily Haavik and Tasha

A.F. Lemley

"Us and Them: The Challenges of Incarcerated Persons"

Very well done and interesting.

*Second Place*

**WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV**

Eric Douglas

"Getting Into Their Reality: Caring for Aging Parents"

**Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA**

The stories were interesting and well done.

*Second Place*

**WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV**

Luke Hamilton, Makaylah Wheeler and Emma Johnson



**Radio II/Non Metro:**

**Best Spot News**

*First Place*

**WAKG-FM, Danville, VA**

Ryan Stone

"Danville Regional Airport Unveils  
New Terminal"

Very clear cut and easy to follow along with. Good audio  
quality.

*Second Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Jay Hart, Dori Zook and Rob Schilling

"Charlottesville High School Staff  
Sickout"

Clear and easy to follow.

**Best Continuing News**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Courteney Stuart, Rob Schilling and  
Dori Zook

"Concerns About Hostile Work  
Environment at Charlottesville-  
Albemarle SPCA Leads to Executive  
Director's Departure"

WINA team did an excellent job of letting the two sides speak  
for themselves in presenting the facts of the story.

*Second Place*

**WAKG-FM, Danville, VA**

Ryan Stone

"Danville Police Leadership Changes"



**Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WBTM-AM, Danville, VA**

Ryan Stone, Brandon Burnett and  
Josh Lineberry

The play-by-play broadcaster Ryan Stone has good word economy and does an excellent job at painting the picture for listeners. Ryan delivers real excitement to the game.

*Second Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Luke Neer, Adam Hawes and John  
Freeman

"UVA Sports and the Charlottesville  
Triangle"

**Best Documentary or In-Depth**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Michael Guthrie

"Are There Solutions to Affordable  
Housing Challenges?"

I really enjoyed listening to this broadcast. No pundits. No canned opinions being shouted back and forth. Just people who know what they're talking about laying out the facts on a complicated issue, and looking for a way to solve the problem together.

**Best Light Feature**

*First Place*

**WAKG-FM, Danville, VA**

Ryan Stone

"Danville Represented in Macy's  
Parade"

Very well written, and a great choice of audio clips. I really wanted to hear more about her experience.

*Second Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Michael Guthrie

"Have a Housing Market Christmas"



**Best Serious Feature**

*First Place*

**WSVA-AM, Harrisonburg, VA**

Caleb Peek

"Homelessness in Harrisonburg -  
Tackling the Transient 'Problem' in  
the Friendly City"

Excellent hook right at the opening of this piece. A good flow of conversation was demonstrated by the broadcaster by how they weaved in and out of different phone callers. Caleb sounds like a pro's pro in my humble opinion.

*Second Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Michael Guthrie

"Current Interest Rates and What Lies  
Ahead"

**Best Sports Feature**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Luke Neer and Amaka Agugua

Hamilton

"New UVA Women's Basketball  
Coach Mox and the Charlottesville  
Triangle"

Very knowledgeable, and entertaining.

*Second Place*

**WAKG-FM, Danville, VA**

Barry Richmond

"NASCAR Noise - Lori Warren,  
Richmond Raceway"





**Best Sports Play-by-Play**

*First Place*

**WSVA-AM, Harrisonburg, VA**

Caleb Peek

"Spotswood Upsets Turner-Ashby for Valley District Title in Overtime Thriller"

The two broadcasters here had the best chemistry that I've heard thus far. Together they laid out how important this was. How everything was on the line at this very moment. The play-by-play broadcaster effortlessly set up the color commentator. The color guy always puts the cherry on top. Excellent back and forth here. They complement each other well. The call to action in the end was great.

*Second Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

John Freeman

"What Goes up Doesn't Come Down"

**Best Talk Show**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Rob Schilling

"The Schilling Show: Ramping up for Good"

Great delivery, and kept my attention.

**Best QA (One-on-One) Interview**

*First Place*

**WBTV-AM, Danville, VA**

Josh Lineberry

"Discussing Danville With Josh - United Way"

Conversation was very fluid, natural and informative. Guests and their occupations clearly stated and matched the topic.

*Second Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Michael Guthrie

"New Zoning Ordinance With Free Enterprise Institute's Neil Williamson"



**Best Specialty Reporting**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Michael Guthrie

"Projecting Third and Fourth Quarter

Housing Market Numbers"

The topic was discussed directly and was informative.

**Best Website**

*First Place*

**WAKG-FM, Danville, VA**

Ginyah Woods

Very easy to navigate. Nice layout.

*Second Place*

**WBTM-AM, Danville, VA**

Ginyah Woods

**Best Newscast**

*First Place*

**WSVA-AM, Harrisonburg, VA**

Caleb Peek

Caleb's natural flow in discussing the bomb threat incident was excellent. I did like how Caleb also acknowledged the call-in before moving forward to the next story. Everything ties together well.

*Second Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Jay Hart

"High School Sickout and Fire on

High"



**Best Radio News Anchor**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Dori Zook

Strong introduction, clear voice and paced appropriately.

*Second Place*

**WBTM-AM, Danville, VA**

Ryan Stone

Similarly strong introduction and clear voicing and pace.

**Best Radio Sports Anchor**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Luke Neer

"ACC: The More, The Merrier"

Well written and presented. Your use of audio bites and pacing were superior.

*Second Place*

**WBTM-AM, Danville, VA**

Ryan Stone

**Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism**

*First Place*

**WSVA-AM, Harrisonburg, VA**

Mario Retrosi

"Beyond the Soundbite"

Very nice production. Put together very well. Interesting content.





**Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias**

*First Place*

**WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA**

Jay Hart, Dori Zook and Courteney  
Stuart

"The Sauce is in the Sources"

Great focus on a variety of topics. All the stories were well written and produced.

*Second Place*

**WBTV-AM, Danville, VA**

Ryan Stone and Josh Lineberry

It came down to presentation, and WINA was "'smooth.'  
Very conversational, and pleasant to listen to.

***Congratulations!***

***Please visit our website for a downloadable list of winners***

**<https://vapb.org>**

