Banquet & Ceremony brought to us by:
Best Editorial
The nominees are:
Kent Singer

Colorado Country Life

for:

“Thirst for Electricity”
Dana Kelroy

Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News

for:

“We don’t have customers”
... and the evening’s first Willie goes to ...
Dana Kelroy
Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News
“This is the most useful piece I’ve read intended to remind members what their roles are as being part owners .... Good lead, tight writing. Well done.”
Best News Feature
The nominees are:
Richard G. Biever
Indiana’s
Electric Consumer
for:
“Good Cheers!”
Laura Emery
Virginia/Maryland/Delaware’s Cooperative Living Magazine
for:
“Into the Light”
Diane Veto Parham
South Carolina Living for:
“Tiny Houses, Big Dreams”
Dave Hoopman
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative News
for:
“Messages from Moscow”
It’s a tie, folks!
... and so the Willies go to ...
Diane Veto Parham and Dave Hoopman
Of Diane Veto Parham’s “Little Houses, Big Dreams” the judge said:

“From the lead to the end, it’s well-constructed, puts the personal stories of the program in the forefront and shows how it works and that it really is working.”
Of Dave Hoopman’s “Messages from Moscow” the judge said:

“This should be a piece in a national magazine. I’ve never seen any other reporting on this side of ... Russia’s underhanded work to meddle in everything.”
Best Treatment of a Technical Subject
The nominees are:
Heather Juzenas
Ohio Cooperative Living
for:
“Saving power, saving money”
Mary Logan Wolf
Oklahoma Living Magazine
for:
“Un-easement”
Kathy Hackleman

Penn Lines

for:

“Electric Eye”
... and the *Willie* goes to ...
Mary Logan Wolf
Oklahoma Living
Un-easement:
Why trees in the right-of-way make dangerous shade
By Marc Logan Hall

"Loved this take on a right-of-way article. Great way to engage the reader with a real example. Excellent writing!"
Best Feature Communicating
a Cooperative Principle or a Touchstone Energy Core Value
The nominees are:
Paul Wesslund

Kentucky Living

for:

“Be smart, be safe:
Retrain your brain to be careful around electricity”
Jim McCarty
Rural Missouri
for:
“Farmers’ Electric Youth Benefit Fund helps sick kids for 25 years”
Kathy Hackleman

Penn Lines

for:

“Going for Gold”
... and the *Willie* goes to ...
Kathy Hackleman
Penn Lines
“The Cooperative principles are identified at the very beginning. Then you go on to explain why education among directors is so important to the well-being of the cooperative, and, ultimately, its members. Great explanation of what they learn and why.”
Best Entertaining Feature

Welcome to Big Cheese Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

SINGING WIRES...
The nominees are:
Tina Firesheets
(North) Carolina Country
for:
“For the Love of History”
Dana Attocknie

Oklahoma Living

for:

“Safety Miracles”
Clay Billman

Oklahoma Living

for:

“Daisy: Dog of Destiny”
Alexis Mellons

Oklahoma Living

for:

“Behind the Costume”
It's another tie, thank ya very mucha.
So the hunka, hunka, hunka, hunka *Willie* boys go to ...
Tina Firesheets and Clay Billman
Of Tina Firesheets’
“For the Love of History”
the judge said:

“Well done. Love the detail, tight writing and easy-to-understand explanation of this part of the Revolutionary War and what these reenactors do.”
Of Clay Billman’s “Daisy: Dog of Destiny” the judge said:

“The writer had me from the first word to the last. It was well crafted ... and avoided trappings such as verboseness or ... excessive sentimentality.”
The nominees are:
Debbie H. Stringer

Today in Mississippi

for:

“"It was the worst of times"
Bill Carey

The Tennessee Magazine

for:

“Reluctant Relevance”
Gene Fowler

*Texas Co-op Power*

for:

“Route in Doubt: The Legendary Chisolm Trail”
... and the “small but ‘wirey’” Willie goes to ...
“The writer does a great job setting the mood, covering how the details on the story are not truly known and giving the reader various places in Texas where they can learn more ...”
Best Personality Profile
The nominees are:
Graham Shelby

Kentucky Living

for:

“Living Through the Walking Dead”
Heather Berry

Rural Missouri

for:

“The Will to Survive”
... and the Willie goes to ...
“So much packed into a short space and it’s done very well. This story could easily have filled four or five pages, but the writer did a great job in using relevant points to take us through his journey.”
Best Column
The nominees are:
Roxanne Henke

North Dakota Living

for:

“Inspired Living — Downsizing Christmas”
Kathryn Kennington

Ruralite

for:

“The Hardest Job I’ve Ever Loved”
... and the **Willie** goes to ...
Kathryn Kennington
Ruralite
“I liked the engaging lead where the author explains the history of how Kathryn started off in the electric cooperative world. The author’s details allowed me to feel like I was working on top of the electric poles. Great details for a memorable story!”
Best Cover
The nominees are:
Albert Cesare and Mark Stephenson

Alabama Living

for:

“August 2017 Issue”
Chris Coleman and Cassi Gloe

Colorado Country Life

for:

“Powerful Reads”
Mike Teegarden

Ruralite

for:

“The Buzz about Pollinators”
... and the **Willie** goes to ...
Mike Teegarden
Ruralite
“It’s impossible not to be immediately drawn into this razor-sharp, stunning image of the honeybee.... Ruralite seems to take a ‘less is more’ approach to cover type, and I think this cover/image makes a strong argument for this approach.”
The nominees are:
Jim McCarty

*Rural Missouri*

for:

“Pulling for Power”
Joe Ramsbotham
(North) Carolina Country
for:
“Revolutionary War camp cook reenactor”
Robin Conover

The Tennessee Magazine

for:

“Sunset at Buzzard’s Roost”
... and the **Willie** goes to ...
Robin Conover
The Tennessee Magazine
“Top to bottom, left to right, this image is simply perfect.
The colors, lighting, textures... I don’t know how this image could get any better.”
Best Illustration
The nominees are:
Cathy Morrison

*Colorado Country Life*

for:

“Close Encounters with the Rich and Famous”
David Moore

Texas Co-op Power

for:

“Chisholm Trail: Route in Doubt”
Marcos Chin

*Texas Co-op Power*

for:

“Perspective on a Dandelion”
... and the Willie goes to ...
Cathy Morrison
Colorado Country Life
“Great execution and illustration by the artist. The caricatures are easily recognizable and draw you in to the magazine to read the article.”
Best Magazine Design
The nominees are:
Jim McCarty

Rural Missouri
Shari Wolfgang — Auras Design
South Carolina Living
... and the *Willie* goes to ...
“This is a visually attractive magazine that doesn’t forget the importance of the copy and never sacrifices substance in the name of style.

It has a … recognizable look. The photos get some really nice play without being overpowering and the body copy font is clean and readable. Easy to read and lovely to look at!”
Best Digital Communication/Website
The nominees are:
Colorado Country Life

ColoradoCountryLife.coop
Erin Binkley, Warren Kessler, Tara Verna

(North) Carolina Country
CarolinaCountry.com
... and the “stayin’ alive” Willie goes to ...
Erin Binkley,
Warren Kessler,
Tara Verna
(North) Carolina Country
“This is an outstanding site. Very easy to navigate.

Current, up-to-date content. The site seems to have a little bit of something for everyone.

I couldn’t find a thing wrong with it.”
Thank you, CFC, for sponsoring this SEA tradition.

And thank you, Perry, for your leadership and organization of the Willie Awards Banquet & Ceremony.

We WILLIE appreciate it!
That's all folks!