



Martinsville Reporter-Times carrier Connie Davis wasn't accustomed to having the paparazzi follow her as she delivered papers on her route on Wednesday. Davis was recently honored as the 2009 Carrier of the Year in the adult division by the Central States Circulation Managers' Association. Photo by Aaron Blevins.

## MARTINSVILLE

Connie Davis is like clockwork. She estimates that, in the past three years, she hasn't missed a day of delivering The Martinsville Reporter-Times.

Aside from a few holidays, that's seven days a week, 365, in the heat, cold, snow and rain. And sometimes it's nice outside.

For a number of reasons, the Central States Circulation Managers' Association recently recognized Davis as the 2009 Carrier of the Year in the adult division.

The grandmother said she's delivered for the newspaper for the last 12 to 13 years, and that she began her foot route after picking it up for her son when he became involved in school sports.

"I'm excited," she said of the CSCMA award. "I'm not used to the recognition, I guess.

"I just try to do my best; that's all I know."

Each year, Central States honors the top three carriers of the nine states it serves in three categories: youth, adult and senior. Carriers are nominated, and a panel of circulation executive judges selects the winners, according to a press release.

To apply, Davis and her nominator, Reporter-Times circulation district manager Tracey Wheatley, had to fill out several forms and provide at least three letters of recommendation from customers along her route.

Davis will receive a plaque, a \$100 check and an opportunity to enter the Newspaper Association of America national competition against carriers from across the United States, the release states.

“She does such a great job,” Wheatley said. “She deserves to be recognized.”

The district manager said Davis is punctual, reliable and rarely receives complaints. Having been the carrier with the fewest complaints a few years ago, Davis is also very accommodating to the readers along her route, Wheatley said.

“She will put it (the paper) wherever they want it,” she said. “She’d walk it into their house and read it to them if they wanted her to.”

The Hoosier Times Newspaper Group, which owns The Bloomington Herald-Times, the Reporter-Times, The Mooresville-Decatur Times and The Bedford Times-Mail, actually swept the regional competition, in a way.

Although there were no entries submitted for the youth division — and therefore no award given — Herald-Times carrier Anna Deremiah won the senior division.

“That says our carriers stand pretty tall, in the scheme of things,” Hoosier Times circulation director Tim Smith said Monday.

He said the awards are definitely something to celebrate, as Central States takes the annual competition pretty seriously.

“They want to pick the best of the best,” Smith said.

“I think it reflects really well on our carriers. ...I’m proud of it. I think it’s very cool.”

He said those independent contractors who have a paper route have a tough job. They’re dedicated, and they endure the elements to meet specific deadlines, Smith said.

“They’re out there when no one’s out there,” he said. “They were out there during the flood. I think having the opportunity to recognize them is a big plus.”

Davis also works for the Morgan County Recorder’s Office as the second deputy recorder. She’s a lunch mentor at Poston Road Elementary School and teaches Bible study at her church, the Morgan Street Church of Christ.

Davis has two kids and five grandchildren. She lives in Martinsville with her husband, Allen.

Judging for the Newspaper Association of America will take place on Friday in Arlington, Va. The top three winners receive an award certificate and \$250.

Smith said a carrier from the Herald-Times has won the NAA competition, and that Reporter-Times carrier Samantha Fluharty won the youth division of the CSCMA competition last year.