



CHAPTER 24

SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS

MADISON, WISCONSIN

OCTOBER 1991

NATIONAL CONVENTION

MADISON WINS TWO AWARDS

by Deanna Morris

The 1991 SBE National Convention and Broadcast Engineering Conference was held October 2-5 in Houston, Texas. Many exciting changes regarding SBE and new technologies were presented and discussed. Among the most exciting events was the annual chapter awards presentation—Chapter 24 received two awards!

Congratulations to Chris Cain for winning Best Local Chapter Frequency Coordination Effort (second year in a row!) and to Phil Mikalofsky, Fred Sperry, and Kevin McLaughlin for Best Technical Article or Paper submitted by a local chapter.

The other chapter awards were: Best Local Chapter Newsletter—Indianapolis, Indiana; Best Local Chapter Newsletter Editor—Manchester, New Hampshire; Best Regional Conference—Seattle, Washington; Local Chapter with the Greatest Growth of New Members—Huntsville, Alabama; and Local Chapter with the Most SBE Certified Members—Bryan, Texas.

Membership Meeting

On the first day of the convention, a membership meeting was held. Brad Dick spoke of some national SBE accomplishments.

"Membership is up 18 percent. There is also an increase in certification among the members. It's now at 63 percent, up from 50 percent of two years ago," he said.

Other achievements during his tenure

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OCTOBER MEETING

DATE: October 16, 1991

AT: SNAP SHOTS
(ALEXANDER'S)

5614 Schroeder Rd.

LUNCH MEETING: 12:00 P.M.

This will be a lunch meeting to discuss old business, new business and other chapter and professional concerns. We will be voting on the proposed changes to the award criteria for the Annual Convention Scholarship. Please try to attend this month.

SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on Wednesday, September 18, 1991 at Corby's Restaurant in Madison for its regular monthly meeting. The attendance of the September meeting included 30 SBE members, 24 who were certified, and 8 guests for a total attendance of 38.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Jim Hermanson.

Secretary Fred Sperry read the minutes from the August meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Paul Stoffel reported the chapter's account balance.

Sustaining Membership Chairman Stan Sarch announced that both Communications Technology Inc. (CTI) and WMMM-FM have become sustaining members of Chapter 24. This brings the Chapters total to 21.

Newsletter Editor Deanna Morris reported that the deadline for items for the October newsletter was October 5th.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 20

December 19

January 14

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CONCERNS
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SBE TALKS EBS

by Paul Stoffel

While speaking at a SBE Chapter 26 meeting in Chicago on September 19, William Browning, Chief of EBS (Emergency Broadcast System) Staff, said, "[The EBS] has new life into it".

New FCC resources, such as additional personnel and travel dollars, have been committed to the EBS. New and updated EBS State plans are being approved at a record rate. The National Weather Service, a partner in the EBS, is undertaking massive restructuring, including the use of faster computers and Doppler radar. Currently, a National EBS database is being developed that will contain the operational characteristics of all licensed AM, FM and TV stations and their role in EBS.

Browning was also in Chicago attending the first regional meeting of the National Business/Industry Advisory Council. It was a meeting of the minds from the EBS and FCC Field Operations Bureau personnel, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Weather Service (NWS) and regional EBS chairpeople from radio and TV stations in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Minnesota, Indiana, South Dakota and North Dakota. Participants attended seminars, learned about the latest technologies and aided each state in updating statewide EBS plans.

Browning explained that the National EBS database "should be completed by April of 1992." The database can be accessed, via a telephone modem, by entering a specific code number. This code number will be made available to the State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) chairperson.

For Wisconsin, the SECC chairperson is Don Moran of the Educational Communications Board. Moran attended the Regional Council meeting, as did others from Wisconsin: John Laabs, Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, Steven Dickoff, WEAQ, Eau Claire (West Central Wis. Operational

Area), and Jim Reed, WIBA (South Wis. Operational Area).

Frank Lucia, EBS Engineer Senior, was also at the Chicago SBE meeting. Lucia talked about the FCC's highest priority projects that include the Notice of Inquiry to study new technologies for EBS and a Notice of Inquiry/Proposed Rulemaking to shorten the EBS two-tone Attention Signal.

"Comments on the inquiry into possible technical improvements in the EBS," Lucia said, "are due December 31, 1991."

The shortening of two-tone (853 Hz and 960 Hz) EBS Attention Signal from 23.4 seconds (acceptable 22 to 25 seconds) to 8 or 9 seconds is being tested in Michigan. "Some EBS receivers will need to be modified," said Don Moran. The TFT EBS System, model 760 and currently in operation at Wisconsin Public Television, requires the two-tone signal to be present for at least 8 seconds before the speaker will be demuted.

Lucia also talked about the new FEMA EBS project called PEP (Primary Entry Point). The PEP system will back-up the existing EAN (Emergency Action Notification) network. Lucia said, "PEP stations would receive Presidential programming via telephone, satellite or shortwave radio."

There are plans for 30 PEP stations located around the country. The PEP station for the South Wis. Operational Area would be WLS-AM 890 in Chicago and would be monitored by our operational area's CPCS-1, WIBA-AM/FM. WIBA would monitor WLS-AM and broadcast necessary information with an EBS Emergency Action Notification. According to Jim Reed, WIBA has neither the PEP receiver nor any information outlining their involvement with the PEP system.

A representative from the Chicago office of the NWS, Jim Allsopp, was also at the

CHAPTER 24 OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN:

Jim Hermanson (WTSO/WZEE/
WKOW TV)
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H - 231-2005

VICE CHAIRMAN:

Leonard Charles (WISC TV)
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H - 274-0041

SECRETARY:

Fred Sperry (WI Public TV/TOC)
W - 273-5500
H - 833-6074

TREASURER:

Paul Stoffel (WI Public TV)
W - 263-2121
H - 241-4621

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Sustaining Membership - Stan
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MINUTES

(cont'd from pg. 1)

Certification and Education Chairman Doug McDonell had no new business to report.

Frequency Coordinator Chris Cain announced that he has the latest frequency print-outs available. Chris also mentioned that there is a rumor circulating that the FCC may delay the deadline for stations to comply with the STL antenna upgrade ruling for six months to a year. Chris pointed out that this is only a rumor and that nothing official had been announced.

Chapter Liaison Paul Meyer then announced that the SBE Chapter in Chicago had an upcoming meeting of interest on the subject of EBS with a speaker from the FCC.

Vice Chairman Leonard Charles then announced that the Chapter 24 Officers had proposed some changes in the guidelines for the annual scholarship that Chapter 24 awards for the National SBE Convention. Leonard reviewed the current guidelines and then

presented the proposed changes. The proposed guidelines will be published in the October newsletter and will be voted on at next month's meeting.

At this time Leonard presented Deanna Morris with this year's scholarship award.

There was no old business to report.

In new business, Chairman Jim Hermanson presented Terry Baun from the Milwaukee SBE Chapter. Terry then presented some concerns that had come to his attention regarding some proposed changes to the by-laws which appear as referendum items on the current National SBE ballot.

Of particular concern was referendum

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27 WKOW TV
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SBE OFFERS CERT CREDITS FOR HAM ACTIVITIES

The SBE has approved the recognition of amateur radio activities for certification credit. Persons holding a valid Amateur Radio Extra Class License, and who meet the service requirements for employment in broadcast or broadcast-related industries, will be awarded Broadcast Technologist Certification upon application.

Also, recertification credits will now be awarded for participation in the SBE Chapter of the Air and the SBE Conferences on CompuServe. These new provisions will provide those who are unable to attend chapter meetings with an additional way to

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SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

Your officers have modified the requirements to qualify for the annual Chapter 24 SBE convention scholarship. Here are the new guidelines. Please look them over, as a vote of approval will be taken at this month's meeting.

CHAPTER 24's ANNUAL CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of the following criteria and maximum number of points accumulated:

- 1) Must be a current member of Chapter 24
- 2) Attendance at 6 of the 12 meetings prior to July 31.
- 3) Employment in a broadcast related facility.
- 4) Must have SBE National dues paid for the current year.

Points will be assigned as follows:

- a) 5 points for each month applicant has at least one article published in the Chapter 24 newsletter
- b) 5 points for certification, any level
- c) 2 points for each monthly meeting attended in excess of the 6 required

In the case of a tie, final selection will be by the elected officers of Chapter 24 or by a committee appointed by those officers, excluding any whom may have applied. If more than one applicant, an alternate will also be selected based on the second highest number of points. The scholarship winner will be required to give an oral report on the convention to the chapter at large during the monthly meeting following the National Convention and will be required to write a summary article to be published in the chapter newsletter.

Application is required in the form of a letter, signed, dated and received by a designated officer no later than July 31.

SBE TALKS EBS

(cont'd from page 2)

Chapter 26 SBE meeting. Allsopp is a Warning Coordination Meteorologist, and he explained the process involved with a weather office issuing a weather alert.

The National Weather Service in Kansas City monitors weather conditions throughout the United States and disseminates critical weather information to local weather offices. In addition to using this NWS data, the local office uses computers, satellites and the radar network to locate severe weather.

Local weather offices also depend on trained weather spotters, police agencies and ham operators to notify them of severe weather. "Severe weather," Allsopp said, "can include hail, floods, wind damage, tornadoes and funnel sightings, [heavy snow and wind chill factors]." In the event of severe weather, an alert is issued on NOAA Weather Radio (locally, WXJ-87, 162.550 Mhz). Also, state and local police are notified, as well as the NOAA Weather Wire Teletype.

When questioned about the progress of the NWS's WRSAME (Weather Radio Specific Area Message Encoder), Allsopp answered, "Funding is not available for nationwide implementation." Initial set-up of a WRSAME system at a local weather office is approximately \$5,000.

WRSAME, which could be viewed as a prototype of an improved EBS, is an inband weather radio system using digital signalling information that would alert only specific counties and only about pre-selected types of emergencies.

An EBS training video, available from the NAB, was shown during the meeting. The video simulation demonstrated the steps involved when a CPCS-1 radio station transmits an actual EBS alert (in this case, a severe weather warning: tornado sighted). Next, a participating station is shown receiving the alert on an EBS decoder. The steps involved with airing the weather warning as an EBS alert were demonstrated.

Quoting Chapter 26's newsletter, SIGNAL LOOP, "The FCC is still very much in the EBS business, and it is looking at ways to make sure it will work!" The October 9, 1991, issue of RADIO WORLD has as its cover page story: "WCBS Embroiled in EBS Furor." The story focused on purported shortcomings in the activation of an actual EBS alert by a CPCS-1 and contained quotations such as: "...we assumed they were just tests...[and we] were quite busy...[and we] finally realized it was not a test but an activation." The Emergency Broadcast System will NOT work UNLESS broadcasters (management, engineers, DJs, etc.) give it the recognition and support it needs and deserves.

What is happening with EBS locally? There is a State EBS/Department of Emergency Government meeting tentatively scheduled in early December. Topics, such as the realignment of EBS Operational Areas for the State of Wisconsin and additional CPCS-1s for those Operational Areas, will be discussed.

Do you know what the current State EBS plan is? ...the Dane County Plan? What is a CPCS-1, and what is the CPCS-1 and CPCS-2 for your Operational Area? In the future, this newsletter will study these questions.

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FCC DECLINES DEFINITION OF CONGESTED AREAS

provided by Chris Gain

On September 23, 1991 the FCC declined to adopt a proposal by the SBE to require broadcast auxiliary and cable relay microwave stations while located within Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) to employ Category A antennae that are more effective at reducing interference.

Overall the commission stated that the system seems to be working in resolving interference problems right now. The FCC will notify licensees when situations occur that would require a Category A antenna.

All of the above services will be required to meet Category B performance by April 1, 1992.

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MINUTES

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number 7 regarding new proposals for future amendment to the by-laws. The underlying concern with this proposal is that future amendments to the by-laws can be made by a vote of the Board of Directors without consulting with the SBE membership at large. Terry then indicated that the Milwaukee Chapter had adopted a resolution to express their discontent with this particular proposed by-law revision. Jim then read a copy of the Milwaukee resolution. Discussion on this matter then ensued. A proposal was then made that Chapter 24 adopt the same resolution as Chapter 28 in Milwaukee. The proposal was overwhelmingly approved by those members present and the same resolution was adopted by Chapter 24.

In other new business, Chairman Jim Hermanson presented recognition awards to Chapter 24 members who were nominated by the Chapter for this year's national SBE awards. Those receiving recognition were Chris Cain (best frequency coordination), Leonard Charles (best newsletter and best newsletter editor), Dennis Behr (for his assistance in coordinating the best regional conference), and Phil Mikalofsky, Fred Sperry, Kevin McLaughlin (best technical article or paper).

In professional announcements, Fred Sperry introduced Pete Strand who recently began working at the TOC as a full-time staff engineer. Tom Weeden then introduced Marshall Deets as an addition to the maintenance staff at Channel 15.

There were no personal announcements.

Program Chairman Kevin Ruppert then introduced Herb Van Driel, Larry Coha and Phil Livingston of Panasonic who gave a presentation on the recently developed D-3 format.

*Fred Sperry,
Secretary*

NATIONAL CONVENTION

(cont'd from pg. 1)

included the first regional seminar built around the needs of local members (held recently in Cincinnati, Ohio), the hiring of an executive director, and the completion of the Society's first strategic plan. After a round of thank-yous, Dick passed the gavel to new president Richard Farquhar.

Farquhar introduced the new officers and board members. Besides Farquhar, the new officers are Jerry Whitaker, vice-president and William Hineman, secretary. The new board members are Fred Baumgartner, Michael Fast, and Troy Pennington. Continuing board members are Terrance Baun, Paul Montoya, and Edward Roos.

In his opening remarks, Farquhar spoke of the new strategic plan approved by the Board of Directors in June of this year. This plan addresses the goals of the Society for the next several years, and was developed from the membership survey and input from chapter representatives.

The plan includes improving the perception of SBE and the engineer through a well-developed public relations program, increasing the national and international stature of the Society, developing written descriptions of officer and board member positions, and ensuring the long-term success of the SBE Convention.

Chapter Chairman Meeting

On the third day of the convention, a Chairman's Meeting was held and presided over by new SBE president Richard Farquhar. Several new items were introduced and discussed.

Of particular note was the announcement that SBE will merge the exhibit portion of its annual convention with the exhibit portion of the Radio-Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) beginning in September of 1993 in Miami, Florida.

Farquhar stated that the logic of merging the two associations' exhibits is obvious. First off, the cost to the Society for convention hall rental will immediately be cut in half. Since newsrooms and the engineering departments have a lot in common, bringing the exhibits together into one hall will benefit everyone, not the least of who are the exhibitors.

Ultimately, exhibitors foot the bill for these kinds of conventions, and the joint exhibition is intended to draw more exhibitors. Companies simply no longer have the resources to exhibit at every convention. The SBE and RTNDA have recognized this and believe that this affiliation will strengthen attendance to both annual conventions.

Farquhar pointed out that each group will continue to maintain entirely separate convention programs. The SBE 1993 annual convention will now be held in Miami, Florida (instead of Richmond, Virginia as previously announced) and then in Los Angeles, California in 1994. The change in location is due to the fact that RTNDA has already signed contracts with convention centers in these cities.

Sessions, Exhibits, Field-Trips and Banquet

Several technical papers were presented during three days of technical sessions.

The trend in the radio sessions was clearly digital radio, as the papers presented discussed DAB and such topics as data com-

(cont'd pg. 6, col. 1)

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NATIONAL CONVENTION

(cont'd from pg. 5)

pression, the in-band system, digital STL applications and the current regulatory picture.

In the television sessions, a whole day was dedicated to the topic of automation. Some of the paper topics included using MIDI and computer control for television audio production, implementing master control automation, and making the most of cart machine playback technology.

According to informed sources, the exhibit hall and number of exhibitors appeared smaller than last year. Still, over 100 vendors offered the conference attendees the opportunity to see the latest technologies. The Texas Association of Broadcasters joined SBE in the hall with its own exhibitors.

SBE also sponsored two field-trips in the Houston area. A tour of nearby NASA's mission control and the Senior Road Tower site were offered to attendees. According to one field-trip survivor, the elevator trip up the 1400-foot Senior Road Tower was the high point of the convention!

On the last night of the convention, a formal banquet was held at the Hyatt Regency. New life members received special awards, the local chapter award winners were announced, and Congressman Don Ritter from Pennsylvania spoke about regulatory issues facing the broadcast industry and the implementation of new technologies. Ritter announced that he has introduced a bill into Congress calling for at least one of the FCC Commissioners to be an engineer. He urged all SBE members to initiate a grass-roots movement by contacting their local congressional representatives and urging support for this new bill.

My personal thanks to Chapter 24 for awarding me this year's convention scholarship and making my trip to Houston possible. As you might have guessed, a good time was had by all! — Editor

BURT YOUNG
Regional Sales Manager

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SBE BOARD RESPONDS TO BYLAWS CONCERNS

by Terry Baun, SBE Board Member

At the full Board meeting of the SBE held in Houston on October 3, 1991, the concerns expressed by several local chapters about the recent Bylaws voting procedure were discussed.

Upon careful examination of the entire voting procedure, the Board determined that the vote was carried out in full compliance with the current (1990) Bylaws. The membership vote was approximately 8 to 1 in favor of all proposed changes.

However, the Board noted that because a complete copy of the 1990 Bylaws was not included with the ballot mailing, it was difficult for many voters to ascertain the full impact of the proposed Bylaws changes upon the operation of the Society.

Members of Milwaukee, Madison, Denver and Syracuse chapters (among others) had petitioned the Board to set aside the Bylaws voting due to what many felt was inadequate information given to the voting membership on those issues. The concerns expressed by those chapters were fully communicated to the full board by several Board members.

In response, the full Board directed that a Task Force on Bylaws Revisions be set up to report to the board on those concerns.

The Task Force is chaired by Jim Wulliman, Director of the Ennes Foundation, and consists of himself and two members of the SBE Board. It will report to the full board at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Additionally, the Board affirmed that:

1. A full copy of the newly amended (1991) Bylaws will be mailed to each member within 60 days; and
2. along with that mailing will be an annotated copy of the 1990 Bylaws, with all changes made as a result of the September, 1991 vote clearly indicated thereon. This should fully illuminate the changes made as a result of the recent balloting.

RADIO

by Stan Scharch

NAB Seeks In-Band DAB for FM

The NAB has asked Eureka 147 researchers to develop an in-band DAB system for the FM band. Researchers would have to develop a system with more narrow bandwidth than on the present system which accommodates 4 channels in 6 Mhz. Eureka engineers have said repeatedly that an in-band DAB system would not reduce multipath and would interfere with the analog signal.

EmCee Tests DAB in Mexico City

EmCee Broadcast Products Inc. and General Instruments Digital Cable Radio service began experimental digital audio broadcasts last month in Mexico City using EmCee transmitters. The concept is simple. The EmCee 2.6 GHz transmitters already in use for "wireless cable" have a capacity of 20 video channels. 2 video channels are taken and modified for a total of 20 digital audio channels. This is a 3 month experiment with General Instruments supplying special receivers for testing in the home.

Defense Department Opposes Spectrum Reallocation

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney is opposed to L-band use. In a brief letter sent to the Commerce Department, Cheney says his agency is opposed to giving up 200 Mhz of spectrum for commercial use. The State Department is expected to issue a ruling on the matter later this year.

Moseley Associates Bought

A group of investors including senior management officials and company founder Jack Moseley have bought Moseley Associates from General Research Corp. (GRC) International. According to Moseley executive VP/CEO Jamal Hamdani, the ownership change should "strengthen Moseley Associates' position in the broadcast industry" domestically and overseas.

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1991 BROADCASTERS CLINIC

by Paul Stoffel

The 37th Annual Broadcasters Clinic 1991 is scheduled for November 6-8 at the Holiday Inn Southeast. The clinic, sponsored by the University of Wisconsin and UW-Extension, provides broadcasters with an opportunity to attend engineering sessions, evening engineering forums and equipment exhibits.

The purpose of the clinic is to help broadcasters cope with new technologies and present an overview of industry trends.

An additional engineering session has been added to Friday, November 8, entitled, "Analog to Digital - An Evolution or Slippery Slope?", which will be presented by Les Brown of Grass Valley Group.

Thursday evening's engineering forum, "Ask the FCC," will be attended by Phil Bradford, Engineer in charge of the Chicago FCC office, Al Jarratt of the St. Paul FCC office and Russell Monie, Regional Director of the FCC.

The number of exhibitors is approaching 40, including: Video Images, Todd Communications, Roscor, Broadcast Communications, Electronic Industries, Emmons Associates, BTS, Skyline Communications and many more.

Be sure to visit a Chapter 24 sustaining member's booth as you tour the equipment area.

FCC AMMENDS RULES TO IMPROVE AM QUALITY

provided by Chris Cain

The Federal Communications Commission has concluded an important phase of its long-term program designed to transform and revitalize the AM broadcast service. Numerous revisions and adjustments, both major and minor, to the existing AM rules and policies have been adopted. It is expected that this action will go a long way toward improving the health and ensuring the survival of the AM service. The strategy relies upon the application of three mutually supporting elements designed to reduce congestion and interference in the AM band:

The elements are:

1. **Technical Standards** which implement new and revised AM technical standards designed to reduce interference to AM broadcasters' primary service areas;
2. **Migration** which selectively opens 10 newly available frequencies in the expanded band, 1605 - 1705 Khz, to those AM stations which significantly contribute to congestion and interference in the existing band;
3. **Consolidation** which affords broadcasters greater latitude and incentive for reducing interference through non-technical means.

Technical Standards

A number of steps were taken to improve the quality of service in the existing AM band. Specifically, the Commission:

- increased the first and second adjacent channel protection ratios to reduce adjacent channel interference and to promote the development of receivers with higher audio fidelity;

- refined the methodology for calculating nighttime coverage and interference so as to more accurately measure interference effects, thus improving nighttime reception; and,

- will selectively require a 10 percent

interference reduction when voluntary modifications are made to AM station facilities, thus gradually reducing the overall presence of interference.

Migration

The Commission adopted rules for the expanded band that are designed to reduce interference in the existing band, while facilitating the prompt initiation of high quality service in the new broadcasting spectrum.

By taking this action, the Commission intends to manage the migration process to maximize the benefits to AM service as a whole. Rules have been established to encourage those existing stations whose migration would achieve the greatest interference reductions in the existing band to move to the expanded band. The Commission reiterated its commitment to creating a model AM broadcasting. To accomplish this goal, the Commission will:

- adopt an allotment plan for the AM expanded band that is based on wide station separations and low interference levels, in order to facilitate the universal establishment of service in the expanded band;

- rank competing migration proposals from existing licensees using factors related to interference reduction and service currently provided;

- offer an eligibility preference to AM stereo broadcasting in the expanded band to ensure that the competitive benefits

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Steve Peck
Sales Representative

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A FEW MINUTES WITH ANDY BUTLER

from Chapter 28, Milwaukee

A recent issue of Electronic Media contained an interesting interview with Andy Butler, Chief at Baltimore's WBAL/WIYY and active for many years in the SBE. Judith Gross was the interviewer:

JG: How secure are engineers in these economic times?

BUTLER: Somebody once said a good engineer works himself out of a job. If you build a plant right, you don't have to glue the pieces on every day because they aren't falling off. But there's always a place for a good engineer in a competitive station.

JG: What about stations that are hiring contract engineers or cutting out engineering jobs altogether?

BUTLER: When a station looks at cutting costs by cutting engineering, at some point it has to pay for that. You need a certain amount of expertise in engineering no matter what, so if you let things go, you'll end up paying more.

JG: Where is the next generation of engineers coming from?

BUTLER: I don't know the answer to that one, and it really bothers me. There's very little incentive to get into the business unless you love it. As continuing economic pressure cuts engineering departments, there are fewer entry-level positions. We had an artificial situation where the FCC required a First Class license all the time at every station, and that gave a lot of people a free ride. In the industry's haste to correct that imbalance we blew it away completely. Now the pendulum has swung the other way, and we have people who, in order to

earn a living, are patching the pieces back up. We may never go back to stations employing full-time engineers, but as the contract engineering concept matures we'll see contract firms springing up which will employ more engineers for fewer stations and require a certain level of expertise. This may start out as one station's engineering staff becoming a contract firm for other stations in the market, and that may take an entirely different view on competition.

JG: Isn't the engineering part of this industry generally less competitive, station-to-station in a market?

BUTLER: We pretend a little less magic than other parts of the industry. Jeff Smulyan, (president of Emmis Broadcasting Corp.) likes to say, 'It's not brain surgery, it's just radio.' Engineers as a general rule tend to be more practical, we tend to realize that keeping another station off the air for an hour because we don't help out isn't going to make or break the ratings but may be hurtful to a friend who's the chief engineer. We can be more generous.

JG: What about digital audio broadcasting and the enormous changes ahead for radio engineering?

BUTLER: With change comes a greater need for understanding. There are some very thorny technical issues to be sorted out, a lot of compromises that could be made, and we are dealing in a very political arena. Sorting out the politics from engineering and economics is a very complex thing. You can never really separate

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politics from profit from technology in this industry. The industry needs to flush out as many alternatives as possible and nurture some of the less economically vibrant alternatives just to see if they can grow. But no decisions are going to be made fast.

JG: Does it bother engineers that the technical issues are not always the deciding factor in such a controversy?

BUTLER: The more factors you can become aware of, the more likely you can influence the outcome. Even the best technology in the world will fail if it doesn't have the financial backing, so there's more than the technical question at stake. Making the wrong decision on DAB could be a real disaster for the industry. That's one of the reasons it's so emotional, as NAB can attest. Our job is to put forth the best technical picture of the alternatives and their costs and compromises and realize the final decision is made on a lot of other factors.

JG: How about other digital equipment in the station, and especially the need for less maintenance?

BUTLER: Digital technology as a whole won't put more engineers out of work. Analog equipment is really at the point where it's extremely reliable also. It's an unavoidable trend. Digital itself is not the culprit. Engineers can become more than just fix-it folks. We can be the technical consultants. If the need for maintenance goes down, we must concentrate on other areas. As I get older I have to keep reminding myself that change is not a threat—it's an opportunity.

(from Electronic Media, Sept. 9, 1991)



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FCC AMMENDS AM RULES

(cont'd from pg. 7)

offered by the expanded band are more fully realized; and,

- allow dual ownership and operation of existing and expanded band stations for a transitional period of five years, with a corresponding waiver of duopoly and national ownership rules during permissible period of dual operation.

Attached as an Appendix to the Report and Order will be a Sample Allotment Plan for the expanded band. Its contents are based on the "letters of intent" received in response to the Notice of Proposed Rule-making. This Sample Plan is for illustrative purposes only and does not represent an official allotment of channels.

This action of initially restricting eligibility for expanded band authorizations to existing AM licensee is intended to redress the unique technical problems present in the AM service. It should not be taken to suggest any generalized Commission policy favoring existing licensees over new entrants in other services where new or expanded opportunities may arise.

Consolidation

Several non-technical rules were adopted also. First the Commission will issue tax certificates in conjunction with voluntary arrangements among licensees to reduce interference by discontinuing the operation of marginal stations. Second, it will relax its multiple ownership rules for applicants proposing facilities changes that would result in a significant reduction of interference to co-channel stations.

The Commission also stated that it may be appropriate to impose some restrictions on the duplication of programming by AM-FM combinations. However, because conditions in the AM service may substantially change during the next few years, the Commission concluded that it may be premature to limit program duplication at this time. Rather, the Commission will revisit this issue at the end of three years.

As to related matters, the Commission will also:

- relax the rules pertaining to Travelers Information Stations to allow for the authorization (on a secondary basis) of such stations on any assignable frequency in the AM band; and,

- promote efforts by the broadcast industry to encourage manufacturers to comply with new industry receiver standards.

Finally, as a result of these rule changes, the Commission will lift the freeze on AM applications on the effective date of the rules which, in turn, depends on Office of Management and Budget approval.

(Action by the Commission September 26, 1991, by Report and Order. Commissioners Sikes (Chairman), Quello, Marshall, Barrett and Duggan.)

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FCC NEWS

by Leonard Charles

New York City and other municipal groups served notice that they intend to challenge in court the FCC's new "effective competition" rules which exempt certain cable systems from municipal rate regulation. The groups call the rules arbitrary, capricious, and otherwise contrary to law.

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Wisconsin has denied the New Bank of New England and other lenders a lien against broadcast licenses of Tak Communications. Judge Robert Martin's ruling reaffirmed the FCC policy of not granting or permitting security interest in FCC licenses.

The FCC has modified its ownership rules and simplified technical regulations governing multipoint distribution channels, private fixed service channels and instructional television fixed service channels. The modifications will allow certain technical changes without prior FCC approval, reallocate some channels, give ITFS licensees more power over programming and scheduling, and allow cable companies to operate wireless systems.

The FCC has granted a CBS petition giving networks a temporary waiver of the new commercial time limits in children's programming to take effect January 1, 1992 instead of October 1, 1991. Programming acquired on barter had been earlier granted the same extension.

The NAB and the Association of Independent Television Stations have filed opposition to the FCC rulemaking to change the name of "Low Power Television" stations to "Community" stations and to change the current six letter LPTV call sign to the conventional four letter calls.

(Excerpts from Broadcasting Magazine)

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Emmons Associates Inc. have a new facility in Eagan, Minnesota. Their new address is:

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The move was necessary due to the firm's growth.

CHAPTER 24 NEWSLETTER

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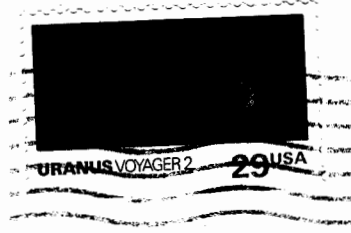
Edited by: Deanna Morris
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Articles Welcome!! Send correspondence to:
Chapter 24 Newsletter
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Madison, WI 53711
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MADISON, WI 53711



Tom Weeden 1
6802 Putnam Road
Madison, WI 53711