

# PROFESSIONAL CALL FOR ENTRIES

62<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL WILMER C. FIELDS  
AWARDS COMPETITION



2026 WORKSHOP | MOBILE, AL

# WILMER C. FIELDS AWARDS

## PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION

Awards will be presented during the BCA workshop in Mobile, AL / April 14, 2026

Baptist Communicators Association members are invited to submit their work to the 62<sup>ND</sup> Annual BCA Awards Competition. The competition is designed to encourage professional excellence among association members and to recognize those members who have done exemplary work. Each year, the awards are presented at the annual workshop. The competition is named in memory of Wilmer C. Fields, BCA lifetime member and former vice president of public relations for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The competition includes individual Baptist communicators who were members in good standing and who paid their membership dues the previous year by December 31. All entries in the competition must have been produced or published during 2025. Each member submitting an entry must have designed, directed, written, photographed, edited, recorded or created the entry. There is no limit to the number of entries. Entries that fail to conform to category requirements will be disqualified from competition. **Entries submitted by non-BCA members and entries where non-BCA members completed the majority of the work will be disqualified. AI-assisted material should be noted in supporting documentation.** Work completed by students is only eligible for the professional competition if the project was used in a professional capacity and under the direction of professional staff. The student also must hold a student membership in BCA. Student publications or class projects should be submitted in the student competition (separate from this competition with submissions due in the late spring of 2026). Judges have the right to move an entry from the submitted category to a more appropriate category.

**Entry Deadline: January 31, 2026** Entries must be submitted online by January 31, 2026. Mailed entries must be postmarked by this date and scheduled to arrive no later than February 3, 2026. Please consider using a commercial mailing service like UPS or FedEx.

**Award Entry: Online at [baptistcommunicators.org/awards](https://baptistcommunicators.org/awards).** All entries must be submitted online. All divisions require that supporting files be uploaded online, with the exception of the option to mail in printed entries in Public Relations, Design and Overall Publication. In that case, three copies of supporting files should be mailed to: Illinois Baptist State Association, c/o Lisa Misner, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Springfield, IL 62703. **Mailed print entries that do not include three copies will only be judged using the digital version.** If you would like your mailed-in entry returned, please indicate it online and pay \$10 per entry.

**Questions? Contact Awards Chair Lisa Misner** Email her at [LisaMisner@IBSA.org](mailto:LisaMisner@IBSA.org).

**Fees: \$40 per professional entry (for every five entries, the sixth one is free)**

You may pay with credit card online in the Awards Submission System, but if you'd like to pay by check, please include a list of entries covered by the payment (list may be printed from the Awards Submission System). To pay by mail, make check payable to BCA and send to: Margaret Colson, 4519 Lashley Court, Marietta, GA 30068.

## I. Public Relations and Development Division

1. Total Public Relations or Development Campaign
2. Public Relations for Special Events
3. Communications and/or Marketing Strategy (for projects, events, etc., that would not fit in cat. 1 or 2)

**Grand Prize: The Arthur S. Davenport Award**, given for exceptional achievement in public relations and development.

Your case must include the following information. Your entry may be disqualified if not.

- **Research:** Method used to identify the project's purpose and to support specific planning and programming
- **Planning:** Goals and objectives written as a result of the research, as well as the strategic plan to meet the goals and objectives
- **Implementation:** Materials, activities, writing, publications and other tools and techniques used to implement the program. Include budget details here as well as how you effectively and creatively used available resources.
- **Evaluation:** Efforts to identify and analyze results to determine if the program achieved its objectives.

## Preparation for Public Relations and Development Division

- All entries must be submitted online at [baptistcommunicators.org/awards](http://baptistcommunicators.org/awards).
- **Supporting documents must be submitted online** by loading files or linking to a file sharing service (a combined PDF or Word file is preferred) with your entry form. You may optionally mail three printed copies to:  
Illinois Baptist State Association  
c/o Lisa Misner  
3085 Stevenson Drive  
Springfield, IL 62703

Please use Times New Roman font, single-spaced and no less than 12-point type. In addition to your written case, include relevant documentation that shows evidence of the success of the work. It can range from branded print material, photographs, video, Internet coverage, research and post campaign or event evaluations, etc.

- If you would like your optional printed entry returned, please pay \$10 per entry online.
- Mailed print entries that do not include three copies will only be judged on the digital version.
- If AI or a freelance or contracted individual or organization was used for any portion of the project, detail that involvement and your role with them in the project's development.

**Questions:** Email [LisaMisner@IBSA.org](mailto:LisaMisner@IBSA.org) or call 217-391-3119.

**Entry Category:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Score 1-5 where applicable for each of the following:**

**1. Work on basics   2. Below average   3. Average   4. Above average   5. Excellent**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Summary** (clear articulation of entry's purpose, objectives or strategic goals)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Research** (background, situational analysis, how audience was identified, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Planning** (goals, timeline, resources, objectives, key messages, focus on target audience)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Implementation** (tactics or activities, supplemental materials, effective use of budget, number of people involved, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Evaluation** (methods, comparisons, extent to which objective achieved, etc.)

**Overall Score**


**Critique Entry:** This competition is not just about winning. It is about contestants improving and becoming more effective communicators. Thoughtful and complete critiques are invaluable to achieving this goal. The "3. Average" rating is the equivalent of saying the try is acceptable or adequate — that it met all the minimal requirements and earns the right to compete for the awards segment of the evaluation. Only entries scoring 15 or higher overall will make it to the judging round for the awards, which will come after the thorough evaluation and critique of the individual entry itself.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

**Additional comments:**

## II. Interactive Communications Division

4. Web, organization or company
  - A. Single page
  - B. Small site (2-24 pages)
  - C. Large site (25 pages or more)
5. Web, event or promotion
  - A. Single page
  - B. Small site (2-24 pages)
  - C. Large site (25 pages or more)
6. Social Media (Include screenshot(s) and link(s) in the supporting document along with a brief narrative about the background/engagement)
  - A. Single Post (e.g., text, photo, graphic, animation, edited video, etc.)
  - B. Campaign or Event
7. Email Marketing (Include screenshot(s) in the supporting document along with a brief narrative about the background/engagement)
  - A. Single Email
  - B. Series

**Grand Prize: Diane Reasoner Award**, given for exceptional achievement in interactive communications

## Preparation for Interactive Communications Division

- All interactive entries must be submitted online and should be accompanied by either a link to your entry or uploaded supporting files at [baptistcommunicators.org/awards](http://baptistcommunicators.org/awards).
- **Submit a one-page, single-spaced Word document describing the significant features of the entry** to include budget, number of individuals involved, purpose, target audience and if the site was custom built or an adapted template (like Wordpress, Squarespace, Wix, etc.). Please use no less than 12-point type.
- If AI or a freelance or contracted individual or organization was used for any portion of the project, detail that involvement and your role with them in the project's development.
- We will accept supporting files saved as doc, docx, pdf, jpg, gif, png and mp3.
- Some digital files can become very large. Before uploading files, minimize the size of the files as much as possible while maintaining quality. If you have issues uploading large files, please consider using a file sharing service instead.

**Questions** Email [LisaMisner@IBSA.org](mailto:LisaMisner@IBSA.org) or call 217-391-3119.

**Entry Category:** \_\_\_\_\_**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Score 1-5 where applicable for each of the following:****1. Work on basics   2. Below average   3. Average   4. Above average   5. Excellent**\_\_\_\_\_ **Originality**\_\_\_\_\_ **Functionality**\_\_\_\_\_ **Design**\_\_\_\_\_ **Creativity**\_\_\_\_\_ **Achievement of purpose**\_\_\_\_\_ **Ease of use/navigation**\_\_\_\_\_ **Supplemental materials**(budget, statement of purpose,  
entry summary)**Overall Score**

**Critique Entry:** This competition is not just about winning. It is about contestants improving and becoming more effective communicators. Thoughtful and complete critiques are invaluable to achieving this goal. The “3. Average” rating is the equivalent of saying the try is acceptable or adequate — that it met all the minimal requirements and earns the right to compete for the awards segment of the evaluation. Only entries scoring 21 or higher overall will make it to the judging round for the awards, which will come after the thorough evaluation and critique of the individual entry itself.

**Strengths:****Weaknesses:****Additional comments:**

## III. Audio-Visual Communications Division

### 8. Video

#### A. Storytelling

(including documentary, editorial feature, etc.)

- i. Less than 1 minute
- ii. 1-3 minutes
- iii. More than 3 minutes

#### B. Promotion

(including commercial, advertisement, fundraising, recruitment, etc.)

- i. Less than 1 minute
- ii. 1-3 minutes
- iii. More than 3 minutes

#### C. Event Coverage

- i. Less than 1 minute
- ii. 1-3 minutes
- iii. More than 3 minutes

#### D. Event

(produced solely for an event - intros/outros, theme development, memorials, etc.)

- i. Less than 1 minute
- ii. 1-3 minutes
- iii. More than 3 minutes

#### E. Instructional

(including training, educational, etc.)

- i. Less than 3 minutes
- ii. More than 3 minutes

#### F. Broadcast/Podcast

- i. Overall Show  
(submit at least 3 episodes)
- ii. Individual Episode

#### G. Special Effects

(including animation, motion graphics, typography, etc.)

### 9. Audio

#### A. Broadcast/Podcast

- i. Overall Show (submit at least 3 episodes)
- ii. Individual Episode

**Grand Prize: M.E. Dodd Memorial Award**, given for significant achievement in radio, television, film and video

## Preparation for Audio-Visual Communications Division

- All AV entries must be submitted online and should be accompanied by either a link to your entry or uploaded supporting files at [baptistcommunicators.org/awards](http://baptistcommunicators.org/awards).
- **Submit a one-page, single-spaced Word document describing the significant features of the entry** to include budget, number of individuals involved, purpose and target audience. Please use no less than 12-point type.
- If AI or a freelance or contracted individual or organization was used for any portion of the project, detail that involvement and your role with them in the project's development.
- AV entries should be posted elsewhere online (YouTube, Vimeo, organization's website, etc.) and links should be provided for judging. The one exception is that mp3 files may be uploaded into the Awards Submission System.
- Podcasters must also describe how their podcast may be accessed online.

**Questions:** Email [LisaMisner@IBSA.org](mailto:LisaMisner@IBSA.org) or call 217-391-3119.

**Entry Category:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Score 1-5 where applicable for each of the following:**

**1. Work on basics   2. Below average   3. Average   4. Above average   5. Excellent**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Originality**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Achievement of purpose**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Creativity**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Production value**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Editing**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Supplemental materials**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Cinematography**  
(video only)

(budget, statement of purpose,  
entry summary)

**Overall Score**

**Critique Entry:** This competition is not just about winning. It is about contestants improving and becoming more effective communicators. Thoughtful and complete critiques are invaluable to achieving this goal. The “3. Average” rating is the equivalent of saying the try is acceptable or adequate — that it met all the minimal requirements and earns the right to compete for the awards segment of the evaluation. Only entries scoring 18 or higher for audio or 21 or higher for video overall will make it to the judging round for the awards, which will come after the thorough evaluation and critique of the individual entry itself.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

**Additional comments:**



## IV. Photography Division

- 10. Feature
  - A. Single
  - B. Series or Package
- 11. News
  - A. Single
  - B. Series or Package
- 12. Promotional or Advertisement
  - A. Single
  - B. Series
- 13. Event Coverage
  - A. Single
  - B. Series
- 14. Portrait
  - A. Studio
  - B. Environmental
- 15. Photo Essay

**Grand Prize: Fon H. Scofield Award**, given for significant achievement in photography

## Preparation for Photography Division

- All entries must be submitted online by uploading the files with the entry form at [baptistcommunicators.org/awards](http://baptistcommunicators.org/awards).
- Entries in the Photography Division must have been taken by the individual entering the contest, not an organization entering on behalf of a freelancer.
- Submit each entry as a jpeg file saved at 300 dpi image quality 8, sized at 10 inches on the long side.
- **Submit a Word document describing the significant features of the entry**, including: what the image(s) were produced for, caption(s), background of the story, target audience, timeframe image(s) were produced in, etc. **All images submitted for an entry must have been published in 2025.** Include supporting documents for proof of publication (tear sheets, screenshots, links, etc.) This document is very important as there have been multiple years where two entries were tied all the way to the end, and a well-written supporting document made the difference.
- Please ensure the document is no more than five pages, in Times New Roman, no less than 12-point type, and a single-spaced document in Word.

**Questions:** Email [LisaMisner@IBSA.org](mailto:LisaMisner@IBSA.org) or call 217-391-3119.

**Entry Category:** \_\_\_\_\_**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Score 1-5 where applicable for each of the following:****1. Work on basics   2. Below average   3. Average   4. Above average   5. Excellent**\_\_\_\_\_ **Originality**\_\_\_\_\_ **Communicates message**\_\_\_\_\_ **Creativity**\_\_\_\_\_ **Composition**\_\_\_\_\_ **Impact**\_\_\_\_\_ **Lighting**\_\_\_\_\_ **Quality****Overall Score**

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**Strengths:****Weaknesses:****Additional comments:**

## V. News Writing Division

16. Single Article
  - A. Less than 750 words
  - B. 750-1,500 words
  - C. More than 1,500 words
17. Series or Package
18. Opinion/Editorial
19. Investigative Reporting

**Grand Prize: Frank Burkhalter Award**, given for significant achievement in religious news writing

## VI. Feature Writing Division

20. Single Article
  - A. Less than 750 words
  - B. 750-1,500 words
  - C. More than 1,500 words
21. Series or Package
22. First-Person Column/Blog
  - A. Single entry
  - B. Series
23. Copywriting
  - A. Speech
  - B. Ceremony
  - C. Photo Caption
  - D. AV Production
  - E. Print Collateral
  - F. Digital Collateral

**Grand Prize: Leonard Holloway Award**, given for exceptional achievement in feature writing

## Preparation for News & Feature Writing Divisions

- All entries must be submitted online by uploading the files or linking to a file sharing service with the entry form at [baptistcommunicators.org/awards](http://baptistcommunicators.org/awards).
- **Your written entry must be presented as a Word file** with the following specifications: Times New Roman, single-spaced, no less than 12-point type.
- **Also submit a pdf file of the tear sheet** showing the published article, if possible.
- Writing entries must have been written by the individual entering.
- A series is a number of single related articles that are sequential in nature (sometimes indicated by Part 1, Part 2, etc.). A package can be news and feature stories of various length, facts, Q&A's and other related information.

**Entry Category:** \_\_\_\_\_**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Score 1-5 where applicable for each of the following:****1. Work on basics   2. Below average   3. Average   4. Above average   5. Excellent**\_\_\_\_\_ **Originality**\_\_\_\_\_ **Appropriate for audience**\_\_\_\_\_ **Creativity**\_\_\_\_\_ **Balance of depth**\_\_\_\_\_ **Language**\_\_\_\_\_ **Timeliness**\_\_\_\_\_ **Content flow****Overall Score**

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**Strengths:****Weaknesses:****Additional comments:**

## VII. Design Division

### 24. Design Elements

- A. Logo
  - i. New
  - ii. Redesign
- B. Illustration
- C. Infographic
- D. Editorial Cartoon
- E. Interactive Graphic (maps, calculators, etc.)
- F. Motion Graphics (gifs, animations, etc.)

### 25. Substantial Projects

- A. Integrated Branding (elements of a marketing campaign that were designed to promote a specific message.)
- B. Special Display (exhibit, environmental graphics, wayfinding system, signage system, etc.)

### 26. Print Collateral

- A. Brochure
- B. Booklet
- C. Poster or Flyer
- D. Direct Mail
- E. Specialty Item
- F. Large Format (billboard, banner, etc.)
- G. Advertisement

### 27. Digital Collateral

- A. Landing Webpage
- B. Social Media Graphics
- C. Email
- D. Large Format (digital billboard, digital signage, etc.)
- E. Advertisement

### 28. Print Publications

- A. Newspaper
  - i. Single Issue
  - ii. Front Page
  - iii. Spread
- B. Magazine
  - i. Single Issue
  - ii. Cover
  - iii. Spread
- C. Newsletter
- D. Annual Report
- E. Redesign (include before and after)

### 29. Digital Publications

- (uniquely designed for a digital platform)
- A. Newspaper
- B. Magazine
- C. Newsletter
- D. Annual Report
- E. Redesign (include before and after)

**Grand Prize: Albert McClellan Award**, given for significant achievement in print/design

## Preparation for Design Division

- All entries must be submitted online at [baptistcommunicators.org/awards](http://baptistcommunicators.org/awards).
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- If you would like your printed entry returned, please pay \$10 per entry online.
- Mailed print entries that do not include three copies will only be judged using the digital version.
- If AI or a freelance or contracted individual or organization was used for any portion of the project, detail that involvement and your role with them in the project's development.
- **Include documentation describing significant features/challenges** as a Word file in Times New Roman font, single-spaced and no less than 12-point type.

**Questions** Email [LisaMisner@IBSA.org](mailto:LisaMisner@IBSA.org) or call 217-391-3119.

**Entry Category:** \_\_\_\_\_**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Score 1-5 where applicable for each of the following:****1. Work on basics   2. Below average   3. Average   4. Above average   5. Excellent**\_\_\_\_\_ **Originality**\_\_\_\_\_ **Composition and balance**\_\_\_\_\_ **Creativity**\_\_\_\_\_ **Use of typography and fonts**\_\_\_\_\_ **Use of color**\_\_\_\_\_ **Meets implied objective**\_\_\_\_\_ **Appropriate for audience****Overall Score**

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**Strengths:****Weaknesses:****Additional comments:**

## VIII. Overall Publication Division

### 30. Mixed Media Coverage

Coverage of one story with a mixture of text, photos, audio/video, interactive elements, etc.

### 31. Electronic Publication

### 32. Print Publication

A. Magazine

B. Newspaper

### 33. Book

## Preparation for Overall Publication Division

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- If AI or a freelance or contracted individual or organization was used for any portion of the project, detail that involvement and your role with them in the project's development.
- **Include documentation describing significant features/challenges.** Must be a Word file in Times New Roman font, single-spaced and no less than 12-point type. Judges will base their initial decisions on the strength of the arguments made in this document, so please plan accordingly when putting the document together.
- Entries may be supported with relevant documentation that shows evidence of the success of the work. It can range from branded print material, photographs, video, Internet coverage, research and post campaign or event evaluations, etc.

**Questions** Email [LisaMisner@IBSA.org](mailto:LisaMisner@IBSA.org) or call 217-391-3119.

**Entry Category:** \_\_\_\_\_**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Score 1-5 where applicable for each of the following:****1. Work on basics   2. Below average   3. Average   4. Above average   5. Excellent**

_____ Originality	_____ Appropriate for audience	<b>Overall Score</b> <div></div>
_____ Creativity	_____ Appropriate balance	
_____ Timeliness	_____ Use of typography and fonts	
_____ Quality of content	_____ Variety of photos and/or videos	
_____ Achievement of purpose	_____ Consistent quality of all elements throughout	
_____ Overall appearance/execution		

**Critique Entry:** This competition is not just about winning. It is about contestants improving and becoming more effective communicators. Thoughtful and complete critiques are invaluable to achieving this goal. The “3. Average” rating is the equivalent of saying the try is acceptable or adequate — that it met all the minimal requirements and earns the right to compete for the awards segment of the evaluation. Only entries scoring 33 or higher overall will make it to the judging round for the awards, which will come after the thorough evaluation and critique of the individual entry itself.

**Strengths:****Weaknesses:****Additional comments:**