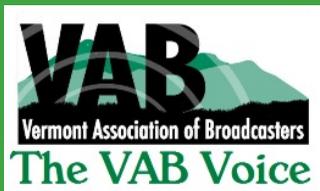


Vermont Association of Broadcasters

500A Dalton Drive
Colchester, VT 05446
(802) 655-5764
Email: vab@vab.org



January,
2016



TOP TV SERIES FOR 2015

Pro football continues to rule the television airwaves. Nielsen just released its ranking of 2015's most popular regularly scheduled series. Coming in at number one was NBC's *Sunday Night Football*, which averaged more than 23 million viewers per week.



Nielsen just released its ranking of 2015's most popular regularly

CBS had the next two top shows for the year: *The Big Bang Theory* and *NCIS*. AMC's *The Walking Dead* was fourth, followed by Fox's *Empire*, CBS' *Thursday Night Football*, CBS' *NCIS: New Orleans*, NBC's *Sunday Night Football Pre-Kick Show*, CBS' *Blue Bloods* and ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*.

Alfred "Tuna" Snider

1950 - 2015



Legendary UVM debate coach and WRUV deejay Alfred "Tuna" Snider passed away December 11 in Burlington.

Snider traveled to dozens of countries around the world promoting and judging debate tournaments. His UVM team was ranked 15th nationally at the time of his death. He was also known locally for his weekly reggae show "Reggae Lunch" on WRUV-FM and for co-founding the Vermont Reggae Festival, a popular event for many years.

He leaves a wife, a daughter from a previous marriage, and two grandchildren.

FM TRANSLATOR WINDOW FOR AM STATIONS OPENS SOON



The FCC's Media Bureau gave a long-awaited Christmas present to many of the country's AM stations, releasing a public notice announcing the filing dates for the translator modification application filing windows for AM stations. These are the windows during which the FCC will allow an AM licensee to buy or arrange to program

an FM translator and move it up to 250 miles to a location from which it can be used to rebroadcast an AM station. In making such a site move, the applicant can also change the translator's channel to specify operations on any vacant frequency that will not cause interference to existing broadcasters in the area where the AM station wants to operate that translator.

Applications will be accepted to move translators or translator construction permits in the commercial part of the FM band, 92.1 MHz and above.

Initially, there will be two windows. The first window will open January 29, 2016 and close at 11:59 PM on July 28, 2016. This window can be used by Class C and Class D AM stations to seek to move an FM translator for use by those stations. The second window will open on July 29, 2016 and close at 5:59 PM on October 31, 2016. Any AM station can file an application during that window.

Only one application may be filed by/on behalf of each AM station. The Commission makes clear that applicants need to get their applications right, as if the application is dismissed by the FCC, or the deal to buy the translator falls apart, the AM station will not get a second chance - it cannot file another application where it is listed as the primary station of a translator seeking to use the 250 mile waiver.

- By David Oxenford, <http://www.broadcastlawblog.com/>

BARLOW, KASZ & MCGEHEE HONORED

A record crowd was on hand Dec. 5 at the Hilton Burlington as the VAB enshrined three new members of the VAB Hall of Fame. VOX AM/FM's Ken Barlow, Local 22/Local 44's Ken Kasz and WJOY's Ginny McGehee were all inducted. Stewart Ledbetter of WPTZ was presented with the Distinguished Service Award, while the WPTZ news team won the Broadcaster of the Year award. WSYB was given the Alan Noyes Community Service Award and VPR's Joe Tymecki took home the Snyder-Teffner Award for excellence behind the scenes. Thanks to everyone who attended- a good time had by all! Thanks to everyone who attended



Clockwise from upper left: Ken Barlow, Ken Kasz, Stewart Ledbetter, Joe Tymecki and Ginny McGehee

Streaming Royalty Rates Drop for Broadcasters

By David D. Burns, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP



In a decision long awaited by webcasters, the Copyright Royalty Board (CRB) released its new webcasting royalty rates on December 17. These royalties are paid by non-interactive streaming services on which listeners cannot choose the specific songs they listen to, such as Pandora and radio stations that stream their programming. The royalties are paid to SoundExchange, a performing rights organization which collects the payments on behalf of record labels and other holders of copyrights in sound recordings. The new rates will become effective on January 1, 2016 and will remain in effect until December 31, 2020.

Under the new rate structure, subscription services will pay 22 cents per hundred performances streamed in 2016, with an adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index for subsequent years through 2020. Non-subscription services such as broadcast radio stations will pay 17 cents per hundred performances streamed (with the same CPI adjustment).

For commercial radio stations, the 17 cent rate is a substantial decrease from the 25 cent streaming rate currently paid. In contrast, pure play (non-broadcast) non-subscription streaming services saw their royalty increase from 14 cents per hundred performances to the new 17 cent rate. The CRB is required by statute to adjust royalty rates every five years based on rates which hypothetically would prevail in an open market free from government intervention.

The National Association of Broadcasters applauded the new rates, with NAB Executive Vice President Dennis Wharton stating that the NAB was “pleased that streaming rates have begun to move in the right direction.” SoundExchange, on the other hand, announced that “it is deeply disappointing to see that [terrestrial] broadcasters are being given another unfair advantage.” The precise reasoning behind the CRB’s decision will not be publicly available until after the parties to the proceeding have had an opportunity to review the CRB’s written opinion.



SAVE YOUR BEST SPOTS OF 2015!

Entries in the 2016 VAB Commercial of the Year competition will be accepted starting February 1. Keep an eye on our website at www.vab.org for up to date info on this year’s contest. It’s free to enter for all VAB member stations and for Vermont advertising agencies who are Associate Members in good standing. So save those spots, promos and PSA’s you think are deserving of an award!



Quarterly Issues/Programs reports must be placed into your station’s public file by January 10, 2016 (which is a Sunday).

Television station Children’s Television Report forms and children’s commercial limit compliance forms must be filed by January 11. And starting January 1, television stations need to be captioning clips of video programming that they make available on their websites or in their mobile applications, if those clips came from programming that was captioned when shown on TV. For more information about the new caption rules, please [click here](#) for a summary by David Oxenford.