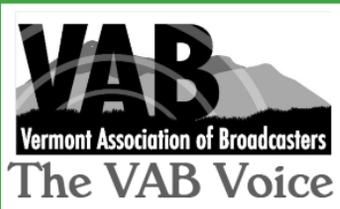


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September,
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WHEELCHAIRS FOR THE WORLD

Hat's off to The Light Radio Network and its listeners for making life a little easier for disabled folks in Third World countries.

The Essex Junction-based network of seven full-power FM signals used its reach last month to join in the "Wheels for the World" campaign to collect hundreds of wheelchairs, crutches and walkers.



Nationally, the campaign was organized by the syndicated "Joni and Friends" show, which is carried by the network.

The mid-August campaign was a big success, even drawing a feature story in the *Burlington Free Press*.

Station GM and morning host Ric McClary told the *Free Press*, "Lots of people have wheelchairs and walkers sitting in their basements and closets. I thought, let's get them out of there and give them to people who can use them."

Listeners responded to the point where McClary had to climb over all the donations just to get to his studio!

REPORTERS INVITED TO APPLY

Broadcast, print and online reporters are invited to apply to the New England First Amendment Coalition to attend a three-day intensive training course on freedom of information laws.

25 applicants will be selected to attend the training, which will take place November 16 - 18 in Dedham, Massachusetts.

The application deadline is October 3. You can find the link for the application materials on the VAB website at www.vab.org.

This year's featured speaker will be Marty Kaiser, editor and senior vice president of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

The New England First Amendment Coalition was formed in 2006 by a group of journalists concerned that citizens, to say nothing of reporters, are routinely denied access to the work of government: public documents, meetings and hearings.

FCC REGULATORY FEES DUE SEPT. 23

Right as everyone was preparing to leave town for the long weekend, the FCC issued its Report and Order August 29 on the regulatory fees for 2014, and also issued a Public Notice setting the deadline for paying those fees as 11:59 PM on September 23.

For broadcasters, the FCC also issued a Mass Media Fee Filing Guide providing details on the fee filing process, and provided a fee "look-up" tool on the Commission's website to see what the fees are for a particular station. The FCC adopted all the fees for broadcast stations as proposed in its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with the minor exception of its fees for TV stations, where there were very slight adjustments in the amounts to be paid.

There are a couple of new wrinkles in the fee filings for broadcasters for this year. First, there will be no more no more checks or other paper forms of payment. All payments must be made electronically, through wire transfers, electronic payments, or with a credit card. If you send a check, it will be returned, and you will be assessed a late fee if the electronic payment is not made by the 23rd.

The FCC also decided that there will no longer be separate fees for broadcast auxiliary stations. The FCC decided that the work to track these stations, and the small fees collected (\$10 each) were simply not worth the trouble. However, this change will not go into effect until next year - so broadcasters have to pay for their auxiliaries this year. Proposals to eliminate the fees for radio and TV translators and boosters were rejected. - David Oxenford, Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer, LLP

[Link to David Oxenford's full blog post at www.vab.org](http://www.vab.org)

THREE DECADES OF MUSIC WITH GINNY MCGEHEE

Radio personality Ginny McGehee was working full-time at WNBZ-AM in Saranac Lake, NY when she applied for an opening at WJOY-AM. She was hired by the Burlington station in August, 1983 and she's been entertaining her Champlain Valley radio audience ever since.

The host of WJOY's "Breakfast Table" show, Ginny is believed to be the longest-running full-time female radio personality in Vermont history, which includes a successful stint at sister station WQCR-FM, now WOKO-FM.

Hall Communications Inc. President Arthur Rowbotham and other company officials were on hand August 13 to present Ginny with a 30-year recognition plaque and a gift of a table lamp made, naturally, from an old WJOY on-air sign.

Besides hosting the morning show on the Adult Standards station, Ginny also serves as Hall's Public Service Director for Vermont.

She is a member of the board of the Red Cross of VT/NH Upper Valley and is a former Crimestoppers board member. She is married to VAB Executive Director Jim Condon. They have one son, Tom, a senior at Colchester High School. Congrats, Ginny!



Ginny McGehee and Art Rowbotham



LAST CALL FOR VAB AWARD NOMINATIONS!

Nominations close September 19 at midnight for this year's VAB awards:

VAB Hall of Fame

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. Open to all broadcast-related occupations.

Community Service Award

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 honoree will be awarded the Alan Noyes Community Service Award, in honor of the memory of our longtime VAB Executive Director.

Anyone may make a nomination through our website at www.vab.org, but don't wait too long! The nominations will close at midnight, September 19.

The awards will be presented at our VAB Hall of Fame Awards Banquet, to be held later this year (details to be announced soon).

STATE EXECS SLAM SENATE COMMERCE PROPOSAL

All 50 State Broadcast Association Executives are unanimous in their opposition to the so-called "Local Option" retransmission proposal put forth by Senate Commerce Committee leaders Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) and John Thune (R-SD).

In an August 28 letter, the state associations say the proposal put forth as part of ongoing retransmission consent reauthorization discussions will have a devastating effect on local broadcast television stations.

The proposal suggests pay-TV viewers could opt "out" of receiving their local stations. Subscribers, however, would *not* be able to opt out of unwanted cable networks!

"The proposal will destroy localism, including the backbone of our nation's Emergency Alert System, by denying fair compensation to broadcasters without providing consumers, who continue to complain loudly about the monthly cost of pay-television service, with any meaningful choice or relief," the letter states.

"Mandated a la carte pricing proposals have been proven to increase prices, decrease programming diversity, and result in fewer - not more - choices for consumers. Indeed, these are precisely the exact opposite results that your proposal appears to seek."

You can read the full letter by visiting our website: www.vab.org.

STATE EXECS SAY "SLOW DOWN" ONLINE RADIO FILES

The 50 State Broadcasters Associations filed comments with the FCC August 28, suggesting more time is needed before requiring radio stations to post their public and political files online. The FCC had invited comments on an as-yet unpublished proposal to mandate radio stations put the files online as television stations are now required to do.

The VAB and other associations noted that a petition requiring the broadcast TV rules be extended to pay-TV providers has already been filed and should be dealt with first.

The associations also said a careful assessment of the current online filing system should be done before mandating radio participation. Current FCC resources should also be considered, as a radio mandate would involve the filing of millions of documents by 15,000 radio stations around the country.

NAB SUES FCC OVER SPECTRUM AUCTION RULES

The NAB has appealed the FCC's broadcast spectrum Incentive Auction Order with the DC Circuit.

The NAB contends the FCC's decision to try a new methodology, called TV Study, to predict local coverage areas will shortchange both viewers and local stations as a result of post-auction "re-packing."

The NAB says many television stations will either lose viewers or be forced to take part in the auction, rather than soldier on with a reduced coverage area.