

Virginia and West Virginia broadcast stations honored at annual awards
Charlottesville TV Station WVIR-TV and West Virginia Public Broadcasting earn
Outstanding News Operation Award Two Years Running

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) _ For the second straight year, WVIR-TV won Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias for small market television, while WCHS-TV in Charleston, W.Va., took home the honor Saturday for large market television in the 2015 Virginias Associated Press Broadcasters Awards.

On the radio side, West Virginia Public Broadcasting of Charleston, W.Va., also picked up the Outstanding News Operation award for the second straight year among metropolitan stations. Another Charlottesville station, WINA-AM, won it among non-metropolitan stations.

Large market TV is defined as those having a Nielsen Market rating of 1 to 74. Small market is 75 and greater. Metropolitan stations are those licensed to a city with a population size of 50,000 or more. Non-metro stations are in cities with fewer than 50,000 people.

In all, 25 broadcast stations across Virginia and West Virginia were honored at the VAPB luncheon at the Omni Hotel. The list of winners were:

RADIO

METRO CLASSIFICATION:

OUTSTANDING NEWS OPERATION OF THE VIRGINIAS

Superior: WVPB-FM, Charleston, W.Va.

BEST COVERAGE OF A SPOT NEWS STORY

Superior: WTOP-FM, Manassas, Va., "McDonnell Verdict"

Meritorious: WVPB-FM, Charleston, W.Va., "Chemical Spill"

BEST COVERAGE OF A CONTINUING NEWS STORY

Superior: WTOP-FM, Manassas, Va., "The Search for Hannah Graham"

Meritorious: WVTF-FM, Roanoke, Va., "The Disappearance of Hannah Graham"

Meritorious: WVPB-FM, Charleston, W.Va., "Robert Bailey Black Lung"

OUTSTANDING SPORTS OPERATION OF THE VIRGINIAS

No entries submitted

BEST DOCUMENTARY OR IN-DEPTH REPORT

Superior: WTOP-FM, Manassas, Va., "New Arrivals"

Meritorious: WVPB-FM, Charleston, W.Va., "New Drug Can Cure Hepatitis C -- If Only We Could Afford It"

Meritorious: WVPB-FM, Charleston, W.Va., "Story of the Jews"

BEST FEATURE OR HUMAN INTEREST

Superior: WVPB-FM, Charleston, W.Va., "Bloody Butcher Corn: From Field to Fork"

Meritorious: WTOP-FM, Manassas, Va., "A Typical Day Turned Deadly"

Meritorious: WVTF-FM, Roanoke, Va., "Cigar Box Blues"

BEST SPORTS FEATURE

Superior: WVPB-FM, Charleston, W.Va., "Marshall Tennis Player From Sochi"

BEST SPORTS PLAY-BY-PLAY

No entries submitted

OUTSTANDING EFFORT BY AN INDIVIDUAL REPORTER

Superior: WVPB-FM, Charleston, W.Va., Ashton Marra

Meritorious: WVPB-FM, Charleston, W.Va., Glynis Board

Meritorious: WVPB-FM, Charleston, W.Va., Jessica Lilly

BEST EDITORIAL OR EDITORIAL SERIES:

Superior: WTOP-FM, Manassas, Va., "Core Values"

BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING:

No entries submitted

BEST WEBSITE

No entries submitted

DOUGLAS SOUTHALL FREEMAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE THROUGH RADIO

Superior: WVPB-FM, Charleston, W.Va., "West Virginia's Clean Water Struggles"

Meritorious: WVTF-FM, Roanoke, Va., "Dangerous Cargo Rides the Rails"

BEST RADIO NEWS ANCHOR OF THE YEAR

Superior: WHRV-FM, Norfolk, Va., Sondra Woodward

Meritorious: WVPB-FM, Charleston, W.Va., Jessica Lilly

BEST RADIO SPORTS ANCHOR OF THE YEAR

No entries submitted

RADIO

NON-METRO CLASSIFICATION:

OUTSTANDING NEWS OPERATION OF THE VIRGINIAS

Superior: WINA-AM, Charlottesville, Va.

Meritorious: WMUL-FM, Huntington, W.Va.

Meritorious: WBTM-AM, Danville, Va.

BEST COVERAGE OF A SPOT NEWS STORY

Superior: WMUL-FM, Huntington, W.Va., "New Police Chief"

Meritorious: WMUL-FM, Huntington, W.Va., "Senate Debate Recap"

Meritorious: WMUL-FM, Huntington, W.Va., "Councilman Gillespie"

BEST COVERAGE OF A CONTINUING NEWS STORY

Superior: WINA-AM, Charlottesville, Va., "Hannah"

Meritorious: WBTM-AM, Danville, Va., "The Coal Ash Spill"

OUTSTANDING SPORTS OPERATION OF THE VIRGINIAS

Superior: WMUL-FM, Huntington, W.Va.

Meritorious: WBTM-AM, Danville, Va.

Meritorious: WINA-AM, Charlottesville, Va.

BEST DOCUMENTARY OR IN-DEPTH REPORT

Superior: WNTX-AM, Fredericksburg, Va., "Focus: Ebola Awareness"

Meritorious: WINA-AM, Charlottesville, Va., "Rape at U.Va."

Meritorious: WINC-FM, Winchester, Va., "Understanding the Local Heroin Epidemic"

BEST FEATURE OR HUMAN INTEREST

Superior: WMUL-FM, Huntington, W.Va., "Taming of the Shrew"

Meritorious: WMUL-FM, Huntington, W.Va., "MU Pre-K"

Meritorious: WMUL-FM, Huntington, W.Va., "Take Back the Night"

BEST SPORTS FEATURE

Superior: WMUL-FM, Huntington, W.Va., "Berrie Walker Profile"

Meritorious: WMUL-FM, Huntington, W.Va., "Home for the Fountain Ceremony"

Meritorious: WMUL-FM, Huntington, W.Va., "Evan Huddon Feature"

BEST SPORTS PLAY-BY-PLAY

Superior: WINA-AM, Charlottesville, Va., "HS Football-- Monticello vs. Albemarle"

Meritorious: WRNR-AM, Martinsburg, W. Va., "Martinsburg HS Bulldogs Basketball"

Meritorious: WWMC-FM, Lynchburg, Va., "Liberty U. Lady Flames Basketball"

OUTSTANDING EFFORT BY AN INDIVIDUAL REPORTER

Superior: WMUL-FM Jessica Patterson, Huntington, W.Va.

BEST EDITORIAL OR EDITORIAL SERIES:

Superior: WINA-AM, Charlottesville, Va., "Consider the Source"

BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING:

Superior: WINA-AM, Charlottesville, Va., "Cellphonegate -- City taxes paying for unauthorized cellphones"

BEST WEBSITE

Superior: WMUL-FM, Huntington, W.Va., www.marshall.edu/wmul

Meritorious: WINA-AM, Charlottesville, Va., www.wina.com

Meritorious: WBTM-AM, Danville, Va., www.wbtmdanville.com

DOUGLAS SOUTHALL FREEMAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE THROUGH RADIO

Superior: WBTM-AM, Danville, Va., "Health Beat With Kathryn Davis"

Meritorious: WINA-AM, Charlottesville, Va., "Save Us From Lousy 401Ks"

BEST RADIO NEWS ANCHOR OF THE YEAR

Superior: WINA-AM Dori Zook, Charlottesville, Va.

Meritorious: WNTX-AM Deirdre Blake, Fredericksburg, Va.

Meritorious: WBTM-AM Chuck Vipperman, Danville, Va.

BEST RADIO SPORTS ANCHOR OF THE YEAR

Superior: WBTM-AM Chuck Vipperman, Danville, Va.

Meritorious: WMUL-FM Braxton Crisp, Huntington, W. Va.

Meritorious: WRNR-AM Matt Miller, Martinsburg, W.Va.

TELEVISION

LARGE MARKET:

OUTSTANDING NEWS OPERATION OF THE VIRGINIAS

Superior: WCHS-TV, Charleston, W.Va.

Meritorious: WVEC-TV, Norfolk, Va.

Meritorious: WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, Va.

BEST COVERAGE OF A SPOT NEWS STORY

Superior: WVEC-TV, Norfolk, Va., "Deadly Tornado Devastates Campground"

Meritorious: WVEC-TV, Norfolk, Va., "Rocket Explodes Live On Air"

Meritorious: WSLS-TV, Roanoke, Va., "Lynchburg Train Derailment"

BEST COVERAGE OF A CONTINUING NEWS STORY

Superior: WCHS-TV, Charleston, W.Va., "WV Water Crisis"

Meritorious: WRIC-TV, Richmond, Va., "The Disappearance of Hannah Graham"

Meritorious: WSLS-TV, Roanoke, Va., "Lynchburg Train Derailment Long Term Impact"

OUTSTANDING SPORTS OPERATION OF THE VIRGINIAS

Superior: WWBT-TV, Richmond, Va.

Meritorious: WSET-TV, Lynchburg, Va.

Meritorious: WVAH-TV, Charleston, W.Va.

BEST DOCUMENTARY OR IN-DEPTH REPORT

Superior: WVEC-TV, Norfolk, Va., "Virginia Is for Lovers: Marriage in the Commonwealth -- Past, Present and Future"

Meritorious: WSET-TV, Lynchburg, Va., "Overlord 2014: The 70th Anniversary of D-Day"

Meritorious: WWBT-TV, Richmond, Va., "Gaston: 10 Years Later"

BEST FEATURE OR HUMAN INTEREST STORY

Superior: WRIC-TV, Richmond, Va., "From Dope to Hope"

Meritorious: WAVY-TV, Portsmouth, Va., "A Call to Action"

Meritorious: WWBT-TV, Richmond, Va., "Jacob Walker"

BEST SPORTS FEATURE

Superior: WAVY-TV, Portsmouth, Va., "You Got to Fight, You Can't Quit"

Meritorious: WRIC-TV, Richmond, Va., "VCU Cyclist Wins National Title"

Meritorious: WVEC-TV, Norfolk, Va., "Making Your Mark: Home Run Hero"

OUTSTANDING EFFORT BY AN INDIVIDUAL REPORTER

Superior: WWBT-TV Laura Geller, Richmond, Va.

Meritorious: WSET-TV Danner Evans, Lynchburg, Va.

Meritorious: WRIC-TV Nate Eaton, Richmond, Va.

BEST EDITORIAL OR EDITORIAL SERIES

Superior: WWBT-TV, Richmond, Va., "Midterm Elections"

BEST SPOT PHOTOGRAPHY

Superior: WWBT-TV, Richmond, Va., "Richmond House Fire"

Meritorious: WSLS-TV, Roanoke, Va., "Lynchburg Train Derailment"

Meritorious: WWBT-TV, Richmond, Va., "Deadly House Fire"

BEST FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Superior: WCHS-TV, Charleston, W.Va., "Traveling West Virginia"
Meritorious: WVEC-TV, Norfolk, Va., "Joe's Job: Pest Control"
Meritorious: WVEC-TV, Norfolk, Va., "Unpaid Parking Tickets"

BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Superior: WRIC-TV, Richmond, Va., "Partying With Your Tax Dollars"
Meritorious: WCHS-TV, Charleston, W.Va., "Massage Parlor Investigation"
Meritorious: WVEC-TV, Norfolk, Va., "Above the Law: Red Light Runners"

BEST WEBSITE

Superior: WVEC-TV, Norfolk, Va., www.13newsnow.com
Meritorious: WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, Va., www.wdbj7.com
Meritorious: WWBT-TV, Richmond, Va., www.NBC12.com

DOUGLAS SOUTHWALL FREEMAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE THROUGH TELEVISION JOURNALISM

Superior: WWBT-TV, Richmond, Va., "12 On Your Side"
Meritorious: WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, Va., "WDBJ7 In-Depth"
Meritorious: WVEC-TV, Norfolk, Va., "Federal Lunch Program Overlooked"

BEST WEATHERCAST OF THE YEAR

Superior: WSLS-TV, Roanoke, Va.
Meritorious: WRIC-TV, Richmond, Va.
Meritorious: WVAH-TV, Charleston, W.Va.

OUTSTANDING EFFORT BY AN INDIVIDUAL WEATHERCASTER

Superior: WRIC-TV Matt DiNardo, Richmond, Va.
Meritorious: WRIC-TV John Bernier, Richmond, Va.
Meritorious: WRIC-TV Tim Pandajis, Richmond, Va.

BEST NEWS ANCHOR OF THE YEAR

Superior: WSLS-TV John Carlin, Roanoke, Va.
Meritorious: WSAZ-TV Amanda Barren, Charleston, W.Va.
Meritorious: WVEC-TV Lucy Bustamante, Norfolk, Va.

BEST SPORTS ANCHOR OF THE YEAR

Superior: WRIC-TV Mitch Carr, Richmond, Va.
Meritorious: WVEC-TV Scott Cash, Norfolk, Va.
Meritorious: WSLS-TV John Appicello, Roanoke, Va.

OUTSTANDING EFFORT BY AN INDIVIDUAL PRODUCER

Superior: WVEC-TV Victoria Zeal, Norfolk, Va.
Meritorious: WAVY-TV Laura Mammarella, Portsmouth, Va.
Meritorious: WSAZ-TV Mary Tignor, Charleston, W.Va.

TELEVISION

SMALL MARKET:

OUTSTANDING NEWS OPERATION OF THE VIRGINIAS

Superior: WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, Va.

BEST COVERAGE OF A SPOT NEWS STORY

Superior: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va., "Military Plane Crash in Deerfield"
Meritorious: WVVA-TV, Bluefield, W.Va., "Matoaka Fire"
Meritorious: WVVA-TV, Bluefield, W.Va., "East River Mountain Tunnel Fire"

BEST COVERAGE OF A CONTINUING NEWS STORY

Superior: WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, Va., "Fallout From Rape Allegations Against University of Virginia"
Meritorious: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va., "Spring Break Assault"
Meritorious: WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, Va., "The Search for Hannah Graham"

OUTSTANDING SPORTS OPERATION OF THE VIRGINIAS

Superior: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va.
Meritorious: WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, Va.
Meritorious: WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, Va.

BEST DOCUMENTARY OR IN-DEPTH REPORT

Superior: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va. "The Medical Marijuana Fight Hits Virginia"
Meritorious: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va. "Valley Veterans: The Wait for Help"
Meritorious: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va., "Spring Break Assault"

BEST FEATURE OR HUMAN INTEREST STORY

Superior: WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, Va., "Two Police Dogs Retiring From Albemarle County Police Department"
Meritorious: WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, Va., "Several Local Families Unsure of Fate of Missing Loved Ones"
Meritorious: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va., "The Fight to Serve"

BEST SPORTS FEATURE

Superior: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va., "Running With Autism"
Meritorious: WVVA-TV, Bluefield, W.Va., "Xander Bailey"
Meritorious: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va., "A Soldier's Return"

OUTSTANDING EFFORT BY AN INDIVIDUAL REPORTER

Superior: WHSV-TV Channing Frampton, Harrisonburg, Va.
Meritorious: WHSV-TV Nicole DiAntonio, Harrisonburg, Va.
Meritorious: WCAV-TV Colleen Quigley, Charlottesville, Va.

BEST EDITORIAL OR EDITORIAL SERIES

No entries submitted

BEST SPOT PHOTOGRAPHY

Superior: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va., "Military Plane Crash in Deerfield"
Meritorious: WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, Va., "2nd Alarm Fire at Charlottesville Hotel"

BEST FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Superior: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va., "The Wait for Help"
Meritorious: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va., "Coming Back"
Meritorious: WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, Va., "Scottsville Goat Trains for Commercial Possibilities"

BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Superior: WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, Va., "Locked In: Albemarle Family Questions Smart Key Technology"
Meritorious: WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, Va., "Residents Want Abandoned VDOT Home Sold"

BEST WEBSITE

Superior: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va., www.whsv.com
Meritorious: WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, Va., www.nbc29.com
Meritorious: WVVA-TV, Bluefield, W.Va., www.wvva.com

DOUGLAS SOUTHALL FREEMAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE THROUGH TELEVISION JOURNALISM

Superior: WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, Va., "Taxpayer Money Lost on Defunct Rt. 29 Western Bypass Proposal"
Meritorious: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va., "The Discipline Debate"

BEST WEATHERCAST OF THE YEAR

Superior: WVVA-TV, Bluefield, W. Va.
Meritorious: WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, Va.
Meritorious: WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, Va.

OUTSTANDING EFFORT BY AN INDIVIDUAL WEATHERCASTER

Superior: WVIR-TV David Rogers, Charlottesville, Va.
Meritorious: WHSV-TV Aubrey Urbanowicz, Harrisonburg, Va.
Meritorious: WCAV-TV, Travis Koshko, Charlottesville, Va.

BEST NEWS ANCHOR OF THE YEAR

Superior: WVIR-TV Steve Rappaport, Charlottesville, Va.

Meritorious: WVIR-TV Matt Talhelm, Charlottesville, Va.

Meritorious: WHSV-TV Channing Frampton, Harrisonburg, Va.

BEST SPORTS ANCHOR OF THE YEAR

Superior: WVIR-TV Marty Hudtloff, Charlottesville, Va.

Meritorious: WCAV-TV Damon Dillman, Charlottesville, Va.

Meritorious: WHSV-TV David DeGuzman, Harrisonburg, Va.

OUTSTANDING EFFORT BY AN INDIVIDUAL PRODUCER

Superior: WVIR-TV Amanda Williams, Charlottesville, Va.

Meritorious: WHSV-TV Channing Frampton, Harrisonburg, Va.

Meritorious: WHSV-TV Morgan Donnelly, Harrisonburg, Va.

END