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**Finalists in the 2018 Illinois APBA Broadcast Contest:****TVI/Metro TV**

**Best Spot News:** WLS-TV, Chicago, "Mercy Hospital Shooting"; WLS-TV, Chicago, "Plane Lands on Lake Shore Drive."

**Best Sports Report:** Mike Bush and Scott Suppelsa, KSDK-TV, St. Louis, "Lesson in Sportsmanship"; Jeremy Ross and Don Stanke, WBBM-TV, Chicago, "Hold Your Breath."

**Best Light Feature:** Mike Bush and Tom Stasiak, KSDK-TV, St. Louis, "Jerseyville Rodney"; WLS-TV, Chicago, "Sofia Sanchez's Journey."

**Best Hard News Feature:** WMAQ-TV, Chicago, "The Mysterious Flight of Taylor Clark"; Jeremy Ross and DeAndra Taylor, WBBM-TV, Chicago, "You Look Good for a Dead Man."

**Best Series or Documentary:** WLS-TV, Chicago, "Catholic Church Crisis"; WLS-TV, Chicago, "Marc Winner Convicted."

**Best Investigative Report:** WLS-TV, Chicago, "Code Red"; WMAQ-TV, Chicago, "You, Too: The Public Cost of Sex Harassment."

**Best Digital Presence:** WLS-TV, Chicago.

**Best Newswriter:** Mike Bush, KSDK-TV, St. Louis; Jeremy Ross, WBBM-TV, Chicago.

**Best Reporter:** Jeremy Ross, WBBM-TV, Chicago.

**Best Newscast:** WMAQ-TV, Chicago; WLS-TV, Chicago.

**TVII/Local TV**

**Best Spot News:** WREX-TV, Rockford, "Dixon High School Shooting"; WREX-TV, Rockford, "Embezzlement Accusations Hit RAEDC."

**Best Sports Report:** Derek Bayne, WREX-TV, Rockford, "Leader, Coach, Mom: The Story of Misty Opat"; Elizabeth Wadas and Stephanie Mattan, WQAD-TV, Moline, "Redneck Fishing."

**Best Light Feature:** Dee Dee Gatton, WICS-TV, Springfield, "Saints Flight"; Caitlin Knute and Emily Ogden, WEEK-TV (NBC), East Peoria, "Making it: The Joe Stamm Band."

**Best Hard News Feature:** Kristin Crowley, Ale Alvarez and Josh Morgan, WREX-TV, Rockford, "Candid Conversations"; Taylor Utzig and Josh Morgan, WREX-TV, Rockford, "Avoiding Tragedy."

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**Best Series or Documentary:** Denise Hnytka and Stephanie Mattan, WQAD-TV, Moline, "Marine Bootcamp"; WREX-TV, Rockford, "Out of the Darkness - Shining a Light on Domestic Violence."

**Best Investigative Report:** Kristin Crowley, Audrey Moon and Mary Sugden, WREX-TV, Rockford, "Bitter Custody Battle Leads to Violent Altercation"; Rachel Droze, WICS-TV, Springfield, "Overtime Gold Mine."

**Best Videography:** Randy Biery, KWQC-TV, Davenport, "Ride the Train"; Andy McKay, Jenny Hipskind and Anthony Panicucci, WQAD-TV, Moline, "Savanna Bridge Implosion."

**Best Digital Presence:** WICS-TV, Springfield; WREX-TV, Rockford.

**Best Newswriter:** Kristin Crowley, WREX-TV, Rockford; Caitlin Knute, WEEK-TV (NBC), East Peoria.

**Best Reporter:** Taylor Utzig, WREX-TV, Rockford; Elizabeth Wadas, WQAD-TV, Moline.

**Best Newscast:** Jeff Burnett and Lon Lucas, WEEK-TV (NBC), East Peoria; Angelique Kacynski, WICD-TV, Champaign.

## **Radio I/Metro Radio**

**Best Spot News:** WBBM-AM, Chicago, "No Mercy"; WBBM-AM, Chicago, "The Jason Van Dyke Verdict."

**Best Sports Report:** Adam Hoge, WGN-AM, Chicago, "Adam Hoge and The Bears"; George Ofman, WBBM-AM, Chicago, "Rocky Wirtz."

**Best Light Feature:** Andrea Darlas, WGN-AM, Chicago, "A Few Good Women"; Bob Kessler, Rivet, Chicago, "MacArthur Park Turns 50: A Tale of Two Recipes."

**Best Hard News Feature:** Miles Bryan and Rob Wildeboer, WBEZ-FM, Chicago, "State Board Regularly OKs Gun Licenses Despite Police Warnings"; Mike Krauser, WBBM-AM, Chicago, "Cat Rescue."

**Best Series or Documentary:** Jesse Betend, Rivet, Chicago, "Life After It's Over"; Dometi Pongo and Ryan Burrow, WGN-AM, Chicago, "From the Mountaintop: The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

**Best Use of Sound:** Ryan Burrow, WGN-AM, Chicago, "Convention in Chaos - 50 Years Later"; Sarah Karp, Joe DeCeault and Cate Cahan, WBEZ-FM, Chicago, "One High School, Two Walkouts."

**Best Digital Presence:** WBBM-AM, Chicago.

**Best Newswriter:** Mark Friedman, WBBM-AM, Chicago.

**Best Reporter:** Ryan Burrow, WGN-AM, Chicago; Lisa Fielding, WBBM-AM, Chicago.

**Best Newscast:** Jennifer Keiper, WLS-AM, Chicago; WBBM-AM, Chicago.

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**Radio II/Local Radio**

**Best Spot News:** Lee Gaines, WILL-AM, Urbana, "Obama Visits U of I Campus, Urges Students to Get Out and Vote."

**Best Sports Report:** Brad Palmer, WSIU-FM, Carbondale, "Carbondale Teen Makes MLS Debut"; Eric Stock, WGLT-FM, Normal, "Friday Night Lights Out: Football's Uncertain Future."

**Best Light Feature:** Rich Egger, WIUM-FM, Macomb, "The Blind Swine: It's The Cat's Pajamas"; Rachel Otwell, WUIS-FM, Springfield, "A Biker Meet-Up With African-American Roots."

**Best Hard News Feature:** Rich Egger, WIUM-FM, Macomb, "Dark Days"; Christine Herman, WILL-AM, Urbana, "Out of Options, Parents Trade Custody for Treatment."

**Best Series or Documentary:** Christine Herman, WILL-AM, Urbana, "Continuing Mental Health Coverage"; WGLT-FM, Normal, "Skipping School: Illinois' Teacher Shortage."

**Best Investigative Report:** Ryan Denham and Mary Cullen, WGLT-FM, Normal, "Police Diverge on Approach to Speeding Tickets"; Lee Gaines, WILL-AM, Urbana, "Illinois Prison System Spent Less Than \$300 on Books Last Year."

**Best Use of Sound:** Rich Egger, WIUM-FM, Macomb, "The Blind Swine: It's The Cat's Pajamas"; Connie Kuntz, WNIJ-FM, DeKalb, "The Beauty and Science of Bird Banding."

**Best Digital Presence:** WGLT-FM, Normal; WVIK-FM, Rock Island.

**Best Newswriter:** Ethan Kruger, WCMY-AM, Ottawa; Susan Stephens, WNIJ-FM, DeKalb.

**Best Reporter:** Ryan Denham, WGLT-FM, Normal; Susan Stephens, WNIJ-FM, DeKalb.

**Best Newscast:** Brian Moline, WILL-AM, Urbana; Charlie Schlenker, WGLT-FM, Normal.

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