

Vermont Association of Broadcasters  
500A Dalton Drive  
Colchester, VT 05446  
(802) 655-5764  
Email: [vab@vab.org](mailto:vab@vab.org)  
Website: [www.vab.org](http://www.vab.org)

## NBC SCORES WITH CUP FINAL

A riveting Stanley Cup showdown between two of the NHL's original six franchises spurred big ratings for NBC and NBC Sports Network. The series averaged 5.76 million viewers per game, the



highest such average since Nielsen data first became available in 1994. The sixth game, which clinched the Cup for Chicago in dramatic last-minute action, drew 8.16 million viewers, up 66% from last year's deciding game six.

### WEA-IPAWS WEBINAR

All broadcasters are invited to download a June 24 webinar titled "Local Media as First Informers - Effectively Using Wireless Emergency Alerts." Although wireless alerts use cellular, they can be an important part of radio and TV efforts to keep the public safe and informed. The webinar can be downloaded on the VAB home page at [www.vab.org](http://www.vab.org).

### MARK JOHNSON IN ISTANBUL



Mark and new friend Ali at the baths

Vacationing in the midst of a popular uprising may not be everyone's ideal trip. But WDEV talk show host Mark Johnson and family arrived in Istanbul for a long-planned vacation on June 18, just a few days after anti-government protests erupted in Taksim Square. Mark has been posting an informative blog about their trip to Turkey and Italy at: [taksimtotuscany.wordpress.com](http://taksimtotuscany.wordpress.com).

# The VAB Voice



July, 2013

## MAKE YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR THE VAB AWARDS

Now is your chance to nominate a person or station for one of the VAB awards. The awards will be given out later this year at the VAB Awards Banquet, details TBA.

Simply go the VAB website at [www.vab.org](http://www.vab.org) and click the link to make your nominations for one of the following awards:

### VAB Hall of Fame

The ultimate honor for Vermont broadcasters, the VAB Hall of Fame honors those men and women who have demonstrated excellence throughout their careers, have enhanced the broadcasting industry and have contributed to the betterment of their communities.

### Broadcaster of the Year

Honors a broadcaster (or station) that has made a significant contribution to their state and to the broadcasting community over the past year.

### Distinguished Service Award

Honors those individuals who have distinguished themselves in their profession over the course of many years. Award is open to all broadcast-related occupations

### Community Service Awards

Honors those individuals or stations that have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make their community a better place to live. One person or station will receive our special Community Service Award,

the Alan Noyes Award, in honor of the longtime Executive Director of the VAB.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q.** May I nominate myself or my own station?

**A.** Yes, you may.

**Q.** I nominated someone last year for the Hall of Fame. Do I have to re-submit my nomination?

**A.** No. Once nominated for the Hall of Fame, the person will remain under active consideration.

### Last Year's Honorees

#### VAB Hall of Fame



Paul Sands  
Bruce James  
Tom Cheek

#### Broadcaster of the Year

Judy Leech

#### Distinguished Service Awards

Mark Johnson  
Sharon Meyer

#### Community Service Awards

Bruce Zeman (Al Noyes Award)  
TJ Michaels  
WNCS-FM

#### Friend of Broadcasters Award

Lt. Col. Lloyd Goodrow

*For more, visit [vab.org/hall\\_fame.htm](http://vab.org/hall_fame.htm)*

## LATE FILINGS CAN BE COSTLY

By David Oxenford, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

In at least 7 decisions released late last month, the FCC fined TV stations between \$3000 and \$18,000 for failure to timely file Form 398 Children's Television Reports – reporting on the programming broadcast by the stations to address the educational and informational needs of children. In these cases, the fines were not for failing to file the reports at all, but instead for the failure to timely file the reports.

All but one of the cases involved Class A television stations which are subject to very strict scrutiny as the FCC looks to find some willing to give up their protected status before the upcoming incentive auctions (Class A stations being protected from being bumped off the air by new users – but subject to all the rules applicable to full power stations). In each of the cases involving Class A stations, the FCC has offered to forget the fines for noncompliance, if the station gives up its Class A status and becomes an LPTV station, which has no protections. If the station gives up its protected status, it will have no rights to receive compensation if it gives up its channel in the incentive auction, or if it is forced to change channels in the repacking of TV channels after that auction.

These cases all stem from the FCC review of the license renewal of the station. With the obligation to file a Form 398 less than two weeks away – the quarterly report being due on July 10 – TV stations, especially stations that have not yet filed their renewals, need to pay attention now to make sure that they don't miss the upcoming deadline.

With public files now online, the FCC late-filing becomes more visible, and with the television renewal cycle in full swing, many TV stations are either now or soon to be under the scrutiny of the FCC. So meeting these obligations becomes important – as the failures can be costly.

How much were the fines? For a station that missed the filing deadline 23 times, the FCC proposed a fine of \$18,000. The smallest of the fines was \$3000 for a station that missed 11 timely filings. In between, there were fines of \$9000 for a station that was late on 14 of its 17 filings, \$6000 for 3 late filings of its Form 398 plus three late-filings in its public file of certifications as to compliance with the commercial limits in children's television programming,

Up to this point, public file violations have been the big source of fines at license renewal time - especially dealing with Quarterly Issues Programs lists for radio stations. With these decisions, it looks like Children's Television issues may well be added to list of common errors at renewal time. Costly mistakes – so stations need to pay attention to the upcoming deadlines.

## VAB SCHOLARSHIPS HELP FUTURE BROADCASTERS

Thanks to the participation of our member stations in the Army National Guard NCSA (non-commercial sustaining announcement) program, the VAB is again providing financial help for college students pursuing careers in broadcasting and communications.

Last month, the VAB provided \$10,000 scholarship donations to four area schools. The schools include Castleton State College in Castleton, Vermont; Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont; Lyndon State College in Lyndonville, Vermont; and the New England School of Communications in Bangor, Maine.



“We're delighted to be able to provide scholarship help for the next generation of broadcasters,” said VAB Executive Director. “This is a real group effort. We're able to do this because of the generosity of our member stations. From the owners and managers, to the production folks and especially the traffic directors, they help us maintain a great relationship with the Army National Guard which, in turn, makes our scholarships possible.”

If your station is willing to help with the NCSA program, contact Jim Condon at [vab@vab.org](mailto:vab@vab.org). Thanks to all of our participating stations!



**FCC ISSUES/PROGRAMS LISTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2013 MUST BE PLACED IN YOUR PUBLIC FILE BY JULY 10.**

*For more info, go to [www.vab.org](http://www.vab.org)*