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Transmitter

Volume 39 No 4

May 3, 2000

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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.

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This just in -

Motion for Stay of NEW EEO rules has been DENIED. D.C. Circuit Court has ordered expedited hearing of appeal by 50 state broadcast associations.

Chairman's message

(Robert Hilton., KNZA/KMZA/KAIR)

This month I will wear my EAS chairman's hat and give an EAS update.

First a review of what is required for all broadcast stations (including LPTV) to comply with EAS rules:

- 1) Have a properly installed and functioning EAS unit.
- 2) You should be monitoring your 2 assigned stations.
- 3) You should be receiving a Required Weekly Test (RWT) from each assigned station.
- 4) You should generate and transmit a required weekly test. The test should be on random days of the week and at random times.
- 5) You should receive the Required Monthly Test (RMT) and then re-transmit the exact message that you received within 15 minutes from the time you received the test. The RMT is always on the second Tuesday of each month. Odd numbered months at approximately 1:53 pm; even numbered months at approximately 10:53 pm. **Next EAS monthly test is May 9, 1:50 pm.**
- 6) Log all EAS transactions on your station log.

Logging and good explanations of failures or problems is what an FCC inspector will be expecting.

The above information is fairly basic but it is the most important. If you are complying with the above items you should have no problems with EAS.

The following will give you more details about what to do when something does go wrong.

I have received calls from member stations reporting their EAS unit was not working. It is NOT required to notify me

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Legislature passes open records bill

Before adjourning on April 29, both the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives passed open records legislation (HB 2864) - almost unanimously. All 40 Senators voted "aye"; and all but two House members. The dissenting House members were: Rep. Joe Humerickhouse (R-Osage City) and Rep. Bill Little (R - Rolla).

As part of a corporations bill (SB 483) the legislature also added another exception to the open records act: the amount of franchise taxes paid to the secretary of state by corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, and limited liability partnerships.

The open records bill removes one exception - number 32, which allows agencies not to disclose bidders' list of contractors who have requested bid proposals for construction projects. The bill requires all of the current exceptions to be reviewed by the legislature. If the legislature doesn't act to retain them, they will be repealed on July 1, 2005.

The bill also provides for subpoena power for the Attorney General and District Attorneys in investigating alleged violations to Kansas Open Records and Open Meetings Acts and it provides for assessing a public agency up to \$500 in penalties for violations and requires the loser to pay attorney fees in court actions.

Each public agency will be required to designate a freedom of information officer to provide educational materials and respond to requests for public records.

Legislative interest in strengthening Kansas Open Records Act was enhanced due to a Kansas newspaper public access project in which reporters from 19 newspapers made public record requests from public agencies in each

Continued on page 2

Chairman's message cont.

as the State EAS Chairman if your EAS unit fails. If it does fail, you have 60 days to get it repaired and operating properly. AFTER 60 days you must notify the Kansas City FCC office to report and explain why it is not functioning properly.

If for some reason you did not send an EAS test or you did not receive a weekly or monthly test from your monitoring station(s) you need to give an explanation on your station log. This will probably require a call to your monitoring station(s). Call me if you have questions about your assigned stations: (785) 547-3461.

At the end of February I attended the National Advisory Committee meeting on EAS. At that time they announced they are working on an additional method of getting a national EAS alert distributed nationwide. They will be using a Queue channel of National Public Radio. Currently there are only 25 clear channel AMs that are hooked up via a phone circuit to transmit and relay national alerts. There are many areas of the country that do not have good links to these Primary Entry Point stations.

Also at the February meeting the new Chief of the Compliance Bureau said he hoped to have the modifications to the EAS system out during the second quarter of this year. The Society of Broadcast Engineers recommended several changes be made to the EAS system. That was 2 and a half years ago. I talked with Frank Lucia, the person in charge of EAS at the FCC, and he reports that they do plan to have an update for EAS in May. There will be additional codes to cover more emergency situations.

You may NOT have noticed that your required monthly test now has a one hour valid time. (Before it was only 15 minutes) This change was made to allow every station at the end of the EAS relay chain to be able to send a valid message. Stations that do not get the test directly from WIBW FM or the KIN network were finding they were unable to forward the monthly test because it was past the 15 minutes from when it was first sent from the state primary. This way the monthly test messages should be able to be re-broadcast by all Kansas stations. Although NOT required I would hope all stations who are able to monitor a NOAA weather radio station are set up to

Open records cont.

county. Findings from the project indicated a need for education of public officials and enforcement provisions in Kansas open records law.

KAB, KS Press Association and KS Sunshine Coalition for Open Government worked together in lobbying the legislature for passage of the open records legislation.

(Editor's note: Thanks to KAB members for their support through membership of the KS Sunshine Coalition for Open Government: KVOE/KFFX, Emporia; KNZA/ KMZA/KAIR, Hiawatha; KMAN/ KMKF/KXBZ, Manhattan; KNGL/ KBBE, McPherson; KOFO AM, Ottawa; KOAM TV, Pittsburg; KMUW FM and Journal Broadcast Group, Wichita. Other KAB members interested in joining the Coalition should contact the KAB.)

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KU offers 'pharmacy on the air'

A new 90-second radio show launched this month by the University of Kansas will answer questions about drugs. Called "Medicine Chest," it's a pharmacy on the airwaves, a place that dispenses lore and learning about over-the-counter and prescription drugs.

There will be a new show each week. The program is available free to Kansas radio stations in a CD format. between 6 and 7 a.m.

The Higuchi Biosciences Center on the Lawrence campus and the Drug Information Center at KU Medical Center are the show's joint sponsors. For more information, contact Frank Barthell, University Relations (785) 864-8869.

#

send severe weather alerts. And that is something else that came out of the February meeting - the Weather Service is getting rid of the current synthesized automated voice. It may take a couple of years but a new more natural automated voice will be coming.

#

KAB Broadcast Calendar

- May 24-28, National Public Radio Conference, Orlando
- June 7, KAB Board of Directors
- June 12, NAB Education Foundation Service to America Summit and Awards Gala, Washington DC
- June 19, KAB Sales Academy, Wichita Hyatt Regency
- July 3 Deadline for KAB Awards Entries
- July 17-August 4, KAB office closed
- August 8, Deadline for nominations for KAB Slater, Humiston, Jewell and Tourism Awards
- August 24, KAB Board of Directors meeting, Hiawatha
- September 7, KAB Team Day 2000 / Fundraiser / KS Adoption Network
- September 11, KAB Internet Academy, Topeka Capitol Plaza
- October 3-4, SBE National Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA
- October 9-10, KAB Convention, Wichita Hyatt Regency
- November 1, Deadline for KAB Student PSA Contest (alc/drug prevention – holidays flight)
- November 1, Deadline for KAB Faculty and Student Paid Internships (semester break/spring break)
- November 8, KAB Executive Committee Meeting, Topeka
- December 12, KAB Board of Directors Meeting, Abilene

Kansas SBE Chapter to host DTV Seminar

Kansas SBE Chapter #3 will sponsor a Digital Television Transmission Seminar at KSU College Center in Salina on May 17-18. The two-day seminar will provide engineering staff with a broad understanding of the issues involved in planning for, and the real world how-to's of, the transition to digital television .

Ed Williams will lead the seminar. He is senior engineer for the Public Broadcasting Service.

Full details are available on the Internet: www.broadcast.net/~sbe3/

Students win Alcohol/Drug Abuse PSA Contest

Cody Donelson, DeSoto High School and Benjamin Goodrick, Olathe South High School were winners in KAB's PSA Spring 2000 Contest. Purpose of the contest is to encourage Kansas high school and college students to create and produce messages targeted at Kansas youth about the dangers of substance abuse.

Cody produced a 30-second television PSA titled, "Choices", encouraging young people not to choose drugs. Benjamin's 30-second television PSA tells students through a prom theme, "Don't Pay With Your Life".

Each student won a \$100 cash prize and a certificate of recognition.

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Seminar, Career Fair draw 250 students

KAB's Student Seminar and Career Fair April 25 in Wichita attracted 250 high school and college students and educators. Kansas broadcasters participated as round table facilitators and panelists to acquaint students with the "real world" of broadcasting.

Scott Donovan, KHOK/KVGB, chaired the seminar. Assisting with the planning was **Gary Hawke**, University of Kansas and **Steve South**, former manager, KAKE TV.

High schools represented included Belle Plaine, Buhler, Chapman, Coldwater South Central, Conway Springs, Goddard, Haviland, Hutchinson, Lyons, Mulvane, Onaga, Salina Sacred Heart, Sedgwick, Topeka Highland Park, Towanda, Waverly, Whitewater, Wichita Bishop Carroll, Wichita NE Magnet, Wichita North, and Willimasburg.

Colleges represented were Baker University, Butler County

Community College, Coffeyville Community College, Dodge City Community College, Fort Hays State, Kansas State University, McPherson College, MidAmerica Nazarene University, Newman University, Ottawa University, Sterling College, University of Kansas, Washburn University and Wichita State University.

Broadcaster panelists and round table facilitators included **Rick Thomas**, **Dan Dillon**, **Jules Riley**, and **Jan Harrison**, Journal Broadcast Group; **Dan Holiday**, **Don Guidas**, and **Jackie Wise**, KKR/KRBB/KRZZ/KZSN; **Brock Bowling**, KSAL AM; **Ryan Riveland**, KMAJ; **Mike McKay** and **Scott Boomer**, KAYS/KHAZ; **Lance Saylor**, KKOW AM/FM; **Scott Slocum**, Computer Concepts; **John Mooney**, **Larry Hatteberg**, **Bridgette Lovell**, **Kevin Jenks**, **John Salem**, **Brian McDonough**, **Julie Barker**, **Mark Chamberlin** and **Dale Morrell**, KAKE TV; **Jan Arrant** and **Merril Teller**, KWCH TV; **Ken Clifford** and **Chris Braun**, KSAS TV; **Gregg Cox**, KSNW TV; and **Jen Silvers**, KTKA TV.

The afternoon Career Fair provided students and job seekers the opportunity to talk one on one with representatives from Kansas radio and television stations about job openings and with educators from Kansas colleges and universities about their respective educational programs.

KBEA meets during seminar . . .

Kansas Broadcast Education Association met during the Student Seminar and elected officers for this year. **Gary Hawke**, University of Kansas, replaces **Thimios Zaharopoulos**, Washburn University, as president. President-elect is **Becky Kiser**, Fort Hays State University.

KBEA is making an effort to include high school teachers and a number have already become members.

Student awards

KAB Chairman Robert Hilton presented first and second place plaques and honorable mention certificates to student broadcast award winners during the KAB Student Seminar on April 25.

Award categories included PSAs, station promotion announcements, public affairs programs, complete newscasts, package news stories, complete features, sports play-by-play and DJ personality.

Winning students represented Belle Plaine High School, Sacred Heart/Salina; Butler Co., Coffeyville, and Colby Community Colleges, Baker, Fort Hays State, Kansas, Kansas State, Pittsburg State, Wichita State and Washburn Universities.

Broadcasters at **KSNC TV**, **KAYS/KHAZ**, and **KHOK/KVGB** judged the entries. **Becky Kiser**, Fort Hays State, produced the awards video.

News briefs

***Cliff Walker** is new station manager at **KBSH TV**, Hays and **KBSL TV**, Goodland. He previously worked at TV stations in Texas and Arkansas. Walker replaces **Wayne Roberts** who is working at **KAYS/KHAZ**, Hays.

***KLWN AM**, Lawrence, was a finalist in NAB's Crystal Awards for ongoing community service. **Andy Stahmer** prepared the station's entry and directs their community service effort.

***KRSL/KCAY**, Russell, began broadcasting 24 hours a day on April 1 in order to provide full time service to west central Kansas.

***Craig Colboch** is new general manager at **WIBW AM/FM**, Topeka, replacing Al Lobeck.

***Dave Trabert** is new VP and general manager at **KAKE TV**, Wichita, replacing Steve South. He comes to Wichita from Benedek station, WMTV, Madison, WI.

*AMFM Broadcasting, Wichita announced **Dan Holiday** has been promoted to program director at **KZSN FM**. **Tracey Garrett** has been named assistant program director. **Stacy Wontorski** has been named an account manager for **KKR FM**; and **Sally Stump** has been named an account manager for **KRBB FM**.

Washington Update

At the FCC

*The FCC has announced the opening of its first of five windows (May 30 to June 5) for the **filing of applications of new low power stations**. The U.S. and its territories are divided equally among five windows for filing. Kansas is not in the first window. A public notice announcing a second LP100 LPFM filing window for the next group of ten states and other jurisdictions will be released in approximately three months.

*The FCC's **new EEO rules went into effect April 18**. The **U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has DENIED the motion for stay** filed by the 50 state broadcast associations. The Office of Management and Budget approved most of the recordkeeping requirements and reporting forms. All stations regardless of size must file the election statement form with the FCC. Stations with less than five full time employees must send in the form, but only certify that they employ less than five full time employees. Stations with 5 or more full time employees must complete the entire form by choosing one of the two recruiting options – Option A or Option B. The form must be filed with the FCC by June 2, 2000. Complete instructions and the approved election statement form are available from the FCC's web site at www.fcc.gov/Forms/Election/election.pdf. Once the election form is filed, stations must place a copy in their public files. KAB member stations unable to attend KAB's EEO and Political Advertising seminars in Wichita and Topeka, last week may **contact the KAB for a copy of the hand-outs** provided by Dave Oxenford, ShawPittman, and Barry Umansky, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease.

*The Mass Media Bureau has revised Form 302, the **application for FM broadcast station license**. Applicants may use the previous form until the revised form becomes effective May 24. The revised form may be obtained by calling (800) 418-FORM or by going to the FCC's web site: www.fcc.gov/formpage.html.

*The Commission has adopted rules **requiring television broadcasters to make certain emergency information** provided in the audio portion of programming **accessible to persons with**

hearing disabilities, either through closed captioning or another method of visual presentation (such as open captioning, crawls or scrolls). "Emergency information" is information about a current emergency that is intended to further the protection of life, health, safety, and property.

*The FCC has released its Order **establishing the new Class A Low Power TV Service** to implement the Community Broadcasters Protection Act of 1999. The Order applies most of the operating requirements for full power stations to Class A stations; maintains the current LPTV maximum power levels for Class A stations; provides for protection of the service areas of LPTVs pending resolution of the Class A application; requires Class As to protect only those NTSC applications that were licensed or granted by November 29, 1999; allows for maximization on DTV channels only where it was applied for or noticed by December 31 and applied for by May 1; and allows for DTV allotment adjustments to resolve technical problems.

In Congress

*A compromise version of HR 3439, the **low power FM legislation**, passed the House by a vote of 274 to 110. **Kansas Congressmen Jerry Moran, Jim Ryun, Dennis Moore and Todd Tiahrt** voted with broadcasters by supporting the legislation. Prior to the final vote, the House rejected a weakening amendment - offered by Reps. Tom Barrett (D-WI) and Bobby Rush (D-IL) – that would have allowed the FCC to change third-adjacent channel rules without congressional approval. **Kansas Congressmen Moran, Ryun and Tiahrt voted with broadcasters** by opposing the amendment. Cong. Moore voted in support of the amendment. Under the legislation, the FCC may move forward with licensing LPFM stations, but must keep third-adjacent channel protections in place. Independent testing of LPFM interference will be conducted before any changes to interference standards can be made and Congress would have a final say over such changes. Action now moves to the Senate and consideration of S 2068 by Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH). S. 2068 has 29 co-sponsors in the Senate. **Kansas Senators Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback have not yet signed on as co-sponsors.**

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New members

A warm KAB welcome to these new members: Station – **KZQD FM**, Liberal, **Mario Loreda**, general manager. Students – **Elisha Downs**, Haviland High School; **Jana Jo Buehler**, Bethany College; **Sennett Rockers**, KU.

These stations have renewed since the March 22 *Transmitter*: **KSNP FM**, Burlington; **KKOY AM/FM**, Chanute; **KXXX/KQLS**, Colby; **KGNO/KOLS/KRPH**, Dodge City; **KZLS FM**, Great Bend; **KDGB FM**, Hutchinson; **KALN/KIKS**, Iola; **KNNS/KGTR**, Larned; **KYUU/KSLS**, Liberal; **KFNF FM**, Oberlin; **KWLS AM**, Pratt; **KILS FM**, Salina; and **KFH/KQAM/KNSS/KWSJ/KEYN**, Wichita.

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More pass - These stations have passed their KAB/FCC Alternate Broadcast Inspection: **KTCC FM**, Colby; **KVOE AM/FM** and **KFFX**, Emporia; **KLOE/ KKCI/KWGB** Goodland; **KAYS/ KHAZ**, Hays; **KWBW/KHUT** and **KHCC/KHCD/KHCT**, Hutchinson; **KBUZ FM** and **KMAJ AM/FM**, **KTOP/KDVV**, Topeka.