

**THE VERMONT  
ASSOCIATION OF  
BROADCASTERS**

500A DALTON DRIVE  
COLCHESTER, VT 05446  
(802) 655-5764  
VAB@TOGETHER.NET  
WWW.VAB.ORG

**VPR WINS MURROW AWARD**

Vermont Public Radio has been honored with a 2009 national Edward R. Murrow Award for excellence in broadcast journalism. Reporter Nina Keck was recognized for her use of sound in an audio postcard, Final Exam With A Twist, in which Green Mountain College students are tested as they drive a pair of oxen. The award, VPR's sixth national Murrow Award, will be presented during a ceremony in New York City in October.

**NEW CD FIGHTS KID ABUSE**



Nassau Broadcasting of Vermont has teamed up with some local sponsors to produce a new CD of Vermont music. The disc, "The Best From Area Code 802," features 16 tracks from local musicians, including Jamie Lee Thurston, Keeghan Nolan and Red House. At least five dollars from each sale benefits Prevent Child Abuse Vermont. Nassau GM Michael Waggoner says the tracks were chosen from more than 150 submissions. For more info, visit any of the Nassau station websites.

**YOU COULD WIN \$1000**

The deadline for the VAB Logo contest is August 28. If your design is selected as the model for the new VAB logo, you'll win

**ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS!**

Two other lucky folks will win \$250 each in a random drawing from all entries. You must be an employee of a VAB member radio or television station. For more information and official rules, visit our website:

[www.vab.org](http://www.vab.org)

# The VAB Voice



August, 2009

## LEAHY SET TO BEGIN PERFORMANCE FEE HEARINGS

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee is slated to start hearings on the proposed Performance Fee on August 4.

The Senate version of the bill, S.379, was introduced by Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Judiciary Committee. The bill is strongly opposed by every state broadcasting association in the country, including the VAB.

There are 23 members of the Senate who have signed on to S. Con. Res 14, a resolution opposing imposition of new fees on local broadcasters. In



the House, 244 members have signed on to a similar resolution, meaning the bill is not likely to be enacted, even if it wins support in the Senate.

If it were to be enacted, it's estimated Vermont radio stations would have to pay an

extra two million dollars every year, over and above the money being spent on ASCAP, BMI and SESAC licensing. The money would be sent to four major record companies, who would keep half the cash. Three of those record companies are based overseas.

The end result would be a significant loss of jobs here in Vermont *and* less music on the radio. Please continue to let your voice be heard on this issue. You may email Senator Leahy at this address: [senator\\_leahy@leahy.senate.gov](mailto:senator_leahy@leahy.senate.gov)

## WALTER CRONKITE: REPORTER, ANCHOR...VICE PRESIDENT?

He was "the most trusted man in America," and for nearly 20 years was warmly welcomed into the homes of millions of people as anchor of the *CBS Evening News*. Walter Cronkite was 92 when he passed away last month at his home in New York.

A native of St. Joseph, Missouri, Cronkite dropped out of college and began a string of different newspaper and radio jobs. In 1935, he worked at WKY in Oklahoma City and later was the sports reporter for KCMO in Kansas City. He joined United Press in 1937 and became one of America's top reporters during World War II.

Edward R. Murrow had tried for years to get Cronkite to join CBS, and Cronkite finally made the move in 1950. Cronkite anchored the news at local CBS affiliate WTOP in Washington, D.C.

The term "anchor" was coined in regards to Cronkite's work broadcasting live from the 1952 Democratic and Republican Conventions,



Walter Cronkite 1916 — 2009

the first national TV convention coverage ever presented.

Anchor of the *CBS Evening News* from 1962 to 1981, his easygoing likeability earned him the nickname "Uncle Walter." It also almost earned him a spot on the 1972 Democratic presidential ticket!

Late last month, Frank Mankiewicz, Director of Sen. George McGovern's white house campaign, wrote in the *Washington Post* that

he seriously suggested that McGovern offer the VP slot to Cronkite.

Mankiewicz says his idea was met with instant opposition. McGovern, other staffers said, would look like he was grasping at straws. Instead, the slot was offered to Missouri Sen. Thomas Eagleton. Eagleton was forced off the ticket and likely doomed any slim chance McGovern may have had when it was revealed he had undergone electric shock treatments.

Years later, McGovern mentioned to Cronkite that he had been considered for the ticket but, McGovern said, he was sure Cronkite would've turned him down.

"On the contrary, George," Mankiewicz quotes Cronkite as saying, "I'd have accepted in a minute; anything to help end that dreadful war."

And that's the way it *almost* was.

SAVE THE DATE!

## VAB AWARDS BANQUET SET FOR NOV. 7

The VAB is pleased to announce a new annual event designed to honor outstanding radio and TV station employees—and to celebrate the rich heritage of the broadcasting industry in Vermont.

The inaugural VAB Awards Banquet and Celebration will be held Saturday evening, November 7, 2009 at The Essex—Vermont's Culinary Resort & Spa (formerly the Inn at Essex) in Essex Junction.



The new evening of socializing and celebration will be capped by the presentation of the VAB Awards, including some brand new awards that we plan to present to deserving individuals every year. Remember, the new Awards Banquet and Celebration is in addition to our annual convention, which is generally held in the month of May.

### LOOK FOR THE BROCHURE, COMING SOON!

The banquet will include a cocktail reception and delicious sit-down dinner prepared by the chefs at The Essex, in association with the New England Culinary Institute. The Essex is the only AAA-rated Four Diamond resort in the Burlington area!

### NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE FOLLOWING AWARDS:

#### VAB HALL OF FAME

No more than two individuals are honored each year with induction into the VAB Hall of Fame, and no more than one posthumously. The Hall of Fame honors individuals who have been dedicated to broadcasting service and excellence over a substantial career in radio and/or television.

#### COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

No more than one station and no more than two individuals shall be honored with the new VAB Community Excellence Awards. Winners will have donated volunteer time and energy "above and beyond" the norm demonstrating a clearly exceptional commitment to a community organization or cause.

#### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Given to no more than two recipients, this award recognizes broadcasting professionals in specific departments for their unique contributions to the industry and to their specific area of expertise. These individuals may not have the longevity of a nominee for the VAB "Hall of Fame" – but deserve high honors for their current work in broadcasting.

#### BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR

Yes, we're bringing back the prestigious Broadcaster of the Year award! The purpose of the award is to recognize one (and only one) broadcaster in a given year for extraordinary personal and professional accomplishment in that particular year – as nominated by their peers throughout the VAB family.

Nominations must be no longer than one typed page. You may only nominate one person or station per category. Nominations should be sent to [vab@together.net](mailto:vab@together.net) or to VAB, 500A Dalton Drive, Colchester, VT 05446. For complete award nomination information, please visit our website, [www.vab.org](http://www.vab.org).

## FCC BACK AT FULL POWER



The FCC is back to full strength for the first time in a long time, now that the Senate has approved new Commissioners Mignon Clyburn and Meredith Attwell Baker. What issues of importance to broadcasters will the Commission, now headed by Chairman Julius Genachowski, take up in coming months?

Some involve fundamental questions of priorities - trying to decide which user of the spectrum should be preferred over others. Other issues deal with questions of what kind of public service obligations broadcasters will face. And yet another set of issues deal with just the nitty gritty technical issues.

Issues include the following:

- The priorities between LPFM stations, FM translators and full power stations
- Final resolution of the White Spaces issues

- Deciding whether to take TV channels 5 and 6 and change them into radio channels

- Making a decision about increased HD radio power

- Dealing with the Petitions for Reconsideration of the FCC's decisions to require TV stations to put their public files on line and to complete the Form 355 detailing all of their public service programming in minute detail - rules adopted in late 2006 but never implemented

- Resolution of the FCC's localism proceeding proposing regulations including:
  - o A return to mandatory main studios in the station's city of license
  - o Manned main studios during all

hours of station operations

- o Mandatory public service obligations for broadcasters

- o Consideration of the process for the selection of music on broadcast stations and whether more local music should be required

- o Potential extension of the TV public file and Form 355 to radio

And, of course, there are those issues that never go away. Indecency cases are still pending. And there is that little question of the Fairness Doctrine that just refuses to go away.

I'm sure that there are other issues that have escaped my mind while I'm writing this - but even if there were not, it is clear that the new Commission has plenty to keep it busy. – David Oxenford