

Vermont Association of
Broadcasters

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BOB LEAVITT
1930 - 2018

Bob Leavitt, a well-known disc jockey and teacher passed away January 7 at the Green Mountain Nursing Home in Colchester after an extended illness. He was 87.

A Rutland native, Bob attended grade schools in Lincoln and Rutland and graduated from Arlington High School. He attended UVM but was called up by the U.S. Army Reserves. After being discharged in 1951 he began an extended radio career, first at WWSR in St. Albans and then at WJOY in Burlington. A jazz buff, Bob hosted the nighttime "Robins Nest" show on WJOY.

He obtained his UVM degree and was hired as a teacher by the Burlington School District, where he served from 1964 to 1977.

He then returned to WWSR and later he went back to WJOY until his retirement in 1993.

He was an avid auto enthusiast and sailor. He spent five summers living on his sailboat at Point Bay Marina in Charlotte.

He was predeceased by his former wife, Carolyn Peabody Leavitt, and is survived by one son and two adopted daughters.

ENTER THE COMMERCIAL OF THE YEAR CONTEST!

The Vermont Association of Broadcasters' 63rd Annual Convention will be held Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. The VAB will present awards for Radio and Television commercials, promotional spots, public service announcements and more.

There will be First and Second Place Awards in each of the categories. Advertising agencies will compete in their own division. However, both agencies and broadcast stations are eligible for the coveted "Best in Show" awards for both radio and TV. "Best in Show" winners will not be recognized in other categories.



Official Rules

- All entries must have been written and produced locally by the submitting station or agency and must have aired on a station between February 1, 2017 - February 1, 2018.
- You may submit up to two (2) entries per category and no more than six (6) total entries per agency or station. Stations must be members in good standing of the VAB, and advertising agencies must be

Associate Members in good standing with the VAB. Entries may be of any length. There is no charge to enter the contest!

- Each entry must be submitted separately via email to vab@vab.org.
- Each email MUST include the following information:

Name of Station or Agency

Category of Entry, i.e. Commercial, Promo or PSA

Name of Sponsor, i.e. "Al's Kwik-Stop"

Title of Entry, i.e. "Free Hot Dog Day"

Writer of spot

Producer of spot

Talent

Videographer (if applicable)

- The ads must have been locally written and produced by the Station or Agency.

• If you're entering a TV spot, you must send the file in native resolution MPEG 3 or MPEG 4 by Hightail or Dropbox to vab@vab.org. Spots sent by YouTube or Vimeo are NOT eligible.

- The VAB reserves the right to feature winning spots on www.vab.org.

- All Entries must be received by email at vab@vab.org by March 30, 2018.

To become an Associate Member at the annual dues rate of \$50, please visit our membership page.

[Click here](#) to see a list of last year's winners.

Email Jim Condon at vab@vab.org with any questions. Good luck!

MAIN STUDIO RULE CHANGES - WHAT TO KNOW



By David Oxenford, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

The FCC last week published a [Small Business Compliance Guide](#) for companies looking to take advantage of the FCC's elimination of the main studio rules and the studio staffing requirements associated with those rules. Stations looking to eliminate their main studios still must maintain a local toll-free telephone number where residents of the community served by the station can call. The Guide also references the requirement that access to the public file must be maintained. While, by March 1, all broadcast stations (unless they have obtained a waiver) will have their public files online, it is possible that some stations may have a remnant of their file still in paper even after the conversion date. But are there questions that the Guide does not address?

We think that there are, and that broadcasters who are considering doing away with their main studio need to consider numerous other matters. First, and most importantly, the obligation for a station to serve its local community with public interest programming remains on the books. So stations need to be sure that they are staying in touch with the local issues facing their communities, and they need to address those issues in their local programming. Addressing these issues needs to be documented in Quarterly Issues Programs lists.

Stations need to notify the FCC if they are being controlled from a location other than their transmitter or main studio locations. So, if there is no main studio, and no one is physically at the transmitter site, the FCC needs to be notified of the remote control location for the station.

EAS still needs to be monitored for the local area served by the station so the station can originate and rebroadcast required EAS tests, and respond in the event of a real emergency. The station still is required to have a chief operator designated in writing, and that operator must routinely review station logs and certify certain operational requirements for the station, including the monitoring of tower lights. A station log needs to be maintained and produced when requested by the FCC - containing information about EAS tests, tower light monitoring, and any deviations in operation of the station from the authorized parameters specified by the station license.

Obviously, stations also need to monitor and respond, if appropriate, to complaints about their operations, particularly technical complaints about the station not operating in compliance with its licensed facilities.

There certainly may be other issues that are not on this list. But this list makes clear that a licensee can't just close its main studio and get rid of all of its local employees and ignore its community. There are still has many FCC obligations that require licensees keep in touch with what is going on at their stations and in their local service areas.

SQUIER JOINS NASCAR HALL OF FAME



The VAB congratulates longtime Radio Vermont Group owner and VAB Hall of Fame member Ken Squier on his January 19 induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Squier is the first broadcaster to be named to the NASCAR Hall of Fame. He was introduced by Dale Earnhardt, Jr and officially inducted by an old friend: Vermont Governor Phil Scott, the only race car driver among the nation's governors.

"It was an incredible honor to be a small part in recognizing his contributions to the sport," said Scott. "Putting him in the Hall of Fame was well deserved and overdue," Scott told *Seven Days*.

[Click here](#) to watch Ken's speech.



GET READY
FOR THE
MARCH 1
ONLINE PUBLIC
FILE DEADLINE

With the March 1, 2018 Online Public Inspection File deadline for mid-sized and smaller market (and non-commercial) radio stations approaching, our friends at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman recently presented a [webinar](#) to help industry professionals navigate through the online filing process. You can access the .pdf files from the webinar by [clicking here](#).