

Welcome to the Beach and the 2024 Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association Convention

We're thrilled to be back in a familiar home—with a new look! The Board of Directors and I hope you enjoy your stay at the Hilton Garden Ocean City Oceanfront—or The Artist Formerly Known As The Dunes for many longtime attendees. We think you'll be impressed with the changes and have a great weekend enjoying what Ocean City has to offer as we celebrate outstanding journalism as well as our scholarship winner.

An important note, especially if you did not join us last year: Friday Night's Crab Feast and Silent Auction will again be held off site at Hooper's Crab House located at 12913 Ocean Gateway in West Ocean City. The event kicks off at 7pm. With Friday traffic along Coastal Highway, give yourself about 10-15 minutes to get to the restaurant. Once you arrive, enjoy all-you-can-eat steamed crabs, steamed shrimp, fried chicken, corn on the cob and hush puppies—while bidding on a wide array of auction items with all proceeds benefiting the annual \$3000 Bob Shilling Memorial Scholarship.

Silent Auction tickets are two for \$1 for many prizes Friday night. We also have premium items at \$5 per ticket including \$100 restaurant gift cards, sports memorabilia, art work and sporting event tickets. These will be raffled off at Saturday night's Awards Banquet. AUCTION TICKETS ARE CASH/CHECK ONLY. PLEASE BE SURE TO WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF EACH TICKET before dropping them into the bags.

Our LIVE AUCTION will take place at the Banquet on Saturday with great items like:

- 4 Tickets behind home plate for Orioles-Indians at OPAC 6/25 (with parking)
- Ticket Packages for the Nationals both at Nationals Park and on the road
- Your message on a digital billboard for 4 weeks in the Philly metro area
- 4 VIP Tickets to a Loudoun United Soccer Game
- Bradford World Renown Portraiture Package-includes wall portrait and hotel stay

Saturday morning, enjoy a continental breakfast buffet on us at 8:30am. in Zippy Lewis Room. Then join us for the Annual Business Meeting and Seminar that follow in Zippy at 9am. This year's Seminar speaker is a timely one, as Media Safety Advisor Chris Post presents an informative session on the "Safety of Journalists and the Changing Environment We Work In".

After the Seminar, the afternoon is yours for some beach time or exploring Ocean City. We'll reconvene at 6pm for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the Solstice Private Dining Room. Our Awards Banquet starts at 7pm in the Dunes Manor Ballroom. We'll honor our scholarship winner and reveal the winners of our annual awards—and after the Banquet (or anytime during the weekend!) join us in the Hospitality Suite in Room 209 for beer, soda, snacks and conversation!

One other change to the schedule: in order to keep costs for our event manageable there will not be a formal breakfast on Sunday morning, though the hotel will have food available in the restaurant area.

Thanks for joining us at the 2024 Convention. We hope you enjoy the beach!

Jeff Wade
President, Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association