

Vermont Association of Broadcasters

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April,
2015



JEAN WALSH

1928 - 2015



The first woman inducted into the VAB Hall of Fame has died. Jean Walsh, a former resident of Burlington, died Feb. 17, 2015 in Derby.

Jean was born in Proctor and graduated from Middlebury College, Class of 1950. She was employed by WCAX radio and television for 40-plus years as traffic manager, retiring in 1995. She is survived by her sister, Joyce Heath of Middlebury, eight nieces and nephews and many cousins. The VAB sends its deepest condolences to her family.

SUSAN KEESE

1947 - 2015



Complications from the flu claimed the life last month of longtime print and VPR radio reporter Susan Keese. She passed away March 7 at the age of 67.

A native of Philadelphia, Keese joined the Rutland Herald as a reporter in 1981 and joined VPR in 2002. She was a resident of South Newfane.

She was a founding producer of "Vermont Edition" on VPR and won two regional Edward R. Murrow awards for her reporting. She is survived by her husband, John Pyatak, and two children, Annie and Christopher.

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE VAB'S 60TH CONVENTION!

Good friends, great food and informative seminars will be the order of the day on Thursday, May 28 when the VAB hosts its 60th Annual Convention at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier.

The schedule features seminars with broadcast sales trainer Pat Bryson, the author of "High Dollar Broadcast Sales," and copywriting and marketing seminars with Jeffrey Hedquist, the author of "The 60-Second Copywriter" and many other books. VAB's ABIP inspector, Bob Shotwell of Spectrum Investigative Services will conduct an ABIP refresher course. Regulatory issues will be discussed at a seminar with broadcast attorney Scott Flick and NAB Vice President for Public Policy Curtis LeGeyt.



VAB CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8 - 9 A.M. Registration, Governor's Ballroom
Coffee, Tea, Juice and Bagels
- 9 - 9:15 VAB Business Meeting, Governor's Ballroom
- 9:15 - 10:30 Sales Seminar #1 With Pat Bryson
"Asking Great Questions"
Capitol Theatre
- 9:15 - 10:30 Copywriting Seminar with Jeffrey Hedquist
"Better Stories, Better Results"
Ethan Allen Room
- 9:15 - 10:30 ABIP Refresher Seminar with Bob Shotwell
Boardroom 335
- 10:30 - 10:45 Coffee & Snacks in the Governor's Ballroom
- 10:45 - 12:15 Sales Seminar #2 with Pat Bryson
"Managing Client Expectations"
Capitol Theatre
- 10:45 - 12:15 Marketing Seminar with Jeffrey Hedquist
"Ten Powerful Client Profit Accelerators"
Ethan Allen Room
- 10:45 - 12:15 Regulatory Roundtable with Scott Flick of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP and Curtis LeGeyt, NAB Senior VP for Public Policy
Boardroom 335
- 12:15 - 1:30 Commercial of the Year Luncheon
Governor's Ballroom

The convention caps off with the Commercial of the Year Awards Luncheon.

More than 200 entries were received this year for Vermont's most prestigious broadcast contest!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Thanks to our convention sponsors:





Station Issues/Programs Lists for the First Quarter of 2015 must be placed in your station's public file by April 10.

NAB RIPS FCC FIELD OFFICE PLAN

The FCC has told Congress it plans to shut down 16 of its 24 regional field offices, drawing protests from broadcast groups, notably the NAB.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler says his agency is strapped for money and needs some cash to help pay for a relocation of its Washington, D.C. headquarters. The only field offices to remain open would be ones in or near New York City, Columbia, Maryland, Chicago, Atlanta, Miami, Dallas, Los Angeles and San Francisco.



While no one enjoys a surprise visit from their regional FCC inspector, most broadcasters recognize the need to have everyone playing by the rules and of the need to protect

against pirate broadcasters and other illegal interference issues.

NAB VP Bob Weller recently blogged, "GPS outage in Honolulu? Chairman Wheeler says he'll send a "Tiger Team" from Columbia, Maryland, to work on it. Sheriff department radios getting jammed in Tampa? Someone will be there within 24 hours... All technical enforcement for the entire nation will be handled by a cadre of just 33 FCC agents spread across only eight offices. As it stands today, most of the field offices already operate with only a skeleton crew."

Weller says there's still time for the FCC to reverse course on the plan.

LPFM FINED 16K FOR RUNNING ADS

By Scott Flick and Jessica Nyman

Late last month, the FCC entered into a consent decree with the licensee of a West Virginia low power FM radio station to terminate an investigation into whether the licensee violated the FCC's underwriting laws by broadcasting announcements promoting the products, services, or businesses of its financial contributors.



LPFM stations, as noncommercial broadcasters, are allowed to broadcast announcements that identify and thank their sponsors, but Section 399b(b)(2) of the Communications Act and Sections 73.801 and 73.503(d) of the FCC's Rules prohibit such stations from broadcasting advertisements.

The FCC has explained that the rules are intended to protect the public's use and enjoyment of commercial-free broadcasts in spectrum that is reserved for noncommercial broadcasters that benefit from reduced regulatory fees.

The FCC had received multiple complaints alleging that from August 2010 to October 2010, the licensee's station broadcast advertisements in violation of the FCC's noncommercial underwriting rules. Accordingly, the FCC sent a letter of inquiry to the licensee. In its response, the licensee admitted that the broadcasts violated the FCC's underwriting rules.

The licensee subsequently agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$16,000, an amount the FCC indicated reflected the licensee's successful showing of financial hardship. In addition, the licensee agreed to implement a three-year compliance plan, including annual reporting requirements, to ensure no future violations of the FCC's underwriting rules by the station will occur.

- Scott Flick of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP will be part of a regulatory roundtable May 28 at the VAB Convention in Montpelier. His communications law blog can be found at:

<http://www.commlawcenter.com/>