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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
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(785) 235-1307*FAX (785) 233-3052
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Mark Your Calendar
Monday, December 10
KAB Internet Academy
Topeka



Chairman's message

(Danny Thomas, KOAM TV)

As I write this I am working on the home stretch of our station's budget for 2002. In that process I write several narratives - from where we've been to the obvious, where we're going. This year has provided plenty to write about in an historical sense and is a wild card in a forward view. Since I am in that mode, it's only natural that this column would be written that same way.

KAB had a very successful year. We added several Kansas City stations to our station membership roster. NCSA participation from the Kansas City stations has made a significant impact on our revenues.

We have focused most of our expenditures back to the members. From the numerous academies we have put on to our convention, participation fees have been a fraction of the actual cost.

We focused a lot on why we are who we are. Our promotion of localism and community service have hopefully inspired those younger broadcasters in our group to believe that no matter what business model they may work under at the moment, the true future of our industry is in our localism.

I am inspired by what the future holds, not in a short term financial way, since that looks pretty uncertain, but rather in a future of our business view. As tragic as recent weeks have been it has been an affirmation for who we are as broadcasters. Before the tragedy of September 11, we were all grinding away at our own personal definition of broadcasting. Since the tragedy, it is as if every broadcaster in Kansas has a renewed vision. Our commitment to our craft has never been stronger.

1951-2001

A Golden Past A Bright Future

Transmitter

Volume 40 No 9

October 30, 2001

DSA to Jennison

KAB presented its highest award, Distinguished Service Award, to Ken Jennison, EBC, Inc. Salina, during the KAB Convention in Topeka. As the DSA winner, Ken also was inducted into KAB's Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

Ken's career began in 1949 after graduating from K-State and going to work as a copywriter for Salina-based KSAL AM. He was promoted to continuity director and then worked in the sales department. Ken was promoted to assistant manager and then to vice president and manager of KSAL in 1965.

In 1979, Ken accepted a job as assistant manager for KAYS AM in Hays. He returned to Salina in 1982 as part owner of KINA AM and was instrumental in putting KQNS FM on the air. He worked with these two stations as salesman, manager and president until the stations were sold in 1996.

That same year, Ken was hired as public service director of the EBC stations - KSAL, KSAJ, KABI, KZBZ, KBLS and KYEZ.

Ken was president of KAB in 1976-1977. He is an active committee member for the American Red Cross, Junior Dairy Show, Salina Agriculture Show, YWCA and he participates on several boards including the Salina Rescue Mission, Salina Symphony, Saline County Fair and the Central Kansas Partnership. He also is chairman of the Saline County 4-H Fund Foundation and the Saline County Prostate Cancer Support Group.

#

Welcome new members

A warm KAB welcome to new station members: **Infinity Broadcasting's** Kansas City stations: **KMXV/KSRC**, **Herndon Hasty**, general manager; and **KFKF/KBEQ**, **Dan Wastler**, general manager.

#

Congratulations KAB Stations of the Year

KANU FM, Lawrence

KAIR FM, Atchison

KSAL AM, Salina

WIBW FM, Topeka

KSNC TV, Great Bend

KTKA TV, Topeka

KAKE TV, Wichita

KMBC TV, Kansas City

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## Thank You

## Convention Sponsors

ASCAP

Broadcast Music, Inc.

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Kansas Electric Cooperatives &

Touchstone Energy

Cooperatives

Kansas Gas Service

Kansas Motor Carriers Assn.

Kansas Radio Networks - KIN,

KAN and Wildcat Sports

Western Resources

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Mark Your Calendar

June 6-8, 2002

**KAB/MBA Joint
Convention**

Kansas City Hyatt

Convention wrap-up

KAB's 50th Anniversary Convention was October 9-11, Maner Conference Center, Topeka. More than 450 broadcasters, suppliers, friends of broadcasting, students and educators attended during the two and one-half days.

Our sponsors, speakers, and sessions for management, sales, programming, engineering, news, and students, and enthusiastic participants parlayed into a very successful convention.

The Convention Committee was chaired by Gary McNair, KSNT TV. Committee members included: Larry Avery, EBC, Inc.; Hank Booth, KLWN/KLZR; Craig Colboch, WIBW AM/FM; Bob Fulmer, KTKA TV; Gary Hawke, University of Kansas; Howard Hill; Robert Hilton, KNZA, Inc.; Chris Kreger, RF Specialties; Duane Loyd, KTWU TV; Rich O'Brian, KBUZ FM; Don Pollnow, Cumulus Broadcasting; Terry Weinacht, KTPK FM; Eugene Williams, KTWU TV; and Thimios Zaharopoulos, Washburn University.

The convention got underway with a 50th Anniversary Reunion Reception for current and former Kansas broadcasters. A number of KARB/KAB past presidents attended the reception.

During the October 9 reunion reception, KAB inducted five Kansas broadcasters into the Kansas Broadcasting Hall of Fame: Harold Ensley, Overland Park; Tom Hedrick, Lawrence; Ken Jennison, Salina; Tom Leahy, Wichita; and Dev Nelson (posthumously), Manhattan.

Some of the convention speakers included Emmis Communications Chairman Jeff Smulyan; National Association of Broadcasters chief lobbyist, Jim May; former Kansan, Vietnam Vet and prisoner of war, Charlie Plumb; Kansas Adj. General Greg Gardner; sales trainer, Sean Luce; Al Tompkins, The Poynter

Institute for Media Studies; Jay Trachman, CreeYadio Services; KAB Hotline Attorney, Mike Merriam and Communications Attorney Barry Umansky (by speaker phone).

The KAB Distinguished Service Award was presented to Ken Jennison, EBC, Inc., Salina, for his many contributions to the industry and the community he serves.

The KAB Tony Jewell Award for contributions in the field of alcohol/drug abuse prevention, was presented to Bryan Thompson, Kansas Public Radio, Salina.

KAB presented its Sonny Slater Award for outstanding service to his station and community, to Larry Hatteberg, KAKE TV, Wichita.

KAB's Hod Humiston Award for contributions to sports broadcasting in Kansas went to Rich Epp, KLBY TV, Colby.

A Friend of Kansas Broadcasting Award was presented to Bill Ohlemeier, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Paul Prince, recently retired from Kansas State University, also was selected for a Friend of Kansas Broadcasting Award, but was unable to attend the convention.

University of Kansas Radio/TV faculty presented the Grover Cobb Award for Broadcasting Service, posthumously to John Katich, former head of the radio/TV sequence at KU. His widow, Laura accepted the award.

During the business meeting, members elected Kyle Bauer, KFRM/KCLY, as chair-elect, and directors: Hank Booth, KLWN/KLZR; Ken Fearnow, Journal Broadcast Group; and Dave Trabert, KAKE TV. Cliff Shank, KSKU/KXKU/KGGG, was elected secretary/treasurer for 2002.

#

Thanks, NAB . . .

For the \$2,440 honorarium presented by Jim May to KAB, to help offset KAB expenses in attending NAB's Annual

State Association Leadership Conference.

KAB Shirts Available

100% cotton twill, Stone color

KAB logo above left chest pocket

Sizes range from Medium to 3XL

\$32.04 each, includes sales tax

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*1951-2001 A Golden Past*

## THE KAB 1987-'91

In 1987, KAB established a scholarship program for college students majoring in broadcasting or a related field; KAB sponsored a government relations seminar in Topeka and heard from Governor Mike Hayden and legislative leadership about their priorities for the 1987 legislative session; and KABer Martin Umansky, KAKE TV, was the first local broadcaster to receive NAB's Distinguished Service Award.

KAB and Missouri Broadcasters Association held a joint convention in 1988, at the Overland Park Marriott; and KAB was pleased to report to its membership that the Kansas Supreme Court made permanent its rule allowing pool cameras and audio recording devices in the state's court rooms and extended it to municipal courts.

In 1989, KAB had a legislative victory with the passage of HB 2418. The bill provided for public notice advertising on radio and television to supplement official newspaper notice. KAB established a legal hotline in 1989, to provide members a reliable, quickly available source of expert legal advice.

KAB invited gubernatorial candidates Mike Hayden and Joan Finney to debate at the 1990 KAB Convention. Hayden accepted but Finney had a "prior commitment". The debate was canceled.

KAB marked 40 years of service to Kansas broadcasters in 1991 with the

convention theme: "40 Years of Service - The Tradition Continues".

## US GAO surveys TV stations

During the week of October 8, the U.S. General Accounting Office mailed a survey to all commercial and PBS television stations. The survey is intended to provide Congress with information about the status of the digital transition as well as any barriers that may be impeding the transition.

The GAO is collecting data solely for statistical purposes and their report will present results in summary form. GAO will take steps to keep the data from being disclosed or used in an individually identifiable form.

GAO asked stations to return the survey within two weeks of receipt.

#

## Fund for missing broadcast engineers

A fund has been set up by SBE and Ennes Educational Foundation Trust, to help the families of the six broadcast engineers and technicians who are missing as a result of the September 11 tragedy. These six men were working at broadcast facilities on the 110<sup>th</sup> floor of World Trade Center tower number one when the attacks took place: Rod Coppola, WNET TV; Donald DiFranco, WABC TV; Steven Jacobson, WPIX TV; Bob Pattison and Isaias Rivera, WCBS TV; and William Steckman, WNBC TV.

One hundred percent of the fund will go directly to the six families, and will be coordinated through the SBE chapter in New York.

Corporate and personal donations may be sent to: Broadcast Engineer Relief Fund, c/o Society of Broadcast Engineers, 9247 N Meridian St, Suite 305, Indianapolis, IN 46260.

#

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poster available

*Original painted by nationally recognized sports artist, Ted Watts*

KAB commissioned sports artist, Ted Watts, to create a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative painting for KAB. From the original painting KAB printed 16" x 20" posters.

A poster has been provided to each member station and associate member. Additional posters may be purchased for \$5.34 (\$5.00 plus sales tax). To order just send a check or money order to KAB.

#

## KAB/Broadcast Calendar

- November 1, Deadline for Educator and Student Paid Internships (semester break/spring break)
- November 1, Deadline for KAB Student PSA Contest (alc/drug prevention - holidays)
- November 12, KAB Executive Committee Meeting, Topeka
- December 10, KAB Internet Academy, Topeka
- December 11, KAB Board Meeting

#

## Pottorff receives Friend of Open Government Award

The Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government presented its Friend of Open Government Award to Rep. Jo Ann Pottorff, R-Wichita, during its annual meeting Oct. 24 in Wichita. Rep. Pottorff was selected to receive the award because of her commitment to passing legislation that opened state advisory committee and task force meetings to the public. Coalition President John Lewis made the presentation.

Past recipients of the Friend of Open Government award include the late Sen. Janice Hardenburger, R-Haddam and Rep. Carlos Mayans R-Wichita.

KAB is a founding member of the Sunshine Coalition, along with KS Press

# EAS weekly and monthly tests were to resume October 2

## Washington update

### At the FCC

\*The FCC decided **not to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the decision of the U.S. Appeals Court for DC that vacated FCC's EEO rules.** The National Organization of Women and other civil rights groups did ask the court to take the case.

\*The FCC granted NAB's request for a **60-day waiver of the FCC's rules requiring stations to collect and retain in their public inspection files all written comments** received from the public. The FCC agreed that given the recent anthrax attacks, minimizing any threat to station personnel and visitors outweighs the public interest factors embodied in the public inspection file rules.

\*The Commission has decided that **noncommercial TV stations will be allowed to use part of their digital spectrum to offer commercial services,** including advertising supported services.

#

## News briefs

\***KDMM FM**, Herington has been sold by Tri-County Broadcasting (Don Willis, president) to Great Plains Christian Radio, Inc. (Don Hughes, president) of Meade. New call letters are **KJRL** and format has been changed to Christian. **Doug Wedekind** is the station manager.

\*Many Kansas stations responded to the September 11 tragedy with local fund raisers and telethons. **KMBC TV**, Kansas City, reports that their two-night telethon in partnership with **KCPT TV** on September 12 and 13, raised \$1,620,000 for the Red Cross's relief efforts in New York and Washington DC.

## John Katich

John Katich, 51, of Lawrence died October 5 at his home. He was an associate professor of journalism, radio and television at the University of Kansas since 1986. He earlier had managed television and radio stations in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. He received the 2001 Grover Cobb Award for Broadcast Service from the University of Kansas Radio-Television Department. He was an Army veteran. Mr. Katich was born in St. Louis. He earned a bachelor's degree in Russian history and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri.

He is survived by his wife, Laura, and three daughters - Jessica Katich, Lisa McDermott and Sara Katich, all of Lawrence; his mother Eleanor M. Katich of St. Louis; and two sisters.

Mr. Katich was cremated. A memorial service was held October 13 at St. Lawrence Catholic Center in Lawrence. Memorial contributions may be made to the John Katich Memorial Fund at the University of Kansas Endowment Association or to the St. Louis Croatian Junior Tamburitzans and sent in care of the Warren-McElwain Mortuary in Lawrence. (Source: *Lawrence Journal World*).

#

\***KTKA TV**, Topeka has begun a Spanish-language local newscast. Executive producer **Salvador Hernandez** hosts the show which includes news, weather and sports.

\***WIBW Radio** held a ground breaking ceremony on Friday, October 12, for their new studios in west Topeka. The stations have moved into temporary studios at 1200 SW Executive Dr.

\***Candace Walton** (general manager of KSU's KSDB FM) and husband, Ryan, are the new parents of daughter, Alexis Irene Walton. Candy gave birth October 8.

#

## 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

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