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The *Transmitter* is free to members and available to non-members by subscription for \$25 per year. KAB's mission is to provide professional lobbying and governmental representation, efficient communication and effective recruiting, education and training for Kansas broadcasters for the purpose of enhancing the success of Kansas broadcasters and helping them better serve the people of Kansas.

**Kansas Association of Broadcasters**  
1916 SW Sieben Ct, Topeka KS 66611  
(785) 235-1307\*FAX (785) 233-3052  
[www.kab.net](http://www.kab.net) \* e-mail: [harriet@kab.net](mailto:harriet@kab.net)

"Save your Hank Williams records, folks; country music's gonna rise again."

*Ol' Mike's sign off*



## Chairman's message

*(Kyle Bauer, KFRM/KCLY)*

Broadcasting lost a great one this week with the passing of Ol' Mike Oatman. He was respected across the U.S. He had the love and admiration of his former employees, as well as his loyal listeners and readers. Read more about his life in this issue. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his family.

If you aren't proud of your membership in KAB you should be. The continuity and leadership that Harriet has provided to the organization for the past 20 years is a huge asset. Over the past 5 years of being on the board, I can tell you, there was not a time that each of those board members didn't take their responsibility seriously. The time, travel, and resources, they and the companies who employ them dedicate to KAB is amazing and enables us (Kansas broadcasters) to leverage up our positions to help battle for and safeguard our industry.

The time which is donated to KAB through the NCSA program is paramount in the success of KAB. Without it, our effectiveness and visibility would be severely diminished with a tiny budget and higher dues. If you are supporting NCSA, thank you. If not, please consider it; there are many of your fellow broadcasters carrying your load. Remember though,

If you don't pledge it, we can't sell it.

If you don't run it, we can't bill it.

If you don't affidavit it, we can't collect it.

We have made an emphasis on staying in touch with legislators this year. A hearing is scheduled for February 4 on our sales tax exemption on broadcast equipment and electricity. With the shortfall in the state budget it is really important to stay in touch with your legislators. I will remind you the sales tax exemption on broadcast electricity and equipment was achieved just 5 years ago and finally put us on parity with the print people. And if

*(continued on page 2)*

# Transmitter

Volume 42 No 1 January 31, 2003

## Mike Oatman

The broadcast industry received sad news on Monday, January 27 that Michael C. "Ol' Mike" Oatman, Wichita, died of liver cancer at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He was 63.

Oatman was a partner with Mike Lynch in Great Empire Broadcasting Inc. until his retirement and the sale of Great Empire's 13 radio stations to Journal Broadcast Group in June 2001. He continued until recently to do his five-minute daily show of poetry and homespun humor on Wichita's KFDI/KFTI radio. He also wrote a weekly column for *The Wichita Eagle*.

Oatman was born in the West Texas town of Marta, and began his broadcast career with a variety of radio jobs. Lynch, who founded Great Empire, hired Oatman from an El Paso station in 1964 to be program director and drive time anchor for KFDI AM. Oatman later became co-owner of Great Empire with Lynch. They grew the company with the purchase of radio stations in medium size markets.

Oatman served as president of Country Radio Broadcasters and as chairman of the Wichita Chamber of Commerce. He was named to the Country Music Disc Jockey Hall of Fame, America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame, and Kansas Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame. He received the American Broadcast Pioneer Award in 2002.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Jane Oatman, in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Pegi of Wichita; three children, all in the broadcast business: Daughter Melissa (Beck) McDermott, New York City; Andy Oatman, Tulsa; and Richard Oatman, Kansas City; and seven grandchildren.

The funeral was Friday, January 31, Central Christian Church in Wichita. An estimated 2000 people attended. Memorial contributions may be made to ERIN is Hope Foundation, 4921 E. 21<sup>st</sup> N., Wichita 67208; or WSU Foundation, Box 2, Wichita 67260. Cards and letters for the family should be mailed to Hughes Metroplex, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita 67260. (Source: KFDI and *Wichita Eagle*)

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## Chairman's message cont.

they make us charge sales tax on advertising you can count on your customers' budgets staying the same and you sending 6% of your gross to the state.

With this in mind, I will end with this story.

A rancher in western Kansas was stuck in a blizzard when his battery went dead. He prayed to God to start his truck but to no avail and he froze to death. He got to heaven and was a little upset that his prayer wasn't answered. St. Peter said, "We heard your prayer and put 10,000 angels to work on it immediately, but we hadn't heard from you for so long that we lost track and started some guys truck in Wisconsin." The point - Stay in touch with your legislator too, you never know when you may need help.

Let's have a great year. Remember your competition isn't the other radio and TV guy. It is newspapers, magazines, the Internet, and billboards.

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## EAS monthly tests

### AMBER quarterly tests

Tues., January 14, 1:50 pm / EAS

Tues., February 11, 10:50 pm / EAS

Thurs., Feb. 13, 1:50 pm / AMBER

Tues., March 11, 1:50 pm / EAS

Tues., April 8, 10:50 pm / EAS

Tues., May 13, 1:50 pm / EAS

Sunday, May 25, 1:50 pm / AMBER  
(It's National Missing Children's Day)

Tues., June 10, 10:50 pm / EAS

Tues., July 8, 1:50 pm / EAS

Tues., August 12, 10:50 pm / EAS

Thurs., August 14, 1:50 pm / AMBER

Tues., September 9, 1:50 pm / EAS

Tues., October 14, 10:50 pm / EAS

Tues., November 11, 1:50 pm / EAS

Thurs., Nov. 13, 1:50 pm / AMBER

Tues., December 9, 10:50 pm / EAS

## Welcome new members

A warm KAB welcome to new Professional Members: **Chris Fisher**, music director, KTPK FM, Topeka; and **Rhys Coash Baker**, assistant news director, KFRM/KCLY, Clay Center. Associate Member: **Wichita North High School**, Kathy Whepley, instructor.

KAB thanks these stations for joining or renewing in 2003. **RADIO:** KABI/KSAJ, Abilene; KSOK AM/FM, Arkansas City; KAIR AM/FM, Atchison; KVSU AM/FM, Beloit; KGCR FM, Brewster; KSNP FM, Burlington; KFRM/KCLY, Clay Center; KKOY AM/FM, Chanute; KNCK/KCKS, Concordia; KYFW FM, Derby; KVOE AM/FM/KFFX, Emporia; KMDO/KOMB and KVCY FM, Fort Scott; KLOE/KKCI/KWGB, Goodland; KANZ/KZNA/KZAN/ KTOT, Garden City; KPRD FM, Hays; KJRL FM, Herington; KNZA FM, Hiawatha; KHCC/KHCD/KHCT and KGGG/KSKU/KXKU, Hutchinson; KIND AM/FM, Independence; KJCK AM/FM/KQLA, Junction City; KCMO AM/FM/KCFX/KFME, KMBZ/WDAF/ KUDL/ KYYS/KXTR/KQRC/ KRBZ/KCIY/ KKHK, Kansas City; KLWN/KLZR, KANU/KANH/ KANV and KJHK FM, Lawrence; KSCB AM/FM/ KLDG, Liberal; KMAN/KXBX/ KMKF/KACZ and KBLS FM, Manhattan; KNGL/ KBBE, McPherson; KJIL/KHYM, Meade; KJRG AM, Newton; KBCU FM, North Newton; KOFO AM, Ottawa; KLKC AM/FM, Parsons; KRPS FM, Pittsburg; KRSL/KCAY, Russell; KSAL/KYEZ/KZBZ and KCVS FM, Salina; KMZA FM, Seneca; KBUZ FM, KJTY FM, KTPK FM, WIBW AM/FM, Topeka; KCFN FM, KFH AM/FM/ KNSS/KFBZ/KDGS/KEYN, KRBB/ KKRK/KRZZ/KZSN, KMUW FM, Wichita. **TELEVISION:** KOOD/ KSWK/KDCK TV, Bunker Hill; KBSD TV, Dodge City; KUPK TV, KSNG TV, Garden City; KBSL TV, Goodland; KSNC TV, Great Bend; KBSH TV, Hays; KCTV, KMBC/ KCWE TV, KSHB/ KMCI/KPXE TV, WDAF TV, Kansas City; KUJH TV, Lawrence; KSNK TV, Oberlin; KOAM TV, Pittsburg; KSNT TV, KTMJ TV, KTWU TV, WIBW TV, Topeka; KSAS/KSCC TV, KSNW TV, KTQW TV, KWCH TV, Wichita.

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## Check your KAB alternative inspection certificate . . .

If the expiration date on your Certificate of Compliance is in 2003, start thinking about signing up for another inspection. The advantage to KAB's alternative inspection program, is that stations which pass get a three-year exemption on routine FCC inspections. Go to [www.kab.net](http://www.kab.net) to download the information and form to request an inspection, or contact KAB.

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## 2003 KAB deadlines

- February 1, deadline for entries in KAB Student PSA Contest (alcohol/drug prevention - prom/graduation)
- February 24, deadline for entries in KAB Student Broadcast Awards
- April 1, deadline for KAB Kids Scholarship applications
- May 1, deadline for KAB Broadcast Scholarship applications
- May 1, deadline for KAB paid summer student internships
- May 1, deadline for KAB paid summer educator internships
- July 1, deadline for KAB station awards entries
- August 11, deadline for nominations for KAB Distinguished Service Award, Hall of Fame inductees, Sonny Slater Award, Hod Humiston Award, Tony Jewell Award and Tourism Award
- November 1, deadline for KAB Student PSA Contest (alcohol/drug prevention - holidays)
- November 1, deadline for paid faculty and student internships (semester break and spring break)

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## 2003 KAB Events

- March 4 & 12, Satellite Sales Workshop by Charles Warner
- March 20, KS SBE ATSC Digital VSB Transmission System Seminar, Topeka
- March 26, KAB Board of Directors Meeting, Emporia Candlewood Suites
- April 16, KAB Student Seminar and Career Fair, Wichita Marriott
- May 6, KAB Sports/Sports Sales Seminar, Royals Stadium, KC
- June 9 (TBC), KAB Sales Academy, Topeka
- June 10, KAB Board of Directors Meeting, Topeka
- July 18-Aug 8, KAB Office closed
- August 27, KAB Board of Directors Meeting, Clay Center
- October 19-21, KAB Convention, Wichita Airport Hilton
- November 18, KAB Executive Committee Meeting, Topeka
- December 11, KAB Board of Directors Meeting, Manhattan

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## SBE, KAB and KTWU co-sponsor ATSC digital seminar

On Thursday, March 20, a one-day seminar will be presented on the ATSC's digital television vestigial sideband transmission system, at KTWU TV in Topeka.

The seminar is for broadcasters, broadcast consultants, equipment manufacturers, translator/ LPTV operators and cable operators. It will give participants an understanding of the digital VSB transmission system and its performance attributes.

SBE has distributed information to its members. KAB will distribute information to KAB members soon. Questions? Contact Duane Loyd at KTWU TV (785) 231-1111.

## Media organizations lose open meetings suit, file appeal and introduce legislation

District Judge Eric Rosen found that the transition office of Governor-Elect Kathleen Sebelius was not a state agency and therefore, it and its advisory committees (BEST) were not subject to Kansas Open Meetings Act until she became governor. The Associated Press, Kansas Press Association, Kansas Association of Broadcasters and 11 newspapers filed the suit.

Although Judge Rosen found in favor of Governor-Elect Sebelius in his January 6 decision, he chided the Governor-elect for the secret meetings and stated in his decision "... The time has long passed that critical public policy decisions can be formulated and based on privately held discussions and secret meetings that hold no one accountable. KOMA's purpose and design rests on the premise that the foundation of our government is dependent upon an informed electorate. When meetings that directly impact public policy of our state occur out of the public eye or ear, our democracy is put in jeopardy."

Attorney Mike Merriam, on behalf of the 14 plaintiffs filed an appeal with Kansas Court of Appeals and then asked that the matter be transferred to Kansas Supreme Court. The Court denied the transfer, leaving the matter in the Appeals Court.

On the legislative front, KAB, Kansas Press Association and KS Sunshine Coalition for Open Government requested a bill be introduced by the House Ethics and Elections Committee which would extend KOMA to all newly elected officials and all governmental task forces and advisory committees. On the Senate side, Senator Jean Schodorf (R-Wichita) introduced a similar bill.

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## KC radio magazine into syndication

"A Giant Leap Backwards in Radio"- that is the slogan, the motto, behind the talk radio magazine program "Radio for Grownups", a program out of Kansas City which is about to launch a syndication campaign.

Radio for Grownups attempts to recapture the golden age of radio by assembling a talented ensemble of contributors for its three-hour show.

The weekly show is hosted by Joel Becker and David Lewis. Segments will include "Food for Thought", chronicles of suburban motherhood, news from around the Midwest, movie reviews, and market reviews. The first hour each week will feature a special guest.

According to Becker, the program was a ratings and sales success in Kansas City for four years. Beginning in March, the show will air each Saturday via satellite, from noon to 3:00 pm central time. The undated nature of the show will allow affiliates to air the program live or record it for airing later.

For additional information go to [www.radioforgrownups.com](http://www.radioforgrownups.com). The web site features a streaming audio archive of the most recent program and information about members of the cast. Stations interested in becoming an affiliate should contact Joel Becker at BeckBros Productions in Merriam KS. Telephone (913) 789-9878.

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## New FCC rules go into effect March 10

The FCC's new EEO rules for broadcasting and cable go into effect on March 10. The new rules are posted on the FCC's Web site at [www.fcc.gov/mb/policy/eo](http://www.fcc.gov/mb/policy/eo). KAB's Washington law firm, ShawPittman, has put together a legal guide for the new rules. Contact KAB for a copy.

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## Washington update

### In Congress

\*The Senate Commerce Committee held a January 30 hearing regarding **radio ownership**. It was the first of a series of hearings on media ownership that will coincide with the FCC's biennial review of media ownership rules.

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## State associations file in EEO proceeding

KAB joined other state broadcast associations in filing joint comments with the FCC opposing any extension of the new EEO rule to part-time positions. The filing states that "State Associations remain very concerned about the refusal of the Commission to endorse the Internet as the single widest, most efficient, and most effective methodology for the dissemination of information about job openings". . . unnecessarily forcing "broadcasters to rely more heavily upon less efficient and less effective dissemination methodologies and, as a consequence to unnecessarily increase their recordkeeping and reporting burdens."

On February 6, state broadcast associations will file a Joint Petition for Reconsideration and Clarification in the EEO proceeding.

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## NAB's Jim May to ATA

NAB's Executive Vice President of Government Relations Jim May has been appointed president and CEO of the Air Transport Association. The ATA is the trade association representing major airlines in the US. He begins at the ATA on February 3.

May began at NAB in 1988 and is credited with raising the level and profile of the government relations department.

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## Are you in the dark about public issues?



PO Box 4341, Topeka KS 66604

[www.sunshinecoalition.com](http://www.sunshinecoalition.com)

*Help the Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government shed light on Kansas open records and meetings by becoming a member today!*

Do you have a question about open records or open meetings?

Call the Kansas Sunshine Coalition Hotline for free information from a qualified Kansas attorney.

(785) 233-3700

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- **YES!** Sign me up as a member of the Kansas Sunshine Coalition. I want to help in the fight to keep public meetings and public records open to the public.

\_\_\_ Individual membership \$25/year

\_\_\_ Organization membership \$100

\_\_\_ Students \$10

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and mail this form with payment to: Kansas Sunshine Coalition, PO Box 4341, Topeka KS 66604

## McNair leaving Topeka's KSNT TV

Gary McNair, vice president and general manager for KSNT TV for the past six years, is returning to his hometown of Clarksburg, W.VA. He will become general manager of WBOY TV. He and his wife are making the move to be closer to family.

McNair just finished a term on KAB's board of directors. He came to Topeka from the CBS affiliate in Roswell, NM.

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## News briefs

\***Don Schultz** has been appointed to fill a new position at **KFRM**, Clay Center - national business director. Schultz previously was VP/general manager of AgriTalk, Bonner Springs.

\***Bryan McGruder** has joined **WDAF TV**, Kansas City, as news director. He previously was VP of news at WHBQ TV in Memphis.

\*Bott Broadcasting's **KCVT FM** has moved offices from Silver Lake to Topeka's Bank of America building. Station manager is Sam Elliott.

\*NAB's **Kathy Ramsey** has been promoted to executive vice president, public affairs. She previously was senior vice president of broadcast government relations. In her new position, Ramsey will continue to direct the grassroots efforts of NAB and serve as liaison to the 50 state broadcast associations. She will take on responsibility of NAB corporate communications and national campaigns department.

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## Mark your calendar

*2003 KAB Convention*

**October 19-21**

**(Sunday - Tuesday)**

**Wichita Airport Hilton**