

July, 2015



TRHoF **E-Waves** NEWSLETTER est 2010



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OFF MIC

by TRHOF President Gary Beaty



As of today (July 1st), it's a new fiscal year for the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame. We made progress last year in that for the first time, we actually finished "in the black" on the bottom line with our annual induction banquet. The event also set an attendance record. Our membership grew, and our Facebook page membership continues to increase.



So, with this new beginning, it's time to remind you that if you haven't already renewed your membership, now is the time to do it. This is especially critical if you wish to nominate someone for induction into the Hall of Fame. The nomination period starts today, July 1st, and runs through August 31st.

At its most recent meeting on June 27th, the board took action to address some issues of perception about our statewide "branding" and induction election. I believe this action will help insure the long-term success of our organization. It's an important issue, and the changes are explained in an article on page 2 of this issue of *E-Waves*.

One more point about nominations: following a recent Facebook post by a member featuring a picture of a bit of memorabilia purchased of a rather well-known personality, another former member (still a Facebook follower), remarked that he, "couldn't believe that this guy isn't already in the Hall of Fame." The reason, of course, is that neither he, nor anyone else, has nominated him. The point: ***If you believe someone is deserving of induction, JOIN and NOMINATE.***

We'll be returning to the Tri-Cities in early August with a member meet and recruiting effort at the new Birthplace of Country Music Museum in Bristol, Virginia. The next scheduled board meeting is in Memphis on August 22nd, time and place TBD. If you're in those areas, I hope you will join us!

Keep Calm, renew and nominate!

Gary

My Radio Story

by Drucilla Smith

What are the experiences on radio you'll never forget? You tell us, and we'll print them! Drucilla Smith shared one of favorites.



Drucilla Smith

John R. (Richbourg), WLAC top blues DJ, called me over to the booth to assign me a news story. He asked me to go to the Tennessee State Penitentiary, where B. B. King had a concert.

After the concert, the media went backstage for interviews. B. B. spotted my WLAC mic and called me to the front. "I am giving my first interview to the young lady from WLAC Blues Radio," B. B. said, motioning me to the settee to sit beside him and his guitar, Lucille.

Why was I number one? B. B. knew the 50,000 watt reach of WLAC at night had helped mightily in making him number one. Thanks, John Richbourg, for giving me the memory of a lifetime.



Cindy Arnold
John Bastin
Kevin Batts
Michelle Berlin
Jonathan Boyce
Gary Brown
Cindy Carroll
Barb Deniston
George Flinn
Fred Gault
Sue Gibbons
Jeff Hall
Paul Hankins

John Ivey
Steve Jarrell
David Lambert
Gina Logue
Paul Lyle
James Milliner
Peggy Motley
Jan Oliver
Bart Walker
Bill Wolfenbarger
Teresa Zdychnec

Happy New (Nominating & Election) Year!



July 1 marks the beginning of a new membership year for our Hall. It's also the beginning of the nominating period for our fifth group of inductees, the Class of 2016. As we continue to grow, the Board of Directors continues to tweak our nomination and election procedures to refine the selection of inductees who reflect the full heritage and history of Tennessee Radio. That means we have a couple of changes this year.

The nominating period for the 2016 Class of Inductees begins at 12:01 a.m. July 1 and will conclude at midnight, August 31, 2015. Any active Full Member is eligible to nominate candidates for induction in either the Career or Legacy category. Candidates must have worked in Tennessee radio broadcasting or a related field for at least two years and a total career (in Tennessee or elsewhere) for at least 10 years, and have made substantial contributions to the radio industry and the communities their station(s) or networks served. Career candidates are living at the time nomination. Legacy candidates are deceased at the time of nomination.

THE PROCESS

To place a broadcaster into nomination in either the Career or Legacy category, first be sure your membership is active by paying your dues for the new membership year (details elsewhere in this newsletter). Then, download the official nomination form from our website



at www.tennradiohalloffame.org. Only nominations using this form will be accepted. In addition, forms not fully filled out or forms which are not accompanied by all required information will be returned.

Each nomination must be submitted by two active

Full Members of the organization to ensure that we are able to get full assistance on contact information, biographical information, photos, etc, that are needed for both the election process and the induction process for successful candidates. Forms which do not include the names and contact information for both nominators (and for a family or friend contact in the Legacy category) will be returned.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

For the first time this year, if more than 15 nominations are accepted in the Career category, active Full Members will vote to narrow the ballot of nominees to 15 in an online preliminary election to be held in the month of October. The Board of Directors will then select six inductees from that list of 15.

The Board of Directors, along with the Advisory Council, will select six Legacy inductees from all nominations accepted.

A final reminder: To participate in the nomination/election process, you must be a Full Member and your membership must be active. If you have not renewed your membership, you must do so before submitting any nominations.

Thank you for your participation in this process. We look forward to inducting another great class of Tennessee Radio Stars at our induction banquet on May 7, 2016. Mark your calendar now!

*by Dave Nichols
TRHOF Historian & Election Coordinator*

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Pete Weber: Tennessee Sportscaster of the Year



by Melissa McDonald

Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame Lifetime Member Pete Weber has been honored as the Volunteer State's *Sportscaster of the Year* by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association. The award was presented June 8 during NSSA's annual awards banquet in Salisbury, North Carolina.

Weber, the voice of the Nashville Predators (Nashville Predators TV/Fox Sports), was understandably pleased to receive the award. He told *E-Waves*, "For a hockey guy to win in the South makes the honor an even greater one to me. Thanks to all of who have watched and listened!"

Two other Tennesseans were also honored at the event. However, Weber was the only broadcaster. Sportswriters David Climer of the *Nashville Tennessean* and Geoff Calkins of the *Commercial Appeal* in Memphis were named the state's *Sportswriters of the Year*.

Besides the state broadcasters, NSSA also inducted four members to its Hall of Fame: Bill Raftery, Dick Schaap, Hal McCoy and Lesley Visser. Joining the Hall of Fame quartet as honorees at the banquet were 2014 National Sportscaster of the Year Mike 'Doc' Emrick and 2014 National Sportswriter of the Year Tom Verducci. This year's inductees are the largest class in the organization's 56-year history.

From mid-October through mid-November, NSSA members in each state nominate up to three state and national sportscasters and sportswriters of the year. For state categories, the top two, plus ties, are placed on the final ballot.

For national categories, the top 10, plus ties, are placed on the final ballot. NSSA national board members provide nominations for the Hall of Fame categories, and 10 names are placed on the ballot for each of those categories. Final balloting takes place each December.

Congratulations, Pete!



Above: NSSA Hall of Famer Bill Raftery presents Pete Weber with his award as 2015 Tennessee Sportscaster of the Year.



Above: National Hockey League play-by-play announcers who were 2015 regional winners: Matt Loughlin of the New Jersey Devils; Dave Goucher of the Boston Bruins (Massachusetts); Joe Beninati of the Washington Capitals (District of Columbia) and Weber of Tennessee. National winner Mike Emrick of NBC was absent due to his broadcast commitment at the Stanley Cup Finals.



Right: Pete and Claudia Weber at the banquet.

GABRIEL
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Six Questions with Bennie Ray Shipley



by Cathy Martindale

1) What are your earliest radio memories?

I remember when I was very, very young, my dad listening to WSM radio. Little did I know that one day I would actually work there. It seems like I remember John McDonald and Grant Turner being on the air."

2) Anything in particular that made you want to be in radio? Did you have other jobs along the way before radio?

Radio was the only job I ever had. Funny thing, when I was younger, I was more interested in television and film. That was before I got my first radio job though.

3) What are some jobs you've held in broadcasting?

In 1965, I started working at a small radio station in Scottsville, Kentucky when I was 15. I worked after school and on weekends. Two years later, I moved up to WCDS, a slightly larger top 40 station in Glasgow, Kentucky.

WCDS was very popular. That was from 1967 until 1974. It was then I went to work at WSM, working over night with Hairl Hensley on a show called "Opry Star Spotlight". I would also sit in for anyone that needed to be off during the day. I sat in a lot for Ralph Emery, who was on mid days at the time, and Pat Sajak, who did afternoon drive. Every once in a while, I would do some TV booth announcing for Channel 4.

In 1976, John Young hired me to work mornings on the new SM-95, which was WSM-FM. In 1979, I left SM-95 and did morning drive on WSIX-FM, where I was also the music director. I went back to WSM in 1982 to work with Chuck Morgan on WSM's "Music Country Network". I did just about everything while there. When Chuck left, I was the interim host for about six months before Charlie Douglas took over.

4) Everybody has that one special "moment on the air. So what's yours?

I have a lot of favorite moments while working on the air. Some of those include interviewing people like Reba McEntire, Alabama and Glen Campbell. One night in particular that stands out is when I had Wolfman Jack and John R on the air with me.

5) Besides your booming voice-over career, what else keeps you busy?

Since 1991, I've been working with Crook And Chase on their nationally syndicated radio show, "The Crook And Chase Countdown".



Bennie Shipley

6) What do you see for the future of terrestrial radio?

There's one thing I don't want to leave out. I've been a voice actor since my early days in radio. It's one of my favorite things to do. Before working with Crook and Chase, I did voice over work full time from 1985 until 1991.

When I started in radio, AM was the king and FM was kind of secondary. We've seen that turn around. Since the internet, I've seen a lot of changes in how people listen to music and watch movies. When we have more WiFi available in cars, I think listening to radio will change more than we have ever seen it. At home, I can listen to radio stations from around the world. I've listened to Shanghai radio through my computer and it sounds like a local station. You'd be surprised at how much American music they play.

Internet and WiFi, I think, will play a much larger role in broadcasting's future. Everything from television, movies, radio, listening to your favorite music, talking to friends and relatives and all communications seem to be going to the internet. Digital delivery and on demand is the future and most of that is available now.

<http://bennie2601.wix.com/bennieshipley>

Remembering TRHOF Inductee Robert McKay



On a warm afternoon in June, family, friends and radio brothers and sisters gathered in Columbia to celebrate a life. The calendar said it was spring, the temperatures felt like summer and no one seemed to notice. At Rose Hill Cemetery, scores of people remembered Robert “Bob” McKay, Junior. As many of you know, he was a 2013 inductee into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame.

McKay had asked for a simple ceremony. Son Robert and daughter Anne followed those instructions. However, as those assembled heard the obituary read aloud, it became very apparent; this was not a “simple life.” This life was person who was part of America’s greatest generation.

When his country called, McKay responded with attendance to the United States Military Academy at West Point, followed by service as a First Lieutenant in the 63rd Infantry Division. The road that followed included assignments that took him from Georgia to the Philippines.

When his community called, McKay served the West 7th Street Church of Christ as a deacon, an elder and a member for almost 70 years. For more than four decades, he was a member of the Columbia Rotary Club. He even served the club as its president. For over three decades, he made sure the welfare of his neighbors was served as Trustee and later, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, for the Maury Regional Medical Center. Another group, the Infantile Paralysis Chapter of Maury County, depended on him as its chairman for 20 years.

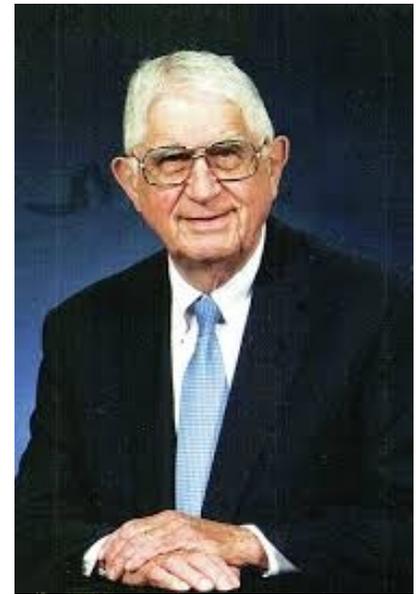
McKay was a committed broadcaster. When his industry called, McKay had the vision to know broadcasters needed a common voice. He was a founding member of the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters and served a term as its President. He owned and operated WKRM and WKOM in Columbia and WPHC and WVRY in Waverly. WKRM was the 19th radio station to go on the air in the Volunteer State.

He was also “multi-media,” before the term was ever considered. Not only did he own the local radio station, but he was also one of the founders of the *Middle Tennessee Shopper* and *The Marshall County Shopper*.

McKay spent six decades as a broadcaster in the Volunteer State. In a day where most broadcast professionals move from market to market, he made his mark in and around his home county. This professional not only grew his business; he also played a productive role in growing his community.

Bob McKay — a member of America’s Greatest Generation — served as an outstanding example of what a broadcaster is and should be.

Editor’s note: TRHOF Vice-President Doug Combs represented the Board at Bob McKay’s funeral, and submitted this article.



Bob McKay



My father was and is a great journalist. Thirty years ago, I was studying broadcasting in college, and the problem was, I wasn’t nearly as good as my father. I wasn’t as quick or as smart as my old man, and I realized it would be a long time before I was ever going to be, and I decided to do something else.

George Clooney

Renew Your TRHOF Membership This Month!



It's time! July is the month to renew your membership in the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame. By renewing this month, you ensure your right to nominate a deserving fellow broadcaster (or your Tennessee radio idol) to



the Hall. Renewing also guarantees you continuing information about this growing organization via our monthly newsletter and first chance at buying tickets for the annual induction banquet.

Members who signed up for auto-renewal will see their annual dues deducted from their accounts today. If you choose auto renewal, it's just that simple to stay in touch and preserve your membership.

To join or renew your TRHOF membership, click here: <http://tennesseeradiohalloffame.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Membership%20Application-TNRHOF-Rev-2014-0802.pdf>

Renew & Nominate!

Hall of Fame Receives First Car Donation

A Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame member has become the first person to donate a car to the organization. Fred Buc of Nashville donated his son's old car to the program. It doesn't run, but the Hall will be able to sell it and make some money for the organization. Thanks for the donation!

Anyone who considers making a similar donation to the Hall should know the program is not limited to cars and trucks. Donations of boats, ATVs, motorcycles or even motor homes are welcome! The vehicle will be picked up at no cost to the donor.

Donors avoid the hassle of paying hefty bills to repair vehicles. They also avoid the hassle of selling something they no longer want or need. Best of all, the donation is 100% deductible.

To find out more, click on the car donation box at right for additional information and to download the donation form.

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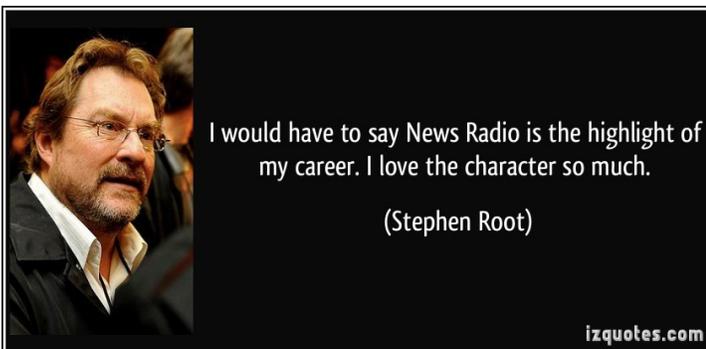
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FRED BUC HANDS OVER THE KEYS TO GARY BEATY FOR THE HALL'S FIRST CAR DONATION



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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 may be of interest to our membership. Just email it to any of the newsletter staff listed below.

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 Skip Woolwine 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 over 1,100 members, and our YouTube Page with over 58,000 views of air checks, inductions and other audio/video memories.

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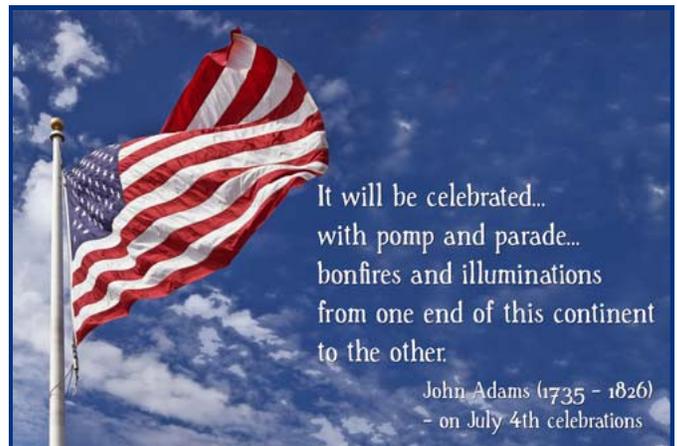
Check Your Calendar

Saturday, August 8, 11:00 a.m. EDT
Meet and greet with upper east Tennessee broadcasters in Bristol.
Location TBA.

●
Saturday, August 22, 10:00 a.m. CDT
It's an open meeting for the Board, all members, and all prospective members, in Memphis.
Location TBA.

●
Saturday, October 17, 10:00 a.m. EDT
It's an open meeting for the Board, all members, and all prospective members, in Knoxville.
Location TBA. (No UT game that week)

●
To check the TRHOF event calendar anytime, go to the home page of our website:
<http://tennradiohalloffame.org>



GET INVOLVED! HELP THE HALL!

DONATE YOUR TIME:

We NEED your help and participation with the Hall of Fame. Projects and tasks, like creating a scrapbook of newspaper clippings or a timeline, are vitally important to the organization.

DONATE GOODS OR CASH:

Because of our 501(c)3 IRS status, all donations to the Tennessee Radio Hall Of Fame are tax-deductible. On our home page, there is a button that says **DONATE**.

If you have items you want to donate (tapes, vintage equipment, vehicles, **ANYTHING**, contact **Skip Woolwine** or **Nick Archer**. Vintage broadcast gear is always welcome, regardless of age or functionality.