



2016 DPA Communicator of Achievement

Mark A. Fowser

One of the most recognized voices in the Delaware Valley

Mark Fowser, President of Delaware Press Association, has one of the most recognized voices in the Delaware Valley and beyond. While today he is news director and afternoon anchor at 105.9 WXDE-FM, in Milford and Lewes, Delaware, many First State residents know him from his work at 1450 WILM Newsradio in Wilmington, where his career spanned the roles of anchor-reporter, when he started there in 1993, to managing editor, news director, and finally, program director and morning anchor, positions he held from 2005 to August 2010.

Raised in Claymont, Delaware, Mark received a bachelor of science degree in broadcast journalism, with a minor in political science, from Boston University. He first worked on air at the campus radio station.

Mark says he took his first job playing "nostalgia" music overnight at a radio station near the Jersey Shore, reading news from the "ticker" at the top of each hour. He became the station's news director and morning anchor, overseeing a "staff of one."

In 1985, he relocated to Franklin – "The Mineral Capital of the World" – in Sussex County, New Jersey, to work at WSUS as a news anchor on radio and for a local television news program on cable. In 1993, he came back to Delaware to work for WILM until 2010. Since then, he has worked for WHY-FM, Newsworks.org, Delaware First Media, 1150-AM WDEL, and Total Traffic and Weather in Philadelphia.

In 2012, Mark became news director of what was then a brand-new news-talk station, Delaware105.9 in Milford-Lewes.

Making a Difference

"I have been fortunate," Mark says, "to meet and report on many distinguished Delawareans, including the current US vice president who once was a US Senator. But aside from reporting on Joe Biden, many of the most memorable stories focused on community leaders trying to make a difference."

Mark also has reported on those chasing dreams of their own: the young participants in a pro wrestling school operated out of an office park near Newark, the women who made up a local ice hockey team, aspiring musicians and artists, entrepreneurs and innovators with the next big idea or exciting start-up. And being able, through work, hosting and taking part in fundraising walks, school career days, and college classes always has been a highlight.

Although work and DPA consume a lot of his time, Mark tries to make a difference, too, by giving back to the Delaware community where and when he can. He is active with his church (Union United Methodist Church in Bear) with audio and video presentations, publicity and various missions.

"My very first day working in Delaware, though, he adds, "was a hot and humid day. I was dispatched with a tape recorder to Wilmington's City County Building where trash haulers upset with the administration, were staging a demonstration. My first on-air reports for WILM took place as smelly garbage trucks circled city hall and blared their horns. I wondered, what have I gotten myself into?"

Breaking the Glass Ceiling

Mark has been president of Delaware Press Association since 2008, the longest anyone has served in that role in the nearly 40-year history of DPA. He has been active on various DPA committees and formerly served as treasurer. He also has traveled widely to attend three NFPW national conferences: The first was San Antonio in 2009. In 2013, he attended the conference in Salt Lake City, and enjoyed the most recent one in Anchorage, Alaska, in 2015.

I first became aware of Delaware Press Association as a contest entrant," Mark says. "Little did I know this would transition into membership on a committee, and tenure as Treasurer where after a couple of years balancing the checkbook someone decided 'we have to get him out of there – let's make him President.' Delaware Press Association, formerly Delaware Press Women, had its first male president. Finally, the glass ceiling had been broken.

Mark also is a former member and president of the Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association board of directors, chairing the scholarship selection committee, the scholarship auction committee and taking on other roles . . .

Award-winning Broadcaster

. . . and he has received many statewide, regional, and national accolades along the way:

- 2005 National Federation of Press Women Communications Contest, 1st place, radio on the scene spot report
- 2005 Delaware Press Association Communications Contest, 1st place, radio on-the-scene spot report
- 2004 Society of Professional Journalists Greater Philadelphia Chapter, radio news story
- 2004 Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association, outstanding sports feature
- 2003 Society of Professional Journalists Greater Philadelphia Chapter, radio news story
- 2002 Delaware Press Association Communications Contest, 1st place, radio on-the-scene spot report
- 2002 Delaware Press Association Communications Contest, 1st place, best anchor, radio, commercial station
- 1999 Delaware Press Association Communications Contest, 1st place, best newscast, radio, commercial station
- 1999 Society of Professional Journalists Greater Philadelphia Chapter, radio news story