

Vermont Association of Broadcasters

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KRISTIN KELLY HEADS TO GMP



WCAX-TV reporter and anchor Kristin Kelly is moving to GMP, where she'll serve as their Director of Communications. She has been at Channel 3 for nearly 20 years, sandwiched around a three-year stint at NECN.

She's earned many awards over the years, including a prestigious Du Pont-Columbia Award in 2010. She has co-anchored the evening news with Darren Perron since 2009. Good luck, Kristin!

COSTA JOINS CANCER SOCIETY



WCAX investigative reporter Jennifer Costa is also pulling up stakes for a career change.

She has "scooped" up many awards for her investigative work over her six years at Channel 3. She will now apply her talents as an advocate for policy and legislative solutions for the American Cancer Society Action Network. Best of luck, Jennifer!

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE 63rd VAB CONVENTION

Learning! Laughter! Lunch!

Let's Do It!

The VAB's annual convention will take place on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at the **Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center**, 100 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont. Only \$25 per ticket - includes all seminars, coffee, snacks and a delicious lunch at our Commercial of the Year Luncheon! [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)



VAB Convention Schedule:

8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M. Registration with Coffee and Muffins, Governor's Ballroom.

8:45 - 9:45 Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program (ABIP) Info w/ Bob Shotwell and Dennis Loria. Ethan Allen Room.

8:45 - 9:45 Sales Seminar #1 with **Derron Steenbergen**: "Surviving to Thriving in Sales, Building and Growing Strong Relationships." Montpelier Room.

10:- 11: 15 Sales Seminar #2 with Derron Steenbergen: "Surviving to Thriving in Sales, Discovering Your Sales Swagger from Digital to Beyond." Montpelier Room.

10: - 11:15 Programming Seminar: Fred Jacobs of **Jacobs Media**, Ethan Allen Room. "How Technology Is Transforming Radio Careers: A Guide To Navigating New Platforms"

11:30 - 12:30 Kerin Stackpole, Paul Frank & Collins, "How to Avoid Workplace Harassment Complaints." Montpelier Room. Kerin's seminars are engaging and fun. You'll receive a certificate of attendance for your station files.

12:45 - 1:30 Commercial of the Year Luncheon, Governor's Ballroom.



"Derron is EXCELLENT!" - Michelle Vetterkind, Wisconsin Broadcasters
"He is so good, your member will love him!" - Paula Maes, New Mexico Broadcasters



Fred Jacobs



Kerin Stackpole



QUARTERLY ISSUES/PROGRAMS REPORT DUE BY APRIL 10



By David Oxenford, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

April 10 is the deadline for stations to place in their public inspection file their Quarterly Issues Programs Lists. This is particularly important this quarter as it is the first time that all full-power stations, commercial and noncommercial, radio and TV, will have their public files online.

Thus, compliance with the deadline for Quarterly Issues Programs Lists can be monitored by anyone, anywhere. As each entry into the online public file is date-stamped by the FCC's public file system, the FCC can also check to see if a station has timely met its quarterly filing obligations. With the renewal cycle starting next year for radio stations, the failure to timely upload these reports can be costly. My reminder about this date, and other April regulatory dates for broadcasters (including children's television reports for TV stations, EEO obligations in a number of states, and various other deadlines), can be found [here](#).

The FCC is also taking more aggressive steps to crack down on pirate radio - this week seizing equipment from two pirates in the Boston area. More tools to fight pirates may be on the way from Congress. [See this article for more details.](#)



Best wishes to Lisa Nagle, the "L" in the "C, E and L" morning show on NewsTalk 620 WVMT in Colchester. Lisa, pictured above with co-hosts Ernie Farrar and Charlie Papillo, retired from the show March 30 after a 10-year run. Thanks for all the laughs, Lisa!

BUDGET ACT PROTECTS FIRST INFORMERS



By Scott Flick, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Enactment of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (feel free to read it, it's only 2,232 pages) on March 23 was welcomed by broadcasters, largely because it not only added a billion dollars to the FCC's fund for reimbursing broadcasters displaced

by the spectrum repack, but for the first time made FM, LPTV and TV Translator stations eligible for repack reimbursement funds.

What few seem to have noticed, however, is the Consolidated Appropriations Act had other language in it that will bring a longer-term benefit to broadcasters and the public they serve.

In the modern age, communications is every bit as vital to saving lives as disaster relief supplies and helicopters. A blaring warning siren may be fine for telling the public to dive into the nearest bomb shelter, but weather-related catastrophes require more precise communications, such as telling people where they need to go to ride out the disaster, as well as where those disaster relief supplies can be found.

Many state broadcasters associations pushed for state legislation granting broadcast station personnel "First Informer" status, allowing them access past police lines to keep information flowing to the public. The result was a significant improvement, but it still resulted in a patchwork approach.

Which brings us back to the Consolidated Appropriations Act. Hidden in over 55,000 lines of text are just 20 lines that change the definition of "essential service provider" at a disaster site. Those twenty lines of text expand the definition of an essential service provider to include "wireline or mobile telephone service, Internet access service, radio or television broadcasting, cable service, or direct broadcast satellite service."

As essential service providers, these entities are now empowered to access disaster areas under the provisions of an existing law, which provides that:

Unless exceptional circumstances apply, in an emergency or major disaster, the head of a Federal agency, to the greatest extent practicable, shall not—

- (1) deny or impede access to the disaster site to an essential service provider whose access is necessary to restore and repair an essential service; or
- (2) impede the restoration or repair of the [essential] services.

The change only affects Federal officials, meaning state laws providing First Informer status are still needed for areas that are not Federal disaster areas. Granting First Informer status will be the more lasting impact of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for broadcasters and the public that depends on them for rapid and accurate information in a disaster.

Scott Flick is a regular contributor to <https://www.commlawcenter.com/>