

**THE VERMONT
ASSOCIATION OF
BROADCASTERS**

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COURT TOSSES RATHER SUIT

A New York Appeals Court has thrown out former CBS news anchor Dan Rather's lawsuit against his former employer. Rather sued CBS, claiming the company ruined his reputation, violated his contract and kept him from taking higher-paying jobs elsewhere.



The legal ruckus came in the wake of discredited news reports aired by Rather pertaining to the National Guard career of former President George W. Bush. In the unanimous ruling, the appeals court said the suit was without merit.

GREAT EASTERN ADDS TWO

A regional group is getting larger with the announced acquisition of two more New Hampshire radio stations.

Great Eastern Radio, based in Lebanon, NH, is acquiring two stations from Nassau Broadcasting as part of Nassau's ownership cap divestiture plan. The two stations are WNNH-FM (99.1 MHz) in Henniker and WWHQ-FM (101.5 MHz) in Meredith. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

STAY TUNED!

The winners in the VAB Logo Contest will be announced shortly. Check our website for updates!

WWW.VAB.ORG

And thanks again to all who entered the contest!

The VAB Voice



October, 2009

COMMUNITY MOURNS LOSS OF FORMER VAB PRESIDENT FRANK BALCH

Frank A. Balch Jr., the longtime manager and owner of WJOY AM & FM, died peacefully at his Burlington home on Friday, Sept. 25, 2009.

Truly a self-made man, Frank rose through the ranks to become a leader in the broadcasting industry and in the community he loved.

Born in 1926 in Lynn, Massachusetts, Frank served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a Radioman 2nd Class. After the war he enrolled at the Massachusetts School of Radio and Telegraphy and soon acquired his FCC 1st Class Broadcast Engineer's license.



Frank Balch 1926—2009

His first job was as a transmitter engineer for WWSR in St. Albans. In the 1950's, Frank started working for WJOY, and served as an engineer, announcer, salesman and sports reporter. He became GM in 1956 and became majority owner in 1971.

In 1962, Balch put Vermont's first FM station, WJOY-FM

(now WOKO-FM) on the air.

He was Past President of the VAB, a Board Member of the NAB, served on the AP Board and was a former Chairman of the UVM Board of Trustees, among many other positions.

He is survived by his wife, Frances Adrienne Balch, son Barry and daughter Lise and her husband Victor Koufman and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Donations in his memory may be made to the VNA, 110 Prim Road, Colchester, VT 05446 or to Vermont Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association at 172 North Main St., Barre, VT.

VAB AWARDS BANQUET NOV. 7 AT ESSEX RESORT

A fun night of socializing and dining is just a few weeks away! Saturday, Nov. 7 is the date for the VAB Awards Banquet & Celebration at the Essex Resort and Spa (formerly the Inn at Essex).

The evening will begin with a cocktail reception and dinner. The festivities will include the induction of two people into the VAB Hall of Fame and the announcement of three other brand new awards.

The Community Service Award will honor an individual and/or a radio or TV station that has gone above

and beyond the call of duty in helping to make their town a better place to live.

The Distinguished Service Award will honor those broadcast employees who have demonstrated excellence in their particular broadcast occupation, be it engineering, sales, traffic or on-air.

The other "new" award is actually making a comeback. The Broadcaster of the Year Award will honor one Vermont broadcaster who has had a major impact in their market over the past year.

This year's honorees will be announced in advance of the banquet, as will the winners of the VAB Logo Contest.

Keep an eye on your mailbox for an official invitation coming your way soon! Full details will also be posted on our website, www.vab.org.



Essex Resort and Spa

Optimism in the air at the 2009 NAB Radio Show



Upbeat predictions for the radio economy, a new man in charge of the NAB and promises of a new user-friendly FCC were the talk of the 2009 NAB Radio Show, held last month at the Philadelphia Convention Center.



Mignon Clyburn

More than 2500 broadcasters took part in the three-day event. Although the total number of registrants was down by about five percent, event organizers were quite pleased, given the recent state of the economy.

Speaking of the economy, a number of broadcast group CEO's agreed the worst is over for the industry. At a Thursday morning breakfast meeting, Entercom CEO David Fields went as far as to predict double-digit growth in 2010. While not all the group heads saw it that way, all but one were convinced that there will be growth next year.

Stability seems to have returned to the FCC, where the commission is back to full-strength. One of the new commissioners, Mignon Clyburn, met with broadcasters in a Friday afternoon session. She said she is still learning about some of the major issues, but said under new Chairman Julius Genachowski, the commission is intent on being more responsive and transparent. She said a website redesign is coming soon that will please broadcasters.

One issue still on the radar is the proposed radio performance tax. A House version of the bill has passed that body's Judiciary Committee, while the Senate version introduced by Vermont's Patrick Leahy is still waiting for a committee vote.

A surprise visitor to the Radio Luncheon on Friday was Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), who is the co-sponsor of the Local Radio Freedom Act, a resolution that promises to protect local radio from performance fees. The Senate version of the resolution has 25 supporters, far short of a majority. A similar version in the House, however, has the backing of a clear majority of representatives. Not surprisingly, Barrasso was greeted with a standing ovation from the audience.

Commissioner Clyburn wasn't the only new face at the Radio Show. Making his first large-scale appearance was the new president and CEO of the National Association of Broadcasters, former U.S. Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon.

In a Friday afternoon meeting of the National Alliance of State Broadcasting Associations, Smith pledged the NAB would continue to work closely with the state



Gordon Smith

MARCONI AWARDS HANDED OUT AT NAB RADIO SHOW



The 2009 NAB Marconi Radio Awards were presented during the Radio Show in Philadelphia. The event was hosted by talk radio personality Laura Ingraham and featured a performance by recording artist Brian McKnight.

Citadel's Talk Kkob-AM/Albuquerque was named Legendary Station of the Year, while Dave Ramsey was named Network/Syndicated Personality of the Year.

WBEB/Philadelphia took two awards, for Major Market Station of the Year and AC Station of the Year. Large-Market Station of the Year went to Talk WIBC-FM/Indianapolis. News/Talker WHO-AM/Des Moines won for Medium Market, and News/Talk WJBC-AM/Bloomington, IL, was named Small Market Station of the Year.

Matt Siegel of Top 40 WXKS/Boston won Major Market Personality of the Year, Bill Cunningham of Talk WLW/Cincinnati took the prize for Large Market Personality, WHO's Van & Bonnie won for Medium Market, and Lacy Neff of Top 40 WVAQ/Morgantown, WV won in the Small Market category. Spanish Format Personality of the Year went to Alberto Alegre, of KSAH/San Antonio.

The winners by format were:

- AC: WBEB/Philadelphia
- CHR: WVAQ/Morgantown, WV
- Country: KYGO/Denver
- News/Talk: WGN-AM/Chicago
- Oldies: Classic Hits WMXJ/Miami
- Religious: Christian Contemporary KLTY/Dallas
- Spanish: Univision's KLVE-FM/Los Angeles
- Rock: Classic Rock KQRS/Minneapolis
- Sports: WGR-AM/Buffalo
- Urban: Urban AC WJMZ/Greenville, SC

groups, such as the VAB. To underscore the commitment, the state group association was visited by the entire executive board of the NAB, a first-time event as far as anyone could remember.

Next year's radio show will be held in Washington, D.C.

- Jim Condon