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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, and to promote free over-the-air broadcasting, for the purpose of enhancing the success of Kansas broadcasters and helping them better serve the people of Kansas.

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KAB's March 28 Political Broadcasting Webinar

was well-received by the 32 Kansas broadcasters who participated. KAB's Washington Hotline Attorney David Oxenford conducted the two-hour webinar. Here are comments from participants:

"I love the webinar format. It allows a great seminar without the travel time."

"I personally found the webinar to be extremely helpful and informational. Being able to attend this meeting from the comfort of my own office was great."

"Enjoyed the seminar. Dave is easy to understand. A lot easier than the political process."

Political Windows for Lowest Unit Charge – June 17 for Kansas August 1 primary; June 24 for Missouri August 8 primary; and September 8 for the November 7 general election.



Chairman's message



*Wayne Godsey, President/General Manager, KMBC TV / KCWE TV
Kansas City*

In my past two columns, I have tried to convince you of the importance of engaging in the political process on both the state and federal level. As a Kansas broadcaster, you have an opportunity to work for passage of a bill that will have an immediate impact on your bottom line. It is HB 2618, which would provide property tax relief for your business.

The House Taxation Committee amended our bill and passed it out favorably for passage. The two amendments added to the bill in Committee were ours. Subsequently, the House debated the bill and passed it by a vote of 108 to 17.

The first amendment sets an end date on the exemption/credit for radio digital equipment to December 31, 2013, if that occurs before 50% of the radio sets in the U.S. are digital radio sets. The temporary exemption/credit for television remains the same as in the original bill - the December 31 following the end date of analog broadcasts (February 2009).

The second amendment would allow county appraisers to remove digital equipment from the tax rolls without having an exemption application filed with the Board of Tax Appeals. This will save you time and money.

Harriet will soon send another Legislative Alert to station members with
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Transmitter

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KAB well-represented at NAB Leadership meet

NAB's Annual Leadership Conference was held in Washington DC on February 27 and 28. More than 500 broadcasters and station association executives from across the U.S. attended the two-day meeting. Attendees heard legislative and regulatory briefings from lawmakers and other decision makers. Broadcasters also visited Capitol Hill to educate senators and representatives on issues of concern to broadcasters.

Representing the KAB in Washington and on the Hill were KAB Chair Wayne Godsey; Secretary/Treasurer Mark Vail; National Government Relations Chair for Radio Rich Wartell; KAB Members Kent Cornish, Dick Harlow, and Ken Selvaggi; and KAB President Harriet Lange.

The KAB group met with First District Congressman Jerry Moran and Legislative Director Alex Richard; Second District Congressman Jim Ryun and Legislative Assistant Nathanael Bennett; Third District Congressman Dennis Moore and Legislative Assistant Adam Pase; Fourth District Congressman Todd Tiaht and Legislative Assistants Rob Lofberg and Sam Sacket; and Senator Sam Brownback, his Deputy Chief of Staff Brian Hart and Legislative Correspondent Ariel Wolf. Senator Pat Roberts was not available but KAB met with his Legislative Assistant John Coke and Legislative Correspondent Joshua Lewis.

Capitol Hill issues which the group discussed included satellite radio, cable down conversion and carriage of broadcasters digital signal, indecency legislation, broadcast flags, and broadcasters community service.



Pictured with NAB President David Rehr (third from left) are Mark Vail, Rich Wartell, Ken Selvaggi, Harriet Lange and Dick Harlow.

Chairman's message cont.

instructions for follow up with Senators. Don't ignore this Alert when you receive it, but follow up with your Senator per the instructions in the Alert.

If passed, here is what HB 2618 will do for television stations in Kansas:

Exempt from personal property tax, broadcast digital equipment purchased after January 1, 2006 through 2009, the date when analog signals are expected to be turned off.

The legislation will provide a credit on a station's property tax bill on digital television equipment acquired prior to January 1, 2006. Stations would pay property taxes on their digital equipment based on the percentage of television sets in the U.S. which are digital sets. This will be based on figures from the Consumer Electronics Association. The credit will be temporary, only until the analog signal is turned off - February 17, 2009.

Personal property tax savings for Kansas television stations is estimated to be about \$1,000,000 (based on expenditures of more than \$33 million for digital equipment) for the 23 television stations located in 19 Kansas counties.

Here is what HB 2618 will do for radio stations in Kansas if it passes:

Exempt from personal property tax, digital radio equipment purchased on or after January 1, 2006.

The legislation will provide a credit on a station's property tax bill on digital radio equipment acquired prior to January 1, 2006. Stations would pay property taxes on their digital equipment based on the percentage of radio sets in the U.S. which are digital sets, as determined by the Consumer Electronics Association. It would provide radio broadcasters an exemption and/or credit on digital equipment until more than 50% of the radio sets in the U.S. are digital radio sets, or until December 31, 2013, which ever occurs first.

Radio stations will spend an average of \$100,000 in equipment purchases to make the transition to digital. So if our bill is passed as currently amended, the average first year tax impact per radio station would be in the range of about \$2,500 to \$3,500...not a bad day's work.

Do yourself and your company a favor. Watch for KAB's Legislative Alert then get on the phone with your Senator and work for passage of a bill that will make an immediate difference in your bottom line.

#

Student seminar April 12

The 2006 KAB Student Seminar is scheduled for April 12 at the Topeka Downtown Ramada. The full day event will provide high school and college students who have an interest in pursuing a broadcast career with a real world view of the industry and profession.

The morning sessions will include a panel discussion by radio and television professionals titled "Jobs in Broadcasting, What the Future Holds"; followed by a panel of recent graduates and seasoned veterans discussing "The Real World of Broadcasting - Advice From Recent Grads and Old Hands".

Student broadcast awards will be presented during the noon luncheon. The afternoon round tables will acquaint students with jobs in sales, news, sports, production, programming, marketing and promotions.

KAB Board Member John Ewy, Dodge City Community College is chairing the seminar.

Seminar schedule and registration information is available on KAB's web site: <http://www.kab.net>

#

2006 KAB deadlines

- 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 3, deadline for KAB station awards entries
- August 11, deadline for nominations for KAB Distinguished Service Award, Hall of Fame inductees, Sonny Slater Award, Mike Oatman Award, and Tony Jewell Award

More pass inspection

These stations have passed a KAB/FCC Alternative Broadcast Inspection, exempting them from routine FCC inspections for three years: **KVOE AM/FM / KFFX FM**, Emporia; **KHOK FM**, KVGB FM, and **KBGL FM**, Great Bend.

#

KAB sports seminar set for April 25

Kauffman Stadium, Kansas City, will be the site of the annual KAB Sports Seminar, on Tuesday, April 25. Chairing the seminar, will be Mike Sutcliffe, KINZ FM, Chanute.

Round table discussions are scheduled for the morning, facilitated by representatives of the college sports networks, Kansas State High School Activities Association, and others with a topic of interest to sports broadcasters.

During the noon luncheon KAB will present the 2006 Hod Humiston Award for Sports Broadcasting to Gary Bateman, KOFO AM, Ottawa.

The afternoon schedule will include the area's top sports announcers and representatives from the Royals organization.

Compliments of the Kansas City Royals, participants will be given a ticket to the game that evening - Royals vs Minnesota.

Registration information has been posted at KAB's web site: www.kab.net.

#

2006 station renewals

KAB thanks these stations which have renewed their membership for 2006 since the last *Transmitter*. **RADIO:** KABI/KSAJ, Abilene; KSOK AM/FM, Arkansas City; KAIR AM/FM, Atchison; KNBU FM, Baldwin City; KREP FM, Belleville; KTCC FM, Colby; KDCC/KONQ, Dodge City; KNZA FM, Hiawatha; KALN/KIKS, Iola; KFKF/KBEQ/KMXV/KSRC, Kansas City; KZQD FM, Liberal; KBLF FM, Manhattan; KNDY AM/FM, Marysville; KNGL/KBBE, McPherson; KQNK AM/FM, Norton; KKAN/KQMA, Phillipsburg; KSAL AM/FM / KYEZ, Salina; KMZA FM, Seneca; WIBW AM/FM, Topeka; KQAM FM, KFH AM/FM / KNSS/KFBZ/KDGS/KEYN; and KFTI/KFDI/KICT/KFXJ/KYQQ/ KMXW, Wichita. **TELEVISION:** KCPT TV and KSHB TV/ KMCI TV/ KPXE TV, Kansas City; KQAM TV / KFJX TV, Pittsburg; KTKA TV and KTWU TV, Topeka; and KPTS TV, Wichita.

#

KAB Thanks to KNZA - Robert Hilton and Justin Fluke - for coordinating the installation and assignment of telephone lines for the state basketball tournaments!

Governor proclaims February 19 Bill Miller Day

Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed a proclamation designating February 19, 2006 as Bill Miller Day. The proclamation honored Miller for his 55 years in broadcasting, citing his induction into KAB's Broadcasting Hall of Fame, his KAB Distinguished Service Award and his scores of "interviews with greats and near greats of the entertainment industry."

In signing the proclamation, the Governor stated "The Bill Miller Show has become an entertainment ambassador from the State of Kansas."

Miller has hosted his syndicated variety show since 1989. It is heard in 85 markets and on the Internet at www.rwpr.net His first radio job was at KLKC in Parsons. During his 55 years in broadcasting, Miller has worked in Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Lawton, Yankton, Wichita, Emporia, Coffeyville and New London, CT.



Pictured with Governor Sebelius at the Proclamation signing are (from left) Bill's sister Patti Tucker, Bill, his niece Tricia Maxwell and Tucker, and brother-in-law John Tucker.

#

2006 EAS monthly tests

Tues., April 11, 10:50 pm
Tues., May 9 1:50 pm
Tues., June 13, 10:50 pm
Tues., July 11, 1:50 pm
Tues., August 8, 10:50 pm
Tues., September 12, 1:50 pm
Tues., October 10, 10:50 pm
Tues., November 14, 1:50 pm
Tues., December 12, 10:50 pm

Annual AMBER Test:

Thursday, May 25
National Missing Children's Day

Effort underway to educate parents about TV program control

A broad cross-section of industries has undertaken a coordinated effort to educate American families about how they can monitor and supervise their children's television consumption.

The program is supported by National Association of Broadcasters, Motion Picture Association of American, National Cable & Telecommunications Association, Consumer Electronics Association, Viacom, Time Warner, ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC Universal, DirecTV, EchoStar and the Ad Council.

The campaign is expected to run for about 18 months at an estimated cost to the cooperating organizations of between \$250 and \$300 million. Avenues for getting the information out to parents include PSAs, educational and instructional materials available on the Internet and at retail stores as well as through religious and parents' advocacy groups.

#

2006 KAB Events

- *April 12, KAB Student Seminar, Topeka
- *April 18, KAB/Member Stations hosted Career Fair, Double Tree Hotel, Overland Park
- *April 25, KAB Sports Seminar, Kauffman Royals Stadium
- *June 6, KAB Board of Directors Meeting
- *June 7, KAB Sales Seminar, Wichita
- *August 31, KAB Board of Directors Meeting, Kansas City
- *October 22-24, KAB Convention, Harrah's Prairie Band Casino and Convention Center, Mayetta
- *November (date TBA), KAB Executive Committee meeting
- *December 5, KAB Board of Directors meeting, Topeka

Mark Your Calendar

2006 KAB Convention

*Harrah's Prairie Band Casino
Hotel and Convention Center*

Mayetta (20 minutes north of
Topeka on Hwy 75)

October 22-24, 2006

End of an era - Falkenstien broadcasts final KU game

Max Falkenstien, heard on KU game broadcasts for 60 years, broadcast his final KU game during the NCAA tournament on March 17. He has provided color commentary with KU Play-By-Play Announcer Bob Davis for the last 22 years. Prior to that he was the play-by-play voice of the KU Jayhawks.

Falkenstien, who is 81, announced last summer that this would be his final season of broadcasting KU football and basketball games.

Falkenstien has received numerous awards for his broadcasting talent. KAB bestowed on Falkenstien its highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, in 2000. He also was inducted into KAB's Broadcasting Hall of Fame with the charter class in 2000. In 2004, he received the Curt Gowdy Award by the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and in 2001, the Sporting News named him "the best college radio personality in the country".

#

KPTS wins Telly

KPTS has won a Silver Telly, the highest honor of the Telly Awards, for its production of "Ethanol: Fuel for the Future".

Rik Dubiel, production manager, Dale Goter, public affairs editor, and Gabe Juhnke, production producer, is the KPTS team responsible for this achievement. The program premiered Sunday, October 23, 2005, on KPTS Channel 8.

The locally produced special examined the issue of ethanol production, including an emphasis by local, state and federal governments. Panelists discussed the economic, environmental and health-related aspects of ethanol production, looking at the pluses and minuses of the crop-based fuel source. Also contributing in the program production was the A. Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Kansas State University.

Founded in 1978, the Telly Awards is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions.

#

Washington update

At the FCC

*The FCC has released a number of long-awaited **television indecency decisions**. The Commission upheld its earlier decision against CBS for the Janet Jackson incident during the Super Bowl halftime show. Another decision found an episode of the CBS crime drama "Without a Trace" indecent. The episode focused on the disappearance and possible rape of a high school student and included scenes of teenagers engaged in various sexual activities. In an omnibus order which dealt with complaints against numerous shows, the Commission determined for the first time that even a single use of the word "sh**" or its variants (e.g. "bullsh**") could be found both indecent and profane. The FCC has a number of indecency cases involving radio yet to decide. (Source: NAB). For a copy of a Special Advisory to Broadcasters regarding the indecency decisions, contact the KAB.

* The FCC has proposed **\$24,000 in fines for violations of children's television reporting rules** – specifically for not publicizing existence or location of kid's TV program reports, omission of some records of compliance with ad limits and compliance with issues/program lists. Stations should note that Children's Television FCC Form 398, which is filed electronically every quarter at the FCC, must also be placed in the public file.

*The FCC has created a new **Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau**. The new bureau will manage and coordinate public warnings, emergency alert systems, communications-infrastructure protection, 911, network security, disaster management and disaster response.

In Congress

*Senators Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Max Baucus (D-MT) and Trent Lott (R-MS) introduced companion legislation to the House **satellite radio bill** to hold satellite radio companies accountable to their national-only licenses. The Senate Bill – S. 2418 – would codify an earlier agreement between XM Satellite Radio and NAB, precluding satellite companies from using their terrestrial repeaters for localized content. The bill also would require the FCC to investigate the practice of putting locally oriented content on national channels. The House bill – HR 998 – has 118 co-sponsors in the House, including **Kansas Congressmen Jerry Moran and Dennis Moore**.

Survey documents emergency preparedness

NAB conducted a survey of broadcast stations between February 21 and March 3 to assess the current state of emergency preparedness of local radio and television stations. More than 800 television stations and more than 6,000 radio stations now have a written disaster recovery plan. These numbers represent more than a 50 percent increase for television and more than a 200 percent increase for radio since 2003.

The Media Security and Reliability Council (MSRC) has created a Model Disaster Recovery Plan for local broadcast radio and television, local cable systems and Direct Broadcast Satellite. Copies are available on MSRC's Website:

<http://www.mediasecurity.org/documents/index.html>. Copies of the MSRC Best Practices are also available on the MSRC Website at <http://www.mediasecurity.org/archive/index.html>.

#

NFL prohibits local camera crews

The 32 team owners in the National Football League have decided to bar local station camera crews from the sidelines during NFL games. If the decision stands, stations will be required to get video footage of games from network feeds or from the NFL.

The response from industry groups was swift. Among those urging the NFL to reconsider the decision are Radio Television News Directors Association, National Association of Broadcasters and several state broadcast associations, including KAB.

#

*The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet voted on April 5 to **allow telcos to apply for a nationwide license to provide video services**. The full Committee on Energy and Commerce is expected to vote on the legislation in late April.

*The Senate Judiciary Committee has passed two bills which would allow **cameras and microphones in federal courts**. S. 1768 would permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings. S. 829 would allow federal judges to permit audiovisual coverage of proceedings under a pilot program.

Bob Kearns

Robert Lee Kearns, 83, Topeka, died March 11. Bob was a Kansas broadcaster having started in Atchison in 1944 and moving to WIBW Radio soon after. He held numerous positions and in the early 50s, he helped put WIBW TV on the air. Bob was named sales manager for WIBW AM/FM/TV while continuing on-air activities. In 1981 he was named community relations director for the stations. He was well-known throughout the station's coverage area as a speaker and master of ceremonies. Bob retired in 1992. He is survived by a daughter, two grandchildren, and a brother.

#

Marilyn Bowman

Marilyn Bowman, office manager at KNCK/KCKS for nearly 34 years, died following colon cancer surgery on April 3. She was 66 and worked at the station since 1972. A funeral service was scheduled for April 7 at Presbyterian Church, Cuba KS.

#

News briefs

***WIBW TV** President and General Manager **Steve Cornwell** is leaving the station to become executive vice president of operations for Triple Crown Media, a management company in Lexington, KY. Triple Crown is composed of former Gray Television properties spun off in December. Cornwell has been at WIBW TV since May of 2004. Replacing him as general manager on April 17 is **Jim Ogle**, who currently is senior vice president for news at Gray's WKYT TV in Lexington. Ogle has been at WKYT since 1994 and previously worked at WTVJ in Miami and at stations in Greensboro and Asheville NC, Reno NE, and Columbia MO. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

***Gary Hawke**, former KAB board member and formerly of KU School of Journalism, Radio/TV Department has taken a position with the Broadcast Education Association in their development and marketing department. BEA is housed with the NAB in Washington DC.

***Bud Janes**, Bick Broadcasting, Hannibal, MO was re-elected to NAB's Radio Board of Directors for a two-year term. Cliff Shank also ran for the seat.