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# Transmitter

Volume 38 No 8 October 3, 1999

## Chairman's message

(Lance Saylor, KKOW AM/FM)

My friend, Noah Itall, stopped by the other day. I was fielding phone calls, writing memos and stewing over budgets and projections. All in all a pretty typical day.

I waved my friend Noah into the office while on the phone. He smiled, quietly slipped into the chair across my desk. When I finished the phone call, we greeted each other and while he started talking about a problem he was having with his son I found myself glancing at phone messages on my desk. Noah heard me mutter "uh-huh" three times and suddenly stopped talking.

"Noah, you stopped in the middle of a sentence."

"Lance, I only like talking to myself when I'm alone," he said.

"I'm sorry, Noah. I just have so much to get done. I'm buried."

"I'll be right back Lance," said Noah as he headed out the door.

He returned moments later and handed me a book. *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom.

"Read this tonight", he ordered. "I'll be back tomorrow."

*Tuesdays with Morrie* is an easy read. I didn't put it down until I read it all. It's about dying and, more important, it's about living.

It's about priorities and family and power and money . . . it's remarkable.

*continued on page 2*

## Convention set to go

KAB will meet October 6 & 7 at Manhattan's Holiday Inn. More than 400 Kansas broadcasters, suppliers, friends of broadcasting, students and educators will attend during the two days.

Speakers headlining the convention include **Harold Furchtgott-Roth**, FCC Commissioner; **Bill Kurtis**, former Kansas broadcaster, who currently produces and anchors A & E's *Investigative Reports*, *The New Explorers with Bill Kurtis* and *American Justice*; and **Gordon Jump** of *WKRP in Cincinnati* fame, also a former Kansas broadcaster.

Sessions are planned for station personnel in management, news, sales, engineering and programming.

The Kansas broadcast industry's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, will be presented to Merle Blair of Topeka.

The KAB Tony Jewell Award for contributions in the field of alcohol/drug abuse prevention, will be presented to Fern Rosenberg, Topeka. KAB's Sonny Slater Award will be presented to Mike Cooper, KAYS AM, Hays for his outstanding service to his station and listeners. KAB's Hod Humiston Award for contributions to sports broadcasting in Kansas will be presented to WIBW Radio, Topeka; and radio and television awards and "Stations of the Year" will be presented. Also, University of Kansas Radio and Television faculty will present their Grover Cobb Award for Broadcasting Service to Larry Hatteberg, KAKE TV, Wichita.

Contact KAB for program and registration details.

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The *Transmitter* is free to members and available to non-members by subscription for \$25 per year. Comments, news articles and advertising inquiries are welcome. 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

[www.kab.net](http://www.kab.net) \* e-mail: [harriet@kab.net](mailto:harriet@kab.net)

## Thank you Convention Sponsors

KS Electric Cooperatives

KS Farm Bureau

ASCAP

BMI

Computer Concepts Corporation

KS American Legion

KS Radio Networks

Mid America Ag & News  
Networks

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## Welcome new members

A warm KAB welcome to new station member, **KWCV TV**, Wichita, **Lyle Banks**, general manager; new retired members: **Bill Bengtson**, Afton OK; **Bob Fromme**, Fort Collins CO; **Bob Hilgendorf**, Manhattan; **C. Kay Hutchinson**, Delavan; and **Jerry Holley**, Topeka; and new student members: **Angela Waymaster** and **Peggy Lamb**, Fort Hays State University.

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## Chairman's message cont.

Noah Itall knocked on my door.

"Noah, this book is really something," I exclaimed.

"Really," Noah smiled. "What's the most important think you got out of it?"

"Well," I replied with my own smile. "I guess I learned listening to a friend is more important than the stack of stuff on my desk."

My message this month has nothing to do with life as a broadcaster . . . but everything to do with every broadcaster's life. Buy *Tuesdays with Morrie* and read it! Let me know what you think when you're done.

## Congratulations KAB Stations of the Year

Four radio stations and three television stations have been named "Station of the Year" for their respective competition group in the annual KAB Awards.

Noncommercial radio station is KANU FM, Lawrence; small market radio station is KCLY FM, Clay Center; medium market radio station is KKOW AM, Pittsburg; and large market radio station is KFDI AM, Wichita.

Nonmetro television station of the year is KSNC TV, Great Bend; medium market television station is KTKA TV, Topeka; and large market television station is KWCH TV, Wichita.

The Station of the Year designation is based on points accumulated for winning a first, second or honorable mention in a category and for number of categories entered.

Awards will be presented during KAB's Awards Banquet, Wednesday, October 6, Manhattan.

## Calendar of Events

\*October 6-7, KAB Convention, Manhattan  
Holiday Inn

\*November 1, Deadline for entries in KAB  
Student PSA contest for alcohol/drug abuse  
prevention, holidays flight

\*November 1, Deadline for KAB Faculty  
Internship (semester break) applications

\*November 10, KAB Executive Committee  
meeting, Topeka

\*December (dates TBA), broadcaster and  
state legislator meetings in Topeka, Wichita,  
KC

\*Dec 14, Board meeting, Great Bend

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## Media Law Seminar scheduled October 28

KAB, Kansas Bar Association, Kansas Press Association and WSU's Elliott School of Communication are co-sponsoring a media law seminar October 28, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, at Wichita State University.

Panel topics include open records, political advertising, defamation and an Internet presentation. Luncheon speaker will be Charles "Chip" Babcock, the attorney who represented Oprah Winfrey in the Texas cattlemen's defamation lawsuit.

Mike Kautsch, professor of Media Law and Policy, KU School of Law, will use interactive video to discuss implications of the defamation case of *Sydney Blumenthal v. Matt Drudge*.

Cost is \$39 for working journalists. Contact KAB or Kansas Bar Association (785) 234-5696 for registration information.

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## Vince Wasilewski

Vincent Wasilewski, 76, president and CEO of NAB from 1965 to 1982, died September 9 from heart failure at Washington Hospital Center.

Mass of Christian Burial was offered September 14. Memorial contributions may be made to Vincent T. Wasilewski Scholarship Fund, Broadcast Education Association, 1771 N St NW, Washington DC 20036; or Washington EAR, Metropolitan Radio Reading Service for the Blind, 35 University Blvd., East, Silver Spring MD 20901.

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# Washington Update

## At the FCC

\*The FCC has granted an extension of the **low-power FM reply comment** period until November 5; and will issue a **rulemaking on digital radio** on October 21.

\***November 1 is the deadline for all television stations to file their DTV applications** at the FCC. It is also the date that the four network affiliates in the top 30 markets must be on air broadcasting a digital signal. Currently 72 stations in 32 markets are broadcasting in digital.

\*The FCC has ruled that stations must **consider “reasonable” requests for non-standard blocks of advertising time** (such as five-minute spots) by federal candidates. The new ruling means that stations cannot observe across-the-board policies on non-standard increment political advertising, but must consider each request for time by federal candidates on an individual basis.

\*The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to consider the **creation of a new “Class A” LPTV service** that would afford some measure of “primary” status to qualifying LPTV stations. The Notice is similar to two bills in Congress that would provide some primary status to qualifying LPTV stations. In the Notice, the Commission states that it “must ensure the transition of full-power television to digital broadcasting is not undermined.”

\*The new versions of the **Broadcast Station Self-Inspection Checklists** for AM, FM, and TV operations have been released by the FCC. The checklists are available at <http://www.fcc.gov/cib>.

## In Congress

\*A House-Senate Conference Committee chaired by Sen. Orin Hatch (R-UT), met for the first time on September 28 to iron out differences between the respective **satellite bills** dealing with the Satellite Home Viewer

# KAB joins 44 state broadcast associations in low power FM proceeding

KAB and 44 other state broadcast associations filed joint comments in the FCC’s proceeding on a low power FM radio service. The comments were compiled by Fisher Wayland Cooper Leader & Zaragoza LLP.

The comments state that based on the technical studies that have been filed in response to the rulemaking, it is clear that the creation of a low power FM radio service, the broad need for which has not been demonstrated, will have a substantial, immediate, and long-term negative impact on the FM band and the public it serves. As demonstrated by the receiver studies and the extensive analysis conducted by the NAB, the problem of interference is real. Accordingly, the Commission must refrain from taking any action that could undermine the current level of spectrum integrity or hinder broadcasters from providing digital audio radio service utilizing “in-band, on-channel” technology.

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Act extension, local-into-local satellite transmissions, consumer testing costs, and must carry.

\*The House Subcommittee on Telecommunications held hearings in mid-September on **common ownership of a broadcast station and newspaper in the same market**.

\*The Congressional Budget Office is projecting that the **transition to digital TV** will not be completed by the 2006 deadline and that auctions of analog spectrum now scheduled for 2002 will not generate the \$6.1 billion included in budget estimates.

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# News briefs

\***Mike Kinnan** returns as manager at Dodge City stations – **KGNO AM, KOLS FM, and KRPH FM**. Kinnan was with KGNO for 26 years before leaving the stations in 1995. The stations are owned by Goodstar Broadcasting.

\***J. Schafer** has been appointed news director at **KANU FM**, Lawrence, replacing **Nick Haines** who has gone to work at **KTWU TV**, Topeka. New development director at KANU FM is **Cheri Hawke**.

\*Retired broadcaster, **Tony Jewell**, Garden City, has been elected into Garden City Community College Sports Hall of Fame. He was general manager at **KIUL AM**, Garden City when retired after 40-plus years in broadcasting. He broadcast sports play-by-play at **KIUL** from 1946 through his tenure as president and general manager.

\*Former **KICT FM** general manager, **Barry Gaston**, has formed Gaston Marketing, Inc. in Wichita. Gaston Marketing is the first associate company of Austin, TX-based Roy H. Williams Marketing, and will create advertising campaigns to grow small businesses.

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# KAB/NAB public service survey . . .

. . . is in the mail to Kansas commercial broadcasters. NAB has joined with each state broadcast association in conducting the survey.

As with the past survey, the new information will be used to show lawmakers and other public opinion makers the many ways broadcasters serve the needs of their local communities.

Don’t be left out! Complete the survey by Friday, October 22, by mail or online at [www.BroadcastPublicService.org](http://www.BroadcastPublicService.org)

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