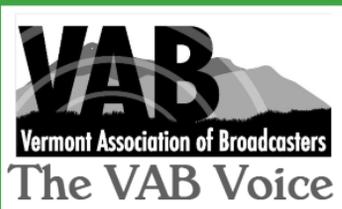


Vermont Association of Broadcasters
500A Dalton Drive
Colchester, VT 05446

Telephone: (802) 655-5764
E-mail: vab@vab.org
Visit us at www.vab.org



May, 2014



MAJORITY FOR RADIO FREEDOM

The National Association of Broadcasters has announced that a majority of the members of the House of Representatives now support the Local Radio Freedom Act. The NAB says a group of 13 bipartisan members signed on as cosponsors in April, bringing the total to 219.

The Local Radio Freedom Act opposes "any new performance fee, tax, royalty, or other charge" on local broadcast radio stations.

NAB President Gordon Smith said, "I applaud all the co-sponsors of the Local Radio Freedom Act for voicing their strong support for America's hometown radio stations and all of the broadcasters who have worked to educate their legislators on the job-killing consequences of a performance tax. It would be devastating to free and local radio, which has an overall economic impact of over \$513 billion in gross domestic product and generates more than 1 million jobs annually."

RADIO LISTENERSHIP RECORD

Radio listening is at an all-time high, according to a new quarterly study by Nielsen, "State of the Media: Audio Today." Nielsen says 92% of all Americans 12 and older listen to over-the-air radio every week. That translates into a whopping 244 million Americans, a record level.

"This growth is remarkable considering the variety and number of media choices available to consumers today," the report states, adding, "radio's hyper-local nature uniquely serves each market which keeps it tied strongly to our daily lives no matter how (or where) we tune in."

WNGF TO CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Christian Ministries, Inc has added another signal to its growing network. Last month, they closed on a deal to purchase WNGF-FM in Swanton from Northeast Gospel Broadcasting. The station at 89.9 MHz will now be known as WGLG-FM. Christian Ministries now operates seven full-power FM stations in Vermont.

59th ANNUAL CONVENTION & COMMERCIAL OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Thursday, May 22 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Capitol Plaza Hotel - Montpelier
See page 2 for the schedule
[Click here to register now](#)

TV PRODUCTION WHIZ KIDS SET SIGHTS ON KANSAS CITY

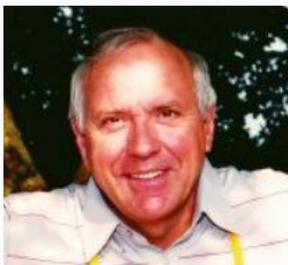
Two students from River Valley Technical Center in Springfield recently won gold medals for television production at the Vermont Skills USA competition. Now they are working to raise funds to attend the national competition. Elliot Thompson and Rebekah Ferreira are hoping to raise \$3500 by May 15th in order to represent Vermont at the Skills USA National Conference/Competition in Kansas City, Missouri.

The two gold medal winners are students of VAB Associate Member Zachary McNaughton, who teaches at the school when not running his video production studio, McNaudio Media Solutions. If you'd like to help, you may send a check to Zachary McNaughton, RVTC AVP, 307 South Street Springfield, VT 05156. Good luck, Rebekah and Elliot!



Gold medal winners Rebekah Ferreira and Elliot Thompson

LONGTIME BROADCASTER DEAN SLACK PASSES AWAY AT 85



Dean Slack 1928 - 2014

The VAB is sad to report the death earlier this year of longtime broadcaster Dean Slack. Slack passed away March 12 in Corning, New York.

Slack was born in July 2, 1928 in Montpelier, the son of Dean and Josephine Frost Slack. He graduated from Montpelier High School in 1946 and after a year of service in the Army, attended broadcasting school at Curry College in Boston.

He was hired as a radio announcer for WJOY-AM in the early 1950's and became a fixture on the radio through the early 1970's. He hosted popular music shows such as "Moon Dial" and "Caravan of Music" on WJOY-AM. He helped WEZF-FM go on the air in 1969 and, in 1970, joined George Cameron at WVMT-AM.

In 1974, Dean moved his family to Corning, New York, where he bought WCBA-AM. He used his station to promote Corning and highlight its people as the town rebounded from devastating flooding from Hurricane Agnes. He was a well-known broadcaster in the Corning area through the 1980's and later wrote for the *Corning Leader*.

He is survived by his wife Colleen (Boxx) and four daughters, Kimberly Slack of Corning NY, Allyson Roles of Bartlett, TX, Andrea Slack of Elkton MD and Erika Slack Rosettie of Poultney, NY. The family asks that memorial contributions be made to your local Alzheimer's Association.

The 59th annual VAB Convention will be held Thursday, May 22 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in beautiful downtown Montpelier. Now would be a great time to register (only \$25 per person - major credit cards accepted) by clicking [this link](#).



VAB Convention Schedule Thursday, May 22, 2014

8 a.m. - 9 a.m. Registration with coffee and snacks

9 a.m. - 10:30

For Sales Managers and Sales Reps:

“Getting Back to Basics” with Speed Marriott

For Sales Reps, Program Directors and Webmasters:

“How to Make Money from the Web” with Allie Danziger

For General Managers, Station Managers and HR Directors:

“Protect Yourself from Harassment Complaints”

With Kerin Stackpole of Paul, Frank + Collins, P.C.

10:30 a.m.- 10:45 a.m. Coffee and Snack Break

10:45 - 12:15 p.m.

For Sales Managers and Sales Reps:

“How to Thrive Not Just Survive in Today’s Market”

With Michael Guld

For Programmers and Air Personalities:

“Jennifer Aniston’s Birthday - Don’t Worry About Forgetting It!”

With Bob Moody, member Country Music Radio Hall of Fame

For General Managers and Compliance Directors:

“Political Advertising Refresher Course 2014”

with David O’Connor of Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer, LLP

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Commercial of the Year Awards Luncheon

Hosted by Tom Beardsley of Radio Vermont

We Thank our 2014 VAB Convention Sponsors:



On the Air and On the Ballot?

It’s political season, and somewhere, some on-air broadcast air personality is making the decision that they really want to change careers – and run for political office. So it is time for a little refresher on the issues that arise when an on-air personality runs for political office.

The requirement that a station provide equal opportunities to a candidate who is opposing the on-air personality kicks in as soon as you have a legally qualified candidate – one who has filed the necessary paperwork to run for an office. The application of the equal opportunities rule (or “equal time” as some refer to it) is not limited to the 45 days before a primary or the 60 days before a general election (those windows apply only to the application of the lowest unit charges that have to be made available to candidates), and equal opportunities applies to state and local as well as Federal candidates. Once a candidate is qualified, even outside of the “political window”, equal opportunities apply.

A candidate is legally qualified once they have filed the necessary papers to apply for a place on the ballot, not simply when they announce their candidacy. We do note, however, that stations often take a candidate off the air as soon as they make a serious announcement of their intent to run, even if they have not yet become legally qualified, simply to avoid the appearance of favoritism on the air (and to avoid having to fight off complaints from probable opponents).

What else can a station do when a valuable on-air employee decides to run for public office? We’ve written about options that stations have in that situation, but, if the opposing candidates are numerous or unwilling to waive their equal opportunities claims in exchange for a voluntary deal where they get some limited amount of airtime, then the stations are left with the choices of either having to take the employee-candidate off the air, or to provide minute-for-minute equal time to the opposing candidates – for free, as the employee-candidate did not pay for access to the airwaves. And this equal time requirement applies even if the employee-candidate never mentions his or her candidacy on the air.

As the election progresses, we will be writing more about political broadcasting issues that regularly arise for broadcasters. Check out our Political Broadcasting Guide for thoughts on many of the issues that arise in any political season.

- David Oxenford, Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer, LLP

NOTE: Download David Oxenford’s Political Broadcasting Guide at www.vab.org.