

# THE WIN CROWD

Broadcast winners share their Awards week experiences



Lia Knight

**THE LIA SHOW, LIA KNIGHT, NATIONAL PERSONALITY:** “You get to hang out in the green room for a while, then there’s that moment of waiting,” Lia says. “After that, they hand you the award and take a picture of you staring out into space. You try not to be nervous or have jitters because there’s something so amazing about being able to walk out on that stage. The Awards have a very familial feeling – everyone coming together and celebrating the success of the format and the music. It’s such a cool experience.”

**WKXC/AUGUSTA, GA SMALL MARKET STATION:** “The musical experience was incredible,” says PD **T. Gentry**. “We had our guitar pull when we got back, and as I introduced the airstaff I handed each of them the trophy,” Gentry says. “The audience went crazy. It’s almost bigger to the listeners. They see that crystal bullet and just flip.”

“That’s when it really sunk in that it was ours,” night jock Chris O’Kelley says. “Having that trophy in your hand is pretty incredible.” **CAC**



Chris Carr

**CHRIS CARR, MAJOR MARKET PERSONALITY, KEYE/MINNEAPOLIS:** “The audience reaction has been incredible,” Carr says. “After Jason Aldean called me on-air, one woman called just bawling because she was so happy. I didn’t put it on the air because it seemed a little self-serving, but this win is very personal for people around here. I went on the air the day after the Awards – which, by the way, was a mistake – but people call and really take ownership of it. They even show up to appearances, and they say ‘Thank you,’ which is very interesting.”



KYGO/Denver  
PD Joel Burke,  
GM Bob Call

**JIM DENNY & FRIENDS JIM DENNY, DEBORAH HONEYCUTT, KEVIN FREEMAN, LARGE MARKET PERSONALITY, WFMS/INDIANAPOLIS:** “We talk to Country’s favorite stars every week, but sitting in the audience [near] Carrie Underwood and Rascal Flatts made us realize we’re fans, too,” Honeycutt says. “We had to laugh when Carrie walked by and we all grabbed our cell phones to text our friends at home. Something else that left a lasting impression was during the pre-telecast award presentation, we looked out from the stage and locked eyes with Martina McBride. She was one of the only stars who arrived early and she sat in the center of the front row clapping for each and every award winner. Class act.”



Jim Denny,  
Deborah Honeycutt,  
Kevin Freeman

**DAN TOOKER IN THE MORNING DAN TOOKER, JON WATKINS, COLBY ERICSON, MEDIUM MARKET PERSONALITY, KFDI/WICHITA:** “The amazing thing about us winning is we’re not at the station anymore,” Tooker says. “That was what everybody wanted to talk about, to the point it was almost comical. What’s really cool is hearing from people I haven’t heard from in 20 years. I don’t think you realize what a big award it is until other people let you know what a big award it is. Businesses in Wichita have congratulations signs up. Local TV stations covered it. We almost didn’t go because it was a little bittersweet, but we’re really glad we went.”



WMIL/Milwaukee PD  
Kerry Wolfe

**GATOR & THE STYCKMAN SMALL MARKET PERSONALITY, WGSQ/ COOKEVILLE, TN:** “So I gotta go to the bathroom before the show,” Styckman says. “I line up at the urinal, look up, and realize that Whispering Bill Anderson’s on my left and Randy Travis is on my right. Peeing with the legends. That was my CMA magical moment.” “We had better seats than Rascal Flatts watching the freakin’ Eagles onstage at the CMAs,” Gator says. “And at one point Martina McBride looked into my eyes and said, ‘Excuse me.’ To be honest, I peed my pants a little.”



Colby  
Ericson, Dan  
Tooker, Jon  
Watkins

**KYGO/DENVER, MAJOR MARKET STATION:** “I was standing onstage as Emerson Drive announced the winners, and had this random rhetorical question pop into my head – ‘How did I end up here?’ PD **Joel Burke** says. “It was incredibly exciting and at the same time humbling for both myself and GM Bob Call to represent the people who work here now and everyone who’s worked here over the last 28 years. We stand on their shoulders and would not be having this success if they hadn’t laid the foundation.”



KXKT/Omaha (former  
PD) Tom Goodwin,  
Interim PD Craig Allen



Gator Harrison,  
Greg “Styckman”  
Owens

**WMIL/MILWAUKEE, LARGE MARKET STATION:** “We’ve been nominated six times and this was our first win,” says PD **Kerry Wolfe**. “Being able to stand on that stage and hold a CMA award felt great. But my favorite memory from the week might be walking down to the Hilton, where we were doing the broadcast, and hearing someone scream, ‘Kerry Wolfe rocks!’ I turn around and see Taylor Swift hanging out the window of an SUV like she’s on the front of the Titanic.”



WKXC/Augusta, GA  
VP/MM Kent Dunn,  
OM/PD T Gentry

**KXKT/OMAHA, MEDIUM MARKET STATION:** “I felt like a kid in a candy store,” interim PD and morning co-host **Craig Allen** says. “We’ve been nominated for both personality and station several times and I thought we were just going to be a perpetual Susan Lucci – never winning. The whole thing was a blur and, honestly, pretty surreal. I do remember watching Luke Bryan play *Guitar Hero* and giving it probably the worst performance I’ve ever seen in my life.”