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# Transmitter

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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)

**KAB station award winners will be distributed to member stations in early September.**

## Chairman's message

(Scott Donovan, KHOK/KVGB)

What service do most listeners and viewers rely on from their local radio and TV stations ? Many would answer that question with severe weather coverage. It's true that radio and TV stations spend a lot of money and work very hard to provide the public with the most up to date information, when it comes to severe weather. It's the one thing that most Kansans are concerned with on a daily basis. Many of our stations have even come up with some very interesting names and tactics to show that we have the ultimate super Doppler exclusive color nexrad pin-point weather radar device to prove that our weather coverage is the best. The truth is we all work very hard to give our public something they want at a moment's notice, a service that no other form of media can deliver.

Now Kansas broadcasters have another opportunity to provide a valuable service to our listeners and viewers in the form of the Kansas Amber Plan. A group of Kansas broadcasters have been working with law enforcement officials, emergency preparedness personnel, members of the National Weather service, FCC, and the Kansas Attorney General's office, since March of this year to put the Kansas Amber Plan in place. The task force was formed by Kansas Attorney General Carla Stovall and the group has worked very hard to have this plan in place by October of this year.

The Kansas AMBER Plan is a great opportunity for local broadcasters to work hand in hand with local law enforcement officials for one great cause. It's a perfect opportunity for us to strengthen our relationship with police chiefs, county sheriffs and emergency personnel - a chance for us to talk about saving kids and helping families. We all know that some of the ties between media and law enforcement have been severed in the past, maybe because of a news story, or the way certain situations were handled under pressure. The Kansas AMBER Plan

## KAB awards, conference in Wichita October 15-16

KAB station awards, a management conference, and sessions for radio and television production/continuity personnel are scheduled for October 15-16 at the Wichita Marriott.

KAB's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award and inductions into KAB's Hall of Fame will be presented Tuesday evening, October 15, during a reception. Other individual KAB awards also will be presented: Hod Humiston Award for Sports Broadcasting and Tony Jewell Award for Contributions to the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Scheduled Wednesday, October 16:

**8:30- 9:30 am**

**Registration/continental breakfast**

**9:30-11:45 Concurrent sessions**

- For Managers - A session with WSU's management guru, Dr. Gerald Graham
- Radio production/continuity session
- Television production/continuity session

**12:00 - 2:00 pm**

**KAB Awards Luncheon**

Amber Alert Update  
 Presentation of Station Awards and Stations of the Year

**2:00 - 4:00 Concurrent Sessions**

- KAB Annual Business Meeting
- Radio production/continuity session
- Television production/continuity session

Details and registration information will be distributed in mid-September.

## Welcome new members

A warm KAB welcome to new Associate Member - **Kansas Health Foundation**, Wichita. **Eric Payne** is communications coordinator.

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## Chairman's message cont.

will be an opportunity to prove to the public that radio stations, TV stations and law enforcement officials work well together.

Kansas AMBER Plan training sessions for broadcasters and law enforcement officials will be held in September. Training videos will be available to members of the KAB. We will cover some of your questions and concerns during our October meeting. In the meantime feel free to contact me or Harriet.

The only way this service can happen is with the help and cooperation of your radio or TV station. The task force has worked very hard to make sure that every i is dotted and every t is crossed, and we think we have a pretty good plan in place. The success of the Kansas AMBER Plan will come down to the efforts put forth by you and your local law enforcement officials. The task force needs your help to make the AMBER Plan work. Twenty-seven children have been recovered under current AMBER plans across the country, and more and more states are getting involved. The public is becoming more aware of the AMBER Plan, due to recent child abductions.

My year as chairman of KAB is well over halfway through and I just want to say thanks again for giving me this opportunity. I have learned so much and have had the chance to work with so many great people.

I am currently recovering from throat surgery and I appreciate the notes of concern. I plan to be back on the air soon. I also hope to see some of you at the upcoming NAB Radio Show in Seattle. I've been asked to be a panelist for the session titled "Strategy and Budgeting in a Small Market: How do we successfully cash flow in a small market?" It will take place on Friday, September 13, 10:30 am. Please make it a part of your agenda if you are attending the show.

The toughest question of the week might be, "What kind of special programming do you plan to do on the one year anniversary of September 11?"

Your comments and questions are welcome at [scott.donovan@eagleradio.net](mailto:scott.donovan@eagleradio.net)

## Amber Alert program to be launched statewide in October

Kansas' statewide Amber Alert Program will be ready to launch in October. A task force appointed by Attorney General Carla Stovall, has been working since March to develop a plan, guidelines and procedures.

Serving on the task force are representatives of law enforcement - KBI, Kansas Highway Patrol, and sheriff's and police departments - Kansas broadcasters, emergency management, FCC, and National Weather Service personnel.

An Amber Alert will be issued when a child has been abducted, over the Emergency Alert System (using an administrative code, until the child abduction code is installed in station EAS equipment). The situation must meet very specific criteria before an alert will be issued. If a local law enforcement agency determines all the criteria have been met to issue an Amber Alert, the KBI will issue the EAS Alert statewide. Following that initial alert over the EAS, radio and TV stations will be asked to air the information in the alert every 15 minutes during the first two hours. KBI will maintain a web site for the public and media to stay abreast of developments in an abduction.

An aggressive training schedule for law enforcement and broadcasters is planned in September. A "Train the Trainers" session is scheduled for Friday morning, September 6 at the Highway Patrol Academy in Salina. Invited to attend this session will be selected broadcasters representing regions of the state, highway patrol troopers from the seven regional KHP Troop Headquarters and KBI personnel from their district offices.

Following the September 6 "Train the Trainers" in Salina, the plan is to have a KHP trooper and a broadcaster(s) train other broadcasters

and law enforcement sometime during the remaining weeks in September, in

## 2002 KAB events calendar

- August 29, KAB Board of Directors Meeting, Great Bend
- October 15-16, KAB Annual Meeting, Management & Production Seminars and Awards Luncheon, Wichita Marriott
- November 19, KAB Executive Committee Meeting, Topeka
- December 9, KAB Internet Academy, Topeka
- December 10, KAB Board of Directors Meeting, Topeka

## Political dates

- September 6 - Lowest Unit Charge period begins for November 5 General Election
- November 5 - General Election

## 2002 KAB deadlines

- 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)

## EAS monthly test dates

(Second Tuesday of each month)

- September 10, 1:50 pm
- October 8, 10:50 pm
- November 12, 1:50 pm
- December 10, 10:50 pm

each of the seven KHP regions - Garden City, Hays, Norton, Salina, Olathe, Wichita and Topeka; and to have one KBI person and a broadcaster(s) to train in each of these six cities where KBI has offices- Pittsburg, Great Bend, Dodge City, Beloit, Emporia and Atchison.

The alert system will be tested sometime in late September after the training has been concluded, in anticipation of an October 1 launch date.

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# Washington update

## At the FCC

\*The FCC has **adopted a plan to require off-air digital TV tuners** on nearly all new TV sets by 2007. The Commission enacted a five-year rollout schedule that starts with larger, more expensive TV sets. All TV receivers with screen sizes greater than 13 inches and all TV receiving equipment, such as VCRs and DVD players, will be required to include DTV reception capability after July 1, 2007. The Commission also will address cable carriage of DTV signals and interoperability.

\* The FCC has adopted the schedule of **regulatory fees for 2002**. Congress required an increase in FCC collection of regulatory fees of 9.3%. Radio fees are based on the populations served by each station. TV fees are based on market size. The schedule of fees for radio and television is available on the FCC's web site [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov). Fees must be received at the FCC's lockbox bank between September 10 and 25. The FCC Fee Filer system is available online at [www.fcc.gov/fees/feefiler.html](http://www.fcc.gov/fees/feefiler.html) and may be used to submit 2002 regulatory fees and related data. The system is available until September 25, 2002. The Remittance Advice Form 159 now requires both the payer and applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN). All payments must be made to the exact dollar and cents in order to be credited properly. Questions may be directed to the Fee Filer Help Desk at (877) 480-3201.

\***FCC application processing fees** will increase by 7% on September 10, reflecting the cost-of-living increases in the Consumer Price Index-Urban. The new rates are on the FCC's web site at [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).

## In Congress

\*House and Senate Commerce Committee staff are working during the August recess to develop language for a **DTV bill to address**

**impediments to the digital television transition.** House Commerce

## News briefs

\***Jeff Ogden** is new general manager of Waitt Radio stations in Dodge City - **KGNO, KOLS and KZRD**. He replaces Mike Kinnan who remains with the stations in a sales capacity.

\*New general manager at **WDAF TV**, Kansas City, is the station's former GSM **Cheryl Kerns McDonald**. She replaces Stan Knott who moved to Fox station, WOFL TV, Orlando.

\*Washburn University broadcast instructor, **Bambi Landholm** is joining the broadcast faculty at **Kansas State University**. New radio/TV sequence head at K-State is **Steven Smethers**. He replaces Paul Prince who retired last year.

\***KQAM AM**, Wichita, has been sold by Entercom to ABC Radio, Inc. According to *Broadcasting Magazine*, price was \$2 million.

\*Nebraska Broadcasters Association appointed **Marty Riemenschneider** as president/executive director, to replace Dick Palmquist, who died earlier this year. Riemenschneider has been working in and around broadcasting since 1971. Most recently he was general manager of Merdiawebworks, and Omaha-based Internet company. Palmquist's widow, Annabelle Currant, served as interim executive director until a replacement could be found.

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Committee Chairman, Cong. Billy Tauzin, has suggested that legislation may be introduced in September with hearings to follow.

\*The Senate ended debate on **prescription drug legislation** and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) did not offer her bill as an amendment that would restrict tax deductibility for the marketing and advertising of prescription drugs to the same amount pharmaceutical companies spend on research and development. On the

House side, Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) introduced legislation that would

Add Value  
to your local radio newscast  
with KANSAS NEWS & KANSAS SOUND  
**KFB**  
**RADIO NEWS** at  
[WWW.KFB.ORG/RADIO.HTM](http://WWW.KFB.ORG/RADIO.HTM)  
Kansas Farm Bureau  
Helping Feed the World

eliminate tax deductibility of direct-

## William Kirkpatrick

William R. Kirkpatrick, 80, Topeka, died May 27 at his home. He had been employed at WIBW for 38 years, when he did radio shows and a television show, "The Rush Hour". He worked for WREN during the 1960s and retired as a member of the Pleasant Valley Gang in 1985. He is survived by a daughter, son and four grandchildren.

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to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs.

\***Free air time legislation** by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), Russ Feingold (D-WI) and Robert Torricelli (D-NJ) and Cong. Marty Meehan (D-MA) has not yet been introduced. The legislation will include a 1% tax on spectrum usage for both radio and television broadcasters. Tax funds would be used to pay for vouchers for political candidates and parties who could use them to purchase time from

stations. The proposal would mandate that broadcasters air two hours of "candidate centered" discourse per week before an election.