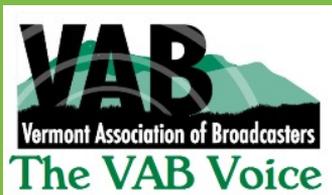


Vermont Association of Broadcasters

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GOV. SCOTT TAPS TEBBETTS



He has served as News Director of WCAX-TV for seven years, but now Anson Tebbetts is heading back to state government.

The Cabot native was picked by Governor-elect Phil Scott to be his new Secretary of Agriculture.

Tebbetts previously served as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture during the Douglas administration.

Roger Garrity will serve as acting News Director at WCAX. Good luck to both!

PETERS NAMED WTSA ND

When WTSA News Director and VAB Hall of Fame member Tim "Johnson" Arsenault retired earlier this year after being elected Vernon Town Clerk, the search for his successor began.

Station owner Kelli Corbeil announced in December that the Brattleboro AM & FM combo has hired longtime print reporter Olga Peters for the job.

Peters has been the Senior Reporter at *The Commons* weekly newspaper for seven years and is a regular panelist on Vermont PBS's "Vermont This Week." Good luck, Olga!



Tim Johnson passes the mic to Olga Peters

Fund for Family of Jennifer Foxx Nears Goal

Star 92.9 Program Director and midday personality Jennifer McClintock, known on the air as Jennifer Foxx, lost her courageous battle with pancreatic cancer on December 10. She was 50. She leaves a husband, Brian, and three children.



Jennifer Foxx 1966 - 2016

A fundraising effort to help the family pay for medical bills continues. More than 100 people have donated more than \$17,000, but that's still shy of the goal. You may donate by going to this link: <https://www.youcaring.com/jennifer-mcclintock-457860/update/570221>

Jen was born in Holden, MA, the daughter of Fred and Dorothy Bowles. She grew up in Barre, MA graduating from Quabbin High and Mt. Wachusett College with a degree in Communications. After that, it was on to a radio career, with stops throughout the Northeast, finally landing at WEZF-FM (STAR 92.9), where she eventually became program director, along with having an air shift.

In 2014, Jennifer received a Community Service Award from the VAB in recognition of her efforts to raise awareness about cancer. The VAB extends its deepest condolences to the family and many friends of Jennifer. A tribute page for Jennifer is on the Star92.9 website at <http://www.star929.com/2016/12/10/rip-jennifer-foxx/>

Funeral services were held at the First Congregational Church in Essex Junction on Saturday, December 17, 2016.

OAKLAND WAREHOUSE FIRE CLAIMS FORMER WEQX DJ



Ben Runnels 1984 - 2016

Former WEQX-FM Disc Jockey Ben Runnels was one of the 36 victims of the tragic December 2 warehouse fire in Oakland, California. He was 32.

A native of Mariaville, NY, Runnels was a well-known DJ at the Manchester alternative rock station before moving to Oakland to pursue a music career. Known on stage as Charlie Prowler, he teamed with Nicole Siegrist to form the techno pop group Introflirt. Siegrist, 29, also perished in the fire.

"Always his life revolved around music whether is was playing it, talking about it, it was his life," said WEQX program director Jeff Morad.

"He wasn't a handshake guy. He was a hug guy. When I walked in the radio station, he introduced himself by hugging me and [was] just friendly as all getout," Morad told TWC News in Albany.

Runnels had worked at Cape Cod Broadcastings prior to joining WEQX. The VAB extends its condolences to his friends and family.



RMLC CUTS INTERIM DEAL WITH GLOBAL MUSIC RIGHTS

By David Oxenford, [Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer LLP](#)

On December 26, the Radio Music Licensing Committee (RMLC) announced it has reached an “interim” agreement with the new performing rights organization Global Music Rights (GMR) for a license to perform musical compositions controlled by GMR. This agreement (available on the RMLC [website here](#)) is an interim agreement for radio stations that elect to participate, and covers only the first 9 months of 2017. To be covered by this license, a station must make an election by January 31, and pay the first month’s assessment to GMR by that date. GMR has promised not to sue any stations in January while stations are deciding whether to opt into this agreement. The amount to be paid by any individual station can be ascertained by communicating with GMR at an email address furnished by the RMLC in the agreement notice.

This is an interim agreement as it removes the threat of a lawsuit for playing GMR music after January 1 that could potentially be faced by any radio station that does not have a license. The rates paid by any station that opts in could be adjusted retroactively, up or down, based on the results of further negotiations between RMLC and GMR, or based on the results of the lawsuits currently being litigated between the two (see our [article here](#) on RMLC’s suit against GMR, and the [article here](#) about GMR’s follow-up lawsuit against RMLC, each accusing the other of violating the antitrust laws). It would seem obvious that RMLC believes the amounts being paid under this interim deal are higher than justified based on the percentage of music played by radio stations that is controlled by GMR. If it was believed that the interim fee represented a fair price, then it would seem that RMLC would have entered into a permanent license at these rates - but instead the litigation continues. What is a station to do?

Basically, stations have a few choices. They can sign this deal, and ride with the RMLC and see what happens in the next 9 months. Alternatively, they can try to pull all GMR music off their stations (but they would need to exercise care to get that music not only out of their own playlists - but also out of the playlists of syndicated programs, and out of commercials and other productions aired on their stations). Finally, a station could try to cut their own deal with GMR which, reportedly, a few of the big radio groups in which GMR founder Irving Azoff has a connection have done.

Where this all ends up is a big issue for broadcasters as, if GMR succeeds in licensing its songs at a rate higher than what is paid by broadcasters to ASCAP, BMI and SESAC for the music that they license, then you can bet that there will be other defections from these old-line performing rights organizations. The difficulty and consequences of the creation of this new PRO, especially when there is no completely accurate, universally available database of the copyrights for all musical works, makes this an issue certain to be included in the upcoming debates on copyright reform (see our [article here](#)). Watch as these issues develop further in the coming year.

FCC CHAIR TO STEP DOWN



Tom Wheeler

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler has announced he will resign his post on Inauguration Day, Jan. 20. The 70-year-old was appointed by President Obama three years ago. In addition, Democrat Jessica Rosenworcel was not reconfirmed by Congress and will depart Jan. 3.

The changes will leave a two-to-one Republican majority for the time being. It’s expected that one of the two Republicans, Ajit Pai or Michael O’Rielly will become Acting Chairman, with Mignon Clyburn the lone Democrat on the Commission.

PRELIMINARY EAS TEST RESULTS RELEASED

In a [report issued December 28](#), the FCC said the September 28 national EAS test was a success. More than 21,000 radio and TV stations, cable and satellite systems took part, a 26% increase from the 2011 test. 94% of participants reported they received the test alert, 85% successfully retransmitted the test alert and 69% reported no complications.

The test was the first to use the all-electronic EAS Test Reporting System. The FCC, FEMA and the NWS will continue to analyze the results and plan to provide more technical guidance to those outlets that experienced reception or transmission issues.

Quarterly Issues/Programs reports must be placed into your station’s public file by January 10, 2017.

Television station Children’s Television Report forms and children’s commercial limit compliance forms must also be filed by January 10.



PACKED HOUSE WELCOMES THREE TO THE VAB HALL OF FAME

WPTZ-TV meteorologist Tom Messner, WCAX-TV weather anchor Sharon Meyer and the late radio and TV personality Dean Slack were all inducted into the Vermont Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame December 3 at the Hilton Burlington.

Nearly 300 broadcasters and family members were on hand for the fun-filled festivities, hosted by Radio Vermont's Eric Michaels.

Other awards bestowed Saturday night included the Broadcaster of the Year award, which was presented to Rod Hill of Hall Communications.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to WCAX senior news photographer Bob Davis and veteran radio personality and salesperson Bob Sherman.

WFFF-TV/WVNY-TV was presented with the 2016 Alan Noyes Community Service Award for their volunteer efforts to beautify Little River State Park in Waterbury.

The VAB's Snyder-Teffner Award for excellence behind the scenes was presented to Kim Meisinger, owner of Prescott Tower of Rutland.

The VAB would like to thank all the guests and award-winners for making the event a memorable one. Thanks, too, to the staff of the Hilton Burlington for doing another terrific job.

(Photos by Jay Austin)



Top Row: Sharon Meyer and Tom Messner. Second Row: Dean Slack and Rod and Elizabeth Hill. Third Row: Bob Davis, Bob Sherman and Amanda Lindquist.

2017 Commercial of the Year Contest Opens Soon! Keep an eye on our website for official rules and entry information!