

October, 2016



TRHoF **E-Waves** NEWSLETTER



[ENTER THE TENNESSEE RADIO HALL OF FAME WEBSITE](#)

OFF MIC

by TRHOF President Doug Combs



It is hard to believe that the Radio Show made its first visit to Nashville in September. The Radio Show is a joint venture between the National Association of Broadcasters and the Radio Advertising Bureau. The annual event covers all areas of the business from management to programming to sales to engineering.



For many Tennesseans the sessions started with a reception hosted by the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters. The association moved its annual conference from August to September and held an abbreviated version. Many of the resources for the TAB meeting were re-routed so members could be offered an opportunity to attend the Radio Show. For many broadcasters in the Volunteer State, it was their first chance to attend the national event.

The Board of Directors of the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame were invited to the state event. Board members Bart Walker, Melissa McDonald, Larry Stone, Paul Tinkle and yours truly (along with past president Gary Batey) enjoyed the festivities. The highlight of the evening was the announcement that Art Gilliam of WLOK, Memphis was named recipient of the TAB Distinguished Service Award. You may remember Brian Craig's story on Gilliam in an earlier edition of *E-Waves* this year. Art is marking the 40th anniversary of his ownership of AM 1340 in 2016. From all of the comments heard during the week (*and the increased attendance*), a return to Music City may be in the Radio Show's future.

The celebration of Tennessee's rich radio heritage will continue when the TnRHOF welcomes the class of

2017. Just a few hours ago, all members in good standing received an email with their credentials to vote for next year's Career class. Remember, voting will end on October 31st. Twenty-four nominations were approved by the Board for your consideration this year. All are worthy, but only six can move on to become 2017's Career Inductees.

As you cast your ballots, be sure to read the resumes of each nominee, and pick the persons you believe have made the greatest contributions to Tennessee radio history. In that way, you make your vote count as the Hall continues to tell radio's story in Volunteer State.

Doug



Sam Blevins
Michelle Bolden
Ron Brandon
Sandy C. Brown
Robin Brown
Mickey Bunn
Logan Carmichael
Zen Cymbala
Karen Gerson Duncan
Lynette Easley Ingram
Brent Fleshman
Chad Gatlin
Phillip Gibbons
Rob Grayson
Billy Harper
Tim Hitt
Lance Holley
Chris Jarman
Sharon Kay

James Kennedy
Tom F. King
George Klein
Chris Ladd
Zach Ledbetter
John Malone
Preston Martinez
Rich Miller
Charlie Monk
Dent Morriss
Bill "Dex" Poindexter
Steve Quick
Gaylon Reasons
Beth Roach
Michael St. John
Todd Starnes
Dick Taylor
John Young

Voting Underway for the TRHOF Class of 2017



*by Brian Craig
Historian, Elections Coordinator*

Voting for Career Inductees for the Class of 2017 has begun, and will be held online through Monday, October 31st. All Active Full Members should have received an email with a link to the voting site, your username and your password. Each member will vote for six nominees. The top 15 vote-getters will then be presented to the Board of Directors, who will elect the

final six Career Inductees to be inducted at our banquet on May 6, 2017.

When you log in to vote, click on any name on the ballot to see the radio resume and summary of information about that nominee. If you have any questions about the election process, corrections, etc., please contact me directly by email at: brianleecraig@gmail.com.

Photos the 24 Career Nominees are featured on page 3 of this newsletter. The Legacy Inductees will be announced in the November newsletter.

The 2017 Legendary Radio Station will be nominated and elected by the Board of Directors and the Advisory Council during a joint meeting before the end of the year. Thanks to everyone who submitted a nomination. We have a diverse slate of 24 worthy nominees from across the State of Tennessee.

Thanks for being a member and for your participation in this year's balloting!

So many choices. How should I cast my votes?

To make your vote count:

- Read each nominee's resume.
- Carefully consider each individual's contributions to the industry and their communities.
- Vote for the 6 who you feel best represent Tennessee's radio legacy.

The Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame:

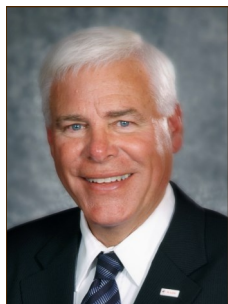
*Working to Preserve
Tennessee's Rich Radio History.*



Your 2017 Career Nominees....Choose Six!



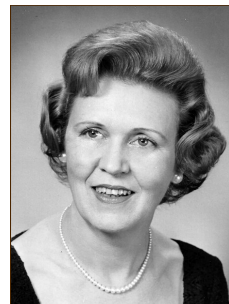
Gary Beaty



Dave Brown



Kyle Cantrell



Elinor Folk



Eddie Fritts



Phillip Gibbons



Gator Harrison



John Heidelberg



Lon Helton



Herb Howard



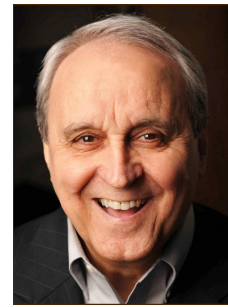
Mary Glen Lassiter



Shannon McCombs



Marty McFly



Charlie Monk



Dick Palmer



Tom Perryman



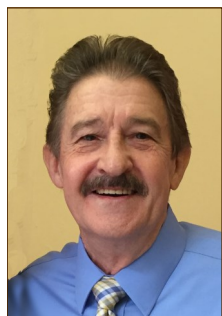
Jim Reynolds



Tom Rowland



David Tower



Steve Turner



Coleman Walker



Pete Weber



Don Whitehead



James Wolfe

Jackson Meet 'n Greet at the Carnegie



We headed to Jackson, Tennessee on September 17 a little concerned if there would be anyone there to greet. A gasoline pipeline in Alabama had burst just days before, and a gas panic had hit part of the state. But the Board arrived at the Carnegie Center for Arts and History to find a host of warm and happy West Tennessee broadcasters waiting for us.

Board member Steve Bowers arranged for us to gather at the historic Carnegie Center for Arts and History. The historic building opened in 1903 as Jackson's first



Above: Food, folks and fun.



Left: Steve Bowers, state Rep. Johnny Shaw of Bolivar (owner of radio stations WBOL and WOJG) and Doug Combs, TRHOF President.

library, financed by the Jackson City Council and a \$30,000 grant from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. After a newer, larger library was built in 1968, the Carnegie fell into disrepair, but has been restored and now serves as a museum and event venue.

After a brief business meeting, attendees shared lunch and radio stories. Two new members joined the Hall during the visit.



Above: Tribute case of memorabilia from the career of TRHOF inductee Wink Martindale.



Above: TRHOF inductees John Dougherty (left) and Buddy Sadler (right) talk with a guest during the luncheon.

Right: A print of the late BB King along with his famous "Lucille, autographed.



Left: Wanda and Steve Turner (owner of WNKX) of Centerville.



Right: Part of the display honoring the late musician Carl Perkins.





by Paul Randall Dickerson

"This just in...." It's a phrase that used to mean something and people listening to radio newscasts knew something had just happened and they were about to learn of it.

News? On the radio? That would sound absurd to most Millennials and some Gen-Xers today. Radio news today tends to be on public stations and much of what they report, while solid, is primarily feature reporting.

In the early 80s, there were a dozen people in the newsroom at WSM-AM. WLAC had a half-dozen in the late 70s and WMAK, at one point in the mid-70s, had 10 people on staff doing news. WKDA had at least four.

In Nashville alone, there were anchors and street reporters whose names people knew well and whose information they trusted. Here are but a few:

Al Voecks at WSM
Charlie Scott at WSIX
Buddy Sadler at WLAC and WSM
Lynette Easley (Ingram) at WMAK, WLAC & WMOT
Melissa McDonald at WLAC and WMAK & 92Q
Eddie Parker at WLAC
David Tower at WMAK and WLAC
Mike Donegan at WSM

The competition was fierce. Unlike newspapers, which published in news "cycles" of AM or PM, radio was red hot all the time. Using mobile units with two-way radios (well before cell phones), stations would send reporters to fires, wrecks, city council meetings and other events. Getting to the scene and getting the fire chief on tape before he disappeared was key; especially when the competition showed up later and he was unavailable.

TV was only beginning to become more nimble, using lumbering Ku band satellite trucks to get to the scene while radio got on the air first with a \$50 cassette tape recorder and a dedicated two-way radio frequency. While TV was mostly "canning" reports for the next newscast, radio only had to wait until the song on the air ended.

While fast reporting was important, smart reporting was often the difference in radio news. Here's an example:

On Feb. 22, 1978, part of a Louisville and Nashville Railroad train derailed in downtown Waverly, 75 miles west of Nashville. The accident was reported, largely because a tank car carrying propane was involved. Two days later, as a crew prepared to pump the load into another tanker, a terrific explosion occurred, killing six people instantly. Another 10 would later die of their injuries.

With radio, TV and newspaper reporters racing to the scene, WMAK's Lee Hall decided to use a then-brand new piece of technology. As he streaked toward Waverly in his sports car, Lee used CB channels, trying to raise anyone who had seen the explosion or its aftermath. He located two and both of them were heading for Nashville. Lee gave them the newsroom phone number at WMAK and asked them to call it as soon as they got into town. He then pulled into a gas station and used a pay phone (remember those?) to call me in the newsroom and say I might be getting calls from two people, whose names he gave me.

The result was that WMAK had witness accounts of the blast on the air before competitors reached the scene. Lee's fine reports began coming into the newsroom a half-hour later. It was a heads-up piece of reporting I've never forgotten.

At WSM, when I was news director there, we had the great fortune of having Don Aaron on staff as a street reporter. Don, who later became the spokesman for the Metro Nashville Police Department, was a genuine news junkie. He put few miles on his own car because I gave him a WSM news cruiser and said "use it." Man, did he, at all hours of the day and night.

As the years passed, and Congressional actions allowed station owners to buy an unlimited number of stations, the mournful sound in the background was the death knell of local radio news.

Owners began to financially leverage their properties. The Federal Communications Commission got out of content regulation and news, agriculture, education and other various program types were no longer required in order for a station to keep its license.

Radio news was expensive for stations. Some, in very large markets, found it profitable to go all-news, but for the most part, radio news became history. A lot of us miss it terribly.

Around & About...



The Radio Show



Above: TRHOF President Doug Combs and board members Melissa McDonald and Larry Stone are all smiles at the Tennessee reception hosted by TAB during the national Radio Show held in Nashville in September. Board members Bart Walker and Paul Tinkle were also on hand, as well as TRHOF Past President Gary Beaty.

Scholarship Presented



Justin Metcalf accepting the Luther Masingill Scholarship award from Chip Chapman. Justin was a senior at Central High School in Chattanooga when the award was presented.

Tennessee Marconi Winner



Above: Brent Fleshman of WHUB in Cookeville was honored with the Marconi Award for Best Small Market Talk Show during the Radio Show held in Nashville. He is pictured with Phillip Gibbons, crosstown radio pal, from WGSQ.



Don't forget — (nudge, nudge)

REMINDERS



What's Your Radio Story?

Do you have a radio story
you'd like to share?
It can be anything that is part
of your radio history.

***We love radio stories.
Please, tell us yours.***

Just email it to starmagic@comcast.net.

Keeping Up With the Hall

Our newsletter is published the first of every month.
Back issues may be viewed on our official website:

www.tennradiohalloffame.org

Let Treasurer Cindy Arnold know of any change
in your email address so you don't miss an issue!

Collecting Our History

The Hall has a committee to collect and purchase
Tennessee radio memorabilia, including old microphones,
on-air signage, transmitter parts, promotional items and
anything else related to radio stations in our state.

If you have items to donate (or purchase on Ebay,
Craigslist, etc.) please contact Nick Archer via a
message on the TRHOF Facebook page.

Our Facebook page now boasts almost 1,200 members,
and our YouTube Page includes air checks, inductions
and other audio/video memories.



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revenue in **8 working days** please contact:
John Padgett at 615-403-0336

Check Your Calendar

May 6, 2017

Induction Banquet & Ceremony
Details: TBA



More Events Coming Soon!
To check the TRHOF event calendar anytime,
go to the home page of our website:
<http://tennradiohalloffame.org>

Don't worry about whether or not the sun will rise.

Be prepared to enjoy it.

**DONATE YOUR
BOAT, SCOOTER, CAR
OR MOTORCYCLE TO
THE TENNESSEE RADIO
HALL OF FAME.**



**Write off your
donation on your taxes!**

**TRHOF is a
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Get details at: tennradiohalloffame.org

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