***Radio and TV Categories for 2020 IBNA News Contest.***

***Entry Deadline is. on February 15, 2021***

1. ***SPOT NEWS COVERAGE*** - A recorded or live report of a breaking story, not a pre-planned event. Criteria include clarity, editing, scripting, delivery, thoroughness, speed with which the story is covered, ability to place the audience at the scene, and indication to the audience of the significance/consequences of the event. The entry can include details of when the story broke, how soon after that the entry aired, what reports followed, etc. Compilation of same-day coverage is allowed.

2. ***FEATURE*** - A single story aired with the intent to provide relief from the impact of hard news stories. Criteria include human interest, delivery, production values, and the ability to evoke audience emotion. (“Hard news” features should be entered in another category, such as general reporting.)

3. ***IN-DEPTH/SERIES*** - An expanded report or series that provides background and understanding of a specific news event or issue. Entries should go beyond the traditional spot news story.

4. ***PUBLIC AFFAIRS*** - A single program or a series of programs that address one or more issues of importance to the community and, by providing information or advocating action, helps the community understand or deal with the issue(s). Written background information on the issues should be provided to aid the judges. Audience or community feedback as a result of the story can also be attached.

5. ***FARM AND AGRIBUSINESS*** - A single story or series on one topic that demonstrates the station's commitment to reporting on farm and/or agribusiness issues. Entry should not include market reports.

6. ***SPORTS COVERAGE*** - Coverage of sports figures or events, but not play-by-play. Entries should be reports that give the audience an insight into the person or event. Presentation and writing of the stories should be considered in the judging.

7. ***SPORTS PLAY-BY-PLAY***- Locally originated coverage of athletic contests. An entire game should not be submitted. Criteria include flexibility, vividness and enthusiasm. No network feeds but flagship stations in Iowa may enter. Compilation entries are encouraged; a compilation should not exceed 20 minutes. "Highlight" shows should be entered in the Sports Coverage category. For broadcasts on over-the-air, terrestrial radio stations or online stream.

8. ***POLITICAL COVERAGE -*** Coverage of politics, including elections. Entries should be reports that give meaning to the issues and the candidates, or breaking coverage of importance. A compilation of coverage should not exceed 20 minutes.

9. ***GENERAL REPORTING*** - A general news story. It should not be spot news, but this category is designed for “hard news”, instead of “feature” stories.

10. ***BEST NEWSCAST*** - IBNA designates "contest days" each year, with notice given to stations. Enter ONLY newscasts aired on those designated days. A station may submit multiple entries in this category. Newscasts are judged on the presentation and interaction of the anchor/anchors. Consideration should also be given to local story content. While entries may include national/international material supplied by networks, judges are instructed to disregard such stories in their evaluation. The contest dates are: Sept 28 (TV) Sep 29 (radio), November 13 (Radio and TV), December 4 (Radio and TV), December 14 (Radio and TV),December 22th (TV) December 23 (radio).

11. ***BEST SPORTSCAST*** - IBNA designates "contest days" each year. Enter ONLY from sportscasts aired on those designated days. A station may submit multiple sportscasts Newscasts are judged on the presentation and interaction of the anchor/anchors. Consideration should also be given to local story content. While entries may include national/international material supplied by networks, judges are instructed to disregard such stories in their evaluation. . The contest dates are: Sept 28 (TV) Sep 29 (radio), November 13 (Radio and TV), December 4 (Radio and TV), December 14 (Radio and TV),December 22th (TV) December 23 (radio).

 12. ***NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY*** - Video which may be part of a news assignment or a feature aired primarily for photographic quality. Criteria include quality, editing, imagination, impact on the viewer, and the ability to tell a story visually. Compilation entries are not allowed.

13. ***OVERALL EXCELLENCE*** – A compilation, not to exceed 20 minutes, demonstrating the station's commitment to high journalistic ideals, commitment to community and ability to cover the big story.