

August, 2015



TRHOF E-Waves NEWSLETTER

est 2010



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

OFF MIC

by TRHOF President Gary Beaty



Important meetings are coming up this month! We are recruiting new members, promoting nominations, and sharing details of the new process for the selection of nominees for our next induction class.



First up on the calendar is a "meet 'n greet" and recruitment event at the Birthplace of Country Music Museum in Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia, on Saturday, August 8th. It was arranged by board member George DeVault in cooperation with Museum Director (and TRHOF member) Dr. Jessica Turner. Turner has arranged a complimentary museum tour (a \$14.00 value) for us.

The museum is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution that, "...explores the history of the 1927 Bristol Sessions." The museum has also launched a new radio station, WBCM – 100.1 FM (also online and through an app), and the studio is equipped with historic vintage gear restored by TRHOF member Jim Gilmore.

Bring a non-member and meet us for lunch (a \$15.00/person buffet). **Please, let me know if you plan to eat with us, because we need a head count for the restaurant (Just email me at gbravo@comcast.net).** Lunch is at 11:45 a.m. at KP Duty, 14 Bank Street. It's just a couple of blocks from the museum, and was the site of additional Bristol Sessions in 1928. A short meeting and the museum tour follow, starting at 1:00 p.m. It will be entertaining and informative.

On August 22nd, we're going to Memphis! We'll be recruiting new members there as well, and enjoying some history on, "the birthplace of Rock n' Roll, home of the Blues, and starting point for Soul." Board member Brian Craig is putting the details together, and we'll email members once we're settled on a place and time. Save the date and plan to join us there!

In between, we'll see many of you at annual Tennessee Association of Broadcasters Conference in Murfreesboro on August 12th. It's an opportunity to meet owners, general managers and programmers from across the state, and encourage more new members to join the Hall. Look for our booth!

Keep Calm...

Gary



Gary Beaty
Marte Beaty
Tim Berry
Keith Bilbrey
Bill Brittain
Fred Buc
Brian Craig
Allen Dick
Susanne Dalton Dupes
Jim Gilmore
Terry Hailey
Maxine Humphreys
Susie James
Collins Jones
Randy Lane

Ron Lane
Bob Loflin
Karen Lykins
Steve Mann
Bill McCallie
Robert M. McKay, Jr.
Richard Medley
Dick Palmer
Jack Parnell
Jaine Rodack
Jim Stapleton
Al Voecks
Dude Walker
Maxine Wiseman
Ron Worrell

The Nomination Process at Halftime



As of August 1, we are halfway through the nomination period for the 2016 class of inductees for the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame. A number of nominations for potential inductees have already been received.

Any active full member is eligible to nominate candidates for induction in either the Career or Legacy category before midnight, August 31, 2015. Candidates must:

- Have worked in Tennessee radio broadcasting or a related field for a total of at least two years;
- Had a total career in radio (whether here in Tennessee or elsewhere) for at least 10 years; and;
- Have made substantial contributions to the radio industry and the communities which their station(s) or networks served.

Career candidates are living at the time of their nomination. Legacy candidates are deceased at the time of their nomination.

To place a broadcaster's name 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 tennradiohalloffame.org. Only nominations using this form will be accepted. In addition, forms which are 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.



Who will be in the TRHOF 2016 Class of Inductees?

From the 2015 banquet here are two of our honorees: Above, Nat D. Williams' grandson accepted his award in the Legacy category. At left, Career inductee John Young with his award.

Please keep in mind that it can take some time to gather the materials requested for the nomination package, so get started right away. Waiting to put the nomination packet together until the last few days could lead to frustration.

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.

As in past years, the Board of Directors, along with the Advisory Council, will select six Legacy inductees from all nominations accepted.

Keep in mind that you must be a full member, and your membership must be active to participate in the nomination/election process. 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!

*By Dave Nichols
TRHOF Historian/Election Coordinator*



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Hometown Radio: Depend on It!



by Larry Stone, Board Member

At a recent Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame event, a distinguished broadcaster who has spent years serving the industry and its listeners said to me, "This business just isn't what it used to be."

In a lot of big cities, that's very true.

In the majority of Tennessee communities, it is not.

That's because local broadcasters across the Volunteer State remain busy, remain tuned-in to their local communities, remain committed to local public service groups and remain voices for local merchants wanting to grow their businesses.

I had the privilege to see this hard work first hand during 17 years as the Executive Producer of the Tennessee Titans Radio Network. During my visits to stations all across the region, I always left impressed with the work to super-serve the local community. Mike Keith and I used to joke that we got that energy of local radio up to the point where the real heavy-lifting began – and then we were on to our next stop.

Local radio people – who believe in the communities they serve. Men like Ron Lane, Bobby "Flash" Melton and the team at Camden's WFWL cover it all in their west Tennessee communities, from Camden Lions sports to the Bruceton Christmas Parade. Ron just received a lifetime achievement award for his total commitment to the local community.

Paul Tinkle still gets up at the crack of dawn every morning to inform and entertain the listeners of WCMT in Martin. From severe weather blowing across the Mississippi River to the weekly *30 Minutes* show to Saturday's *Coach's Corner*, Paul and his teams in both Union City and Martin are dedicated to service.

No one does hometown radio any better than Tom Lawrence and the team at WAKM in Franklin. Owning an AM station in the shadow of the Nashville Metro might

not appeal to many, but Tom and his staff have remained totally about Williamson and Maury Counties. The *Swap and Shop*...the weekly morning show from Spring Hill...local news throughout the day, and the *Friday Pick The Games* segment, all show the commitment to people who believe in Franklin as its own strong hometown – and not just a feed line to Nashville.

I always enjoyed my visits to east Tennessee, where WCRK in Morristown reminded me of growing up in North Carolina. Ed Dodson and Ed Arnold led a team of local announcers on the air at anytime, in-depth local news coverage with live election forums and extended special reports, little league baseball games, or live sports shows. WCRK does it all – and at a very high level.

Those years watching these local station operators work so hard to serve the towns they are licensed to – as well as true radio men and women across the border like Henry Lackey in Henderson, Kentucky or Beth Mann in Cadiz, Kentucky or Michael St. John in Arab, Alabama – that pushed me even harder to follow my dream of owning a radio station. It happened in 2011.

And we try hard to follow the lead of Ron and Tom, or Paul and Ed in Cookeville. We just hosted our fourth annual *Easter Egg Hunt for the Upper Cumberland* – and our third annual yard sale to benefit Habitat for Humanity. We stayed on the air non-stop for eight-to-ten hour stretches during the February ice storm that paralyzed Monterey, Crossville and Jamestown. We started a news department from scratch this year with a very talented MTSU student leading the way. We did a tailgate party event at 11 different high schools this past fall – and gave folks the chance to win \$10,000 at high school basketball games this winter. We have live morning shows – and even our voice-tracked announcers live close to our area.

For some, radio has become all about return on investment. Whether that's right or wrong is for another discussion. But, I would argue that it makes more sense to simply accept that as the new reality for most big city radio stations.

But if you miss the "good ole" days of radio, get behind the wheel, drive 75 minutes out of any Tennessee Metropolitan area and do what all great radio people love to do.....hit scan.

You'll find that radio **IS** just as good as it used to be.

StoneCom Radio owns Kicks Country 106.9, Rock 93.7, NewsTalk 100.9 and LiteRock 95.9 in Cookeville.

Six Questions with Dave Nichols



by Cathy Martindale

1. You're well-known for your TV traffic reports in Middle Tennessee, but most of your history is in radio. What positions have you held over the years?

I was very fortunate to start in college and small town radio, where I got to learn (and make mistakes) in all sorts of assignments. Playing records, doing logs, hosting public affairs programs and talk shows, covering and writing news & sports, doing play-by-play, production, sales, writing copy – a great training ground that a lot of folks don't have access to today. I still use things I learned then every day.

I've been a jock, a host, MD, PD, OM, GM, consultant – but most titles in radio don't really reflect all the things you need to learn to do. If you can build and run a radio station, you can do a lot of stuff that doesn't show up on a resume.

2. As a Program Director, who were some of the radio folks we'd know who were under "your watch?"

When I was PD at WJAK in Jackson, Joe Case was one of our jocks; he went on to do weather on NewsChannel 5 here in Nashville and is still heard here on Hippie Radio 94.5. I became PD of WLAC-FM in 1983 and added responsibility for WLAC-AM soon after, so I got to work with lots of really talented people there. Teddy Bart, Bob Bell and the one and only "Hossman," Bill Allen, have already been inducted into our Hall.

Current TRHOF Board Members Melissa McDonald and Skip Woolwine were on that staff, along with former our group's Archivist, Nick Archer. Phil Valentine's first gig in Nashville was not as a talk host; it was as a jock with us. Brian Sargent was our Music Director, and he's still on Mix 92.9. Sharon Kay now runs WFSK at Fisk University.

Nashvillians will also recognize the names of Les Jamison, Ruth Ann Leach, Bill Gerson, Rick Baumgartner, "U-Turn" LaVerne Vivio, Chris Romer, Pat Reilly, Stephen Wesley Bridgewater, Daniel "Ogden the" Butler, the great Scotty Brink, Brian Mason, Dick Kizer, Dan McGrath, Karen Gerson, Carlos Clemente and many more. Sorry if I left anyone out!

3. Never mind the success; which "job" gave you the most personal satisfaction and why?

Working at Film House as Marketing Director, and later as VP-Marketing, I got to work with radio and TV stations across North America and the UK and we were able to help hundreds of groups and stations improve their ratings and revenues book after book, so that was great. And we worked with group heads, consultants, programmers, Arbitron, the NAB and the very best talent on radio, so I got a huge education. I really had a chance to learn a lot about what works and what doesn't on the radio and on TV. Plus, I got to learn daily about film and video production as well.



Above: Dave Nichols now delivers traffic reports on Channel 5 in Nashville each morning, but he's still a radio guy at heart.

4. At any point during your career did you feel you helped "make a difference" in your community?

Oh, all the time. If you don't, you aren't doing it right. Starting in small town radio, everything was community oriented and I carried that on with me. It's still what radio does best. At WLAC, we set out to do more community service than any other Nashville radio stations ever had, and I think that was a big factor in the success we had there. We worked with literally every charitable event and organization in town in some way. I particularly remember one year we took an entire Christmas to the staff and families at the Neonatal ICU at Vanderbilt - tree, decorations, gifts, food, the whole deal - and to see the impact that made on those people was very special.

We helped get events off the ground that continue today. We worked with the Nashville Mayor's Office on the first three July 4th fireworks events at Riverfront Park back in the 80s, and that continues as a huge deal today.

(continued on page 5)

Six Questions with Dave Nichols (continued from page 4)



5. Who were your big influences as a PD?

I tried to study formatics and learn from every successful radio station I could. In Nashville, I worked for two great PDs who are now in our Hall. John Young hired me from Jackson to work at SM-95, and no one was ever better at creating a “sound” for a station. He was doing “stationality” before the word was coined. And Gerry House was such an icon as an on-air talent that people forget he was also the PD at WSIX in the late 70s and early 80s. He was a student of entertainment and had a great sense of what would work on the air. What those two had in common was a real understanding of their audience, and I learned the importance of that.

6. You're a founding members of the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame and continue to be very

involved and instrumental in the viability of the organization. Why is it important to be involved?

I was blessed to grow up at a time when radio was a huge social force in local markets, and not only for young people. It had a magic and a sparkle to it, and it was able to do a lot of good. The special people who were (and are) good at it deserve to be remembered and celebrated but, for the most part, have not been very good at documenting their own histories. By the time my term on the board ends next summer, we will have inducted five classes of great broadcasters — more than 60 overall — and that is a great start. Radio has enabled me to go places and meet people and do things far beyond what I could have ever expected and I suspect it has for many of your readers. It's important to give back and to have an historical record that will last beyond us.

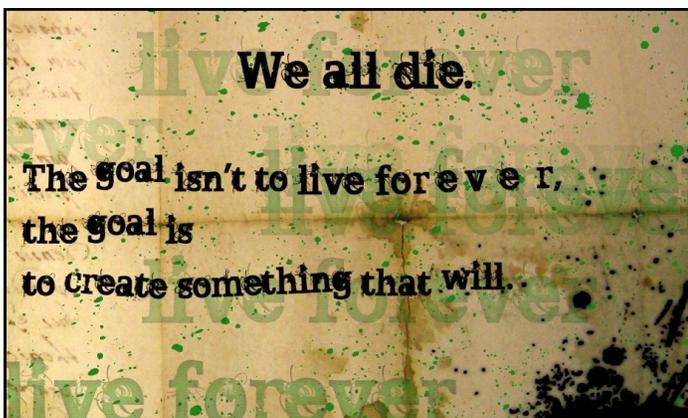
Reminder: Renew Your TRHOF Membership Now!

It's time! July and August are the months 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 own

Tennessee radio idol) to the Hall. Renewing also guarantees you continue to receive important information about this growing organization via our monthly newsletter, email blasts and our website. Your membership also gives you first chance rights at buying tickets for the annual induction banquet.

Members who signed up for auto-renewal had their dues deducted from their accounts in July. 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/Join>



Renew & Nominate!





Out & About

What's going on with members of the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame? And who are they meeting along the way? That's why we publish short stories in Out & About.

TRHOF members are invited to send news about awards, encounters with radio or entertainment greats and other news of interest for possible publication in E-Waves. Please send the information, along with pictures (if you have them) to Melissa McDonald at starmagic@comcast.net. The submission deadline is the 20th of each month.

Philip Gibbons



Left: Julie Vaughn, Philip Gibbons.

Phillip Gibbons, a 2015 TRHOF career nominee, was recently named the *Cookeville Herald-Citizen's* 2015 Best Local Radio DJ in the paper's annual *Best of the Best* contest. Julie Vaughn of the Herald-Citizen presented the award.

Steve Bowers

Board Member Steve Bowers of Jackson was recently honored by the Jackson Center for Independent Living for his, "loyal dedication and unwavering commitment" to the center and its programs. The non-profit center, established in 1996, is a community based, non residential, consumer controlled program of services designed to enable persons with disabilities to achieve maximum independence and take part fully in community life.



Right: Steve Bowers.

Melissa McDonald & Doug Combs



Above: Dan Vallie, Melissa McDonald and Doug Combs at the reunion of WRUS/WBVR staff in Russellville, Kentucky.



Scooter Davis

Board Members Doug Combs and Melissa McDonald attended a reunion of staff from Russellville, Kentucky stations WRUS/WBVR staff (where Combs once work worked). While there, they ran into legendary programmer Dan Vallie, who was in the area to conduct a seminar. They also visited with a special friend, Scooter Davis, WBVR air personality. Davis worked with Combs in Russellville. He also worked with McDonald at 92Q and WMAK in Nashville in the early 80s.

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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 is part of your radio history. 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, 11:45 a.m. EDT
Meet and greet with upper east Tennessee broadcasters in Bristol. Bring a new member!
Location: KP Duty, 14 Bank Street, Bristol, for the 11:45 lunch. \$15.00 per person.

RSVP to Gary Beaty at gbravo@comcast.net if you plan to eat lunch. A brief board meeting and tour of the museum take place at 1:00 p.m. EDT.

•
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. Details to come ASAP, via email.

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Monday, August 31
The last day to submit nominations for the TRHOF's Class of 2016. See details on page 2 of this newsletter.

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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.)

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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.