

Vermont Association of Broadcasters

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2018: A YEAR FOR ALTERNATIVE INSPECTION!

Every three years the VAB, in cooperation with the FCC, urges stations to enroll in the Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program (ABIP) to help stations ensure they are in compliance with FCC regulations. Under this program, a station that is inspected by a VAB technical inspector and certified to be in compliance is exempt from routine inspections by the FCC Field Office for three years.

The program costs \$500 per inspection, but the VAB will pay the first \$450 for stations that get all of the necessary paperwork in by July 1, 2018. The VAB will contribute \$400 for those stations that enroll later than July 1.

“This is probably the single greatest VAB member station benefit,” said VAB Executive Director Jim Condon.

The VAB's ABIP inspector, Robert Shotwell, is approved by the FCC to conduct inspections. Shotwell will work with stations to schedule the ABIP inspection at a convenient time. Stations will be notified of any detected violations and given a reasonable period of time to correct violations. A re-inspection may be conducted if necessary. When the station is in compliance, the VAB will send a Certificate of Compliance to the station and a copy to the FCC Field Office. [Click here](#) to download the 2018 ABIP Station Agreement.

GIB BROWN STEPS DOWN AFTER 37 YEARS

WPTZ News 5 Meteorologist Gib Brown bid a fond farewell to his colleagues and his many fans on December 19, capping a 37-year career at the station. Present and former colleagues paid tribute, and he was also presented a New York state resolution from assemblyman Billy Jones. He got a cake, too!



Gib Brown

“Retirement from NBC5 has been bittersweet as I will be leaving a career I truly love and at the same time begin to enjoy weekend without time constraints. The outpouring of comments and congratulatory messages has been overwhelming,” he told his fans, adding, “I will continue in my teaching positions as adjunct professor at both Clinton Community College and Plattsburgh State and hope to be able to continue there for a while longer. And yes, I will spend my extra leisure time skiing, traveling and entertaining my grandkids.”

The VAB salutes Gib for a great career and we wish him a happy and healthy retirement. Congratulations!



TIMOTHY COMOLLI 1943 - 2017

A popular longtime teacher in South Burlington who was once called the nation's youngest DJ by *Billboard* Magazine has died. Timothy Comolli was 74 when he passed away at his home in Williston on December 7.

A native of Montpelier, Comolli had his own show on WSKI while still in high school. He later worked at WDOT and WCAX-TV.

In 1965 he began a 40-year teaching career at South Burlington High School. He received many national awards for his success as a teacher, including the Christa McAuliffe National Teaching Award in 2003. He leaves one nephew.

NEW TRANSLATOR FOR WEAV

Vox AM/FM has purchased an FM translator at 105.9 in Plattsburgh to carry programming from all sports WEAV-AM, “The Zone” (960 AM).

Vox purchased the translator from Ted Morgan's Saranac Lake Radio for a reported \$20,000.

Morgan had been using the translator to simulcast his WNBZ-FM (106.3 Saranac Lake) into the Plattsburgh market.

DOWNLOAD THE 2018 BROADCAST CALENDAR

2018

Thanks to our good friends at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP, you may [click here to download it now.](#)

The VAB wishes all of our friends a Happy New Year!

Quarterly Issues/Programs List Due January 10

All full-power radio, full-power television, and Class A television stations must place in their public inspection file by this date the Quarterly Issues/Programs List covering the period October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Also, all full-power and Class A television stations must place in their public inspection file by this date records "sufficient to verify compliance" with the FCC's commercial time limitations in children's programming broadcast during the period October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. And must file FCC Form 398 demonstrating their responsiveness to "the educational and informational needs of children" for the period October 1, 2017 through December 31.

And, all full power and Class A television stations moving to a new channel during the post-incentive auction transition must file a Form 2100, Schedule 387 Transition Progress Report providing information regarding the steps taken during the period October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 to construct facilities for its new channel and end operations on its current channel. This reporting requirement applies regardless of whether a station is eligible for reimbursement and ceases when the station has finished its transition and has filed a final report indicating that fact.



SAVE YOUR BEST SPOTS & PROMOS FOR THE 2018 VAB COMMERCIAL OF THE YEAR COMPETITION!

The VAB will begin accepting submissions for the annual Commercial of the Year contest on Feb. 1.

Spots, PSA's and Promos broadcast by Feb. 1 are eligible for entry. More details and complete rules in next month's edition of *The VAB Voice!*

MAJORITY FOR RADIO FREEDOM!



A majority of the House of Representatives now supports the Local Radio Freedom Act after a bipartisan group of five House members signed a resolution opposing "any new performance fee, tax, royalty, or other charge" on local broadcast radio stations. The Local Radio Freedom Act (LRFA) now has 220 cosponsors in the House, two more than is needed to constitute a majority in the 438-member body. There are 25 LRFA co-sponsors in the Senate.

"We're gratified that most House members stand with America's hometown radio stations against a job-killing performance royalty," said NAB President Gordon Smith. "Local radio looks forward to continuing to provide unparalleled promotional value to record labels and artists in the form of free airplay of music."

BLUE ALERTS ADDED TO EAS

The FCC has added a new alert option—called a "Blue Alert"—to the nation's emergency alerting systems.



Blue Alerts can be used by state and local authorities to notify the public of threats to law enforcement and to help apprehend dangerous suspects.

Blue Alerts warn the public when there is actionable information related to a law enforcement officer who is missing, seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, or when there is an imminent credible threat to an officer.

The order, approved December 14, provides a 12-month implementation period for Blue Alerts to be delivered over the Emergency Alert System and 18 months for delivery over the Wireless Emergency Alert system.