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Re: IBA ANNOUNCES SMALL MARKET RADIO WINNERS OF SILVER DOME COMPETITION

CARTERVILLE/SPRINGFIELD- Celebrating their 40th anniversary, WRMJ-FM in Aledo, Illinois is the 2020 Illinois Broadcasters Association “Small Market Radio Station of the Year,” announced today in IBA’s virtual awards presentation. WRMJ is owned by John Hoscheit. In addition, WRMJ’s James Taylor received first place recognition for Best News Reporter and Best Sportscaster.

WMIX in Mt. Vernon, Illinois (owned by Withers Broadcasting) took home the most awards with winners in Best Non-Humorous Commercial, “Blood Moon Haunted House” Best Commercial Produced on Behalf of an Advertiser, “Welch’s Collision Center,” Best Light Feature, “Christmas for Cops,” with sportscaster Kyle Norris receiving an award for Best Radio Play-by-Play

Will Stevenson reporter for Galesburg Radio (WGIL/WAAG/WLSR/WKAY) won for Best Spot News Coverage for his coverage of “Monmouth Airport Fire” while the creative team was recognized for Best PSA for a Local Cause “Out of the Darkness” and Best Station Promotion “Home for the Holidays.”

WLPO, Starved Rock Media, LaSalle, Illinois was honored with the Best Radio Newscast for their “Morning News with Jeremy Aitken” and Best Hard News Story with Tom Henson’s coverage of “Valley of Shadows: Emily’s Story.”

NRG Media’s WCMY in Ottawa won for Best Humorous Commercial for “Shanley’s Mattress Center” produced by Billy Thompson.

WJOV, Jacksonville, Illinois received the Best Community Service Award for “Remembering the Fallen,” a tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice with military service. The station’s “Santa Hour” was chosen as the Best Use of Non-Broadcast Media, a social media campaign for children anticipating the arrival of Santa. The station is owned and managed by Sarah Shellhammer.

WDNL, Neuhoff Media station in Danville, Illinois received top honors for Best Radio Series/Documentary for “March Forth Moments” with credit to Mike Hulvey (Neuhoff COO), Michelle Campbell (General Manager) and on-air personality Tommy Barnes. Chad Baker was named Best Radio Personality for Small Market Radio.

The Coyote Morning Show, WYOT in Rochelle, Illinois, received Best Local Radio Broadcast Team honors. Kris Wexell and Chuck O’Brien make up the broadcast team on this top country radio station.

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This year's award presentation was co-hosted by Tommy McFly and Kelly Collis of the "Tommy and Kelly Show," produced and originating from Washington, DC. Information on their show is available at www.ilba.org. Broadcast professionals supplied by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters served as judges for this competition.

The Illinois Army National Guard sponsored this year's virtual presentation with Illinois Army National Guard soldiers participating in the virtual presentation while taking the opportunity to remind the audience the important role of the local broadcaster provides to their communities when disaster strikes. Illinois Broadcasters Association-member stations support the efforts of the Illinois Army National Guard's message by participation in IBA's NCSA/PEP program.