



# Annual Report of Member Benefits

July 2018 - June 2019

## Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program:

- VAB subsidized 99 Alternative Broadcast Inspections at a total cost of \$49,500.

## Monitoring & Advocacy in State & Federal Government:

- In February, VAB sent a delegation of four Vermont broadcasters to Washington D.C. to attend the NAB's State Leadership Conference and meet with Representative Welch, Senator Leahy and Senator Sanders' Telecom Legislative Assistant. Delegation advocated on national issues including the Local Radio Freedom Act (anti-performance tax legislation), STELAR expiration and REPAC.
- Downs Rachlin Martin monitored new legislation and legislation progression through the Vermont state House and Senate and alerted the VAB to any movement of interest to the broadcast industry.
- VAB joined other states to pay Pillsbury Law Firm to file comment with the FCC to oppose a proposed 20% increase to radio regulatory fees in 2019.
- VAB joined other states in signing a letter of support for the proposed Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement or "PIRATE" Act (H.R. 583)

## Member Outreach:

- VAB conducted visits to 71 television and radio stations around Vermont with a survey to gain feedback about what more the VAB can do to support members and the stations they work for.
- VAB Voice became a weekly e-newsletter with a new look that is being delivered to every email address provided to the VAB. If you are not receiving it and would like to, sign up at [www.vab.org](http://www.vab.org).
- Four new committees were formed; Membership, Nomination, Finance and Government Affairs, made up of 30+ member volunteers. If you would like to join a committee, email [vab@vab.org](mailto:vab@vab.org).
- Each station group now has a liaison to the VAB. Your liaison shares promotions and/or fundraisers your station(s) are proud of so we can shine a spotlight on them in the VAB Voice. Your liaison also informs the VAB about job openings and personnel changes such as retirements, promotions, new hires, etc.

## Training & Continued Education Opportunities:

- VAB is currently accepting topic ideas for trainings and educational opportunities you would like to see the VAB offer in 2019. If you have a topic or a request, please email [vab@vab.org](mailto:vab@vab.org).

## **Workforce Recruitment:**

- VAB advertised dozens of television and radio job openings on VAB's website and social media pages.
- VAB started relationships with the Chairs of the Broadcast Media departments, Career Centers and Advancement offices at Castleton University, CCV, Champlain College, Northern Vermont University-Lyndon, Norwich University, St. Michael's College and UVM. This network will streamline the placement of interns as well as identify students who show the most passion and potential to be mentored towards careers as Vermont broadcasters. If your company currently takes college interns for credit or would consider taking on an intern, please email [vab@vab.org](mailto:vab@vab.org) to be added to the coalition.
- VAB created a handshake account which enables us to post our member's job openings in the handshake platform, accessed and used by students at almost every college and university in Vermont.
- VAB joined a Workforce Recruitment Collaboration made up of Vermont businesses, state agencies and organizations with the shared goal of expanding Vermont's workforce.

## **Centralized & Maintained School Closings Website:**

- Last Fall, VAB funded a region-wide update of school contacts and passwords to ensure all school closings and cancellations were reported to the VAB's school closing website administered by WCAX.

## **Regulatory, EAS and EEO Assistance:**

- VAB circulated dozens of advisories, deadline reminders and warnings originating from the NAB, National Alliance of State Broadcast Associations and Communications Law Firms in Washington D.C.

## **Hall of Fame Awards Banquet:**

- December 1, 2018, VAB inducted Jim Condon, Terry Jaye and Jeff Shapiro into the VAB Hall of Fame.
- VAB also honored Glen Dudley and Charlie Papillo with Distinguished Service awards, Mike Seguin with the Snyder/Teffner Award for excellence behind-the-scenes and WOKO with the Alan Noyes Community Service Award for their support of the Three Day Stampede towards the Cure for Cystic Fibrosis.
- 275 members and their significant others attended the awards banquet at the Hilton-Burlington Hotel.

## **Annual Convention & Commercial of the Year Awards:**

- Fred Jacobs, Derron Steenbergen, Kerin Stackpole and Bob Shotwell conducted trainings on programming, sales, sexual harassment in the workplace and ABIP respectively.
- 23 Production awards were given out for Digital, PSA, Promo and Commercials of the Year.
- 160 members attended the trainings and awards luncheon.