

Meeting Notice**Thursday, March 10, Taketwo Productions**300 W. 19th Terrace; Kansas City, MO**Gather and lunch at 11:30 a.m., meeting at 12:30 p.m.**

Engineers Appreciation Lunch. RF Specialties will provide the fun and food for this fourth-annual tradition. The highlight of the lunch will be John Sims' award-winning spare ribs, brisket and turkey breast, accompanied by barbecue beans, cheesy corn casserole, cole slaw, drinks and dessert. The barbecue is slow-smoked over native Missouri hickory for 10 to 12 hours, so don't be late. So they can plan accordingly, please let John Sims and Chris Kreger know that you'll attend by calling 816-628-5959 or e-mailing rfmo@uniteone.net. RF Specialties will also provide door prizes.



Parking for Taketwo is available in the lot across the street. The facility is in the Custom Color building. ☺

Certification Exam Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
Apr 19	NAB2005	Closed
Jun 3-13	Local Chapter	Apr 22
Aug 12 - 22	Local Chapter	Jun 10

Last Month's Meeting*By Ben Weiss*

The February meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held February 10, 2005 at the service center of Kansas City Power and Light, 4400 East Front Street, Kansas City, MO. There were 15 in attendance. Dave Buell, chapter vice chairman, presided over the business meeting.

Ben Weiss read the minutes of the January meeting. Chriss Scherer made the motion to approve the minutes as read and Ken Cox the second; passed.

Ben reported that there was \$2303.33 in the chapter checking account. He also noted that several newsletter sponsor renewals had been deposited.

Matt Kinnan previewed the March meeting, and noted that several programs are in the planning stages. As always, contact him with any program ideas.

Chriss Scherer provided an update on the March 1 registration deadline for the NAB convention certification exams. The next local exams will be given the second week in June and the registration deadline is April 23.

Chriss mentioned the effort in the Missouri legislature to pass a bill that will limit the use of the title engineer by anyone except registered professional engineers. The SBE has been successful in opposing bills such as this in

other states and municipalities. It is expected that the SBE will become involved in defeating this bill or having the language modified to exclude broadcast engineers from its requirements. [See update later in this newsletter.]

The motion to adjourn was made by Robin Cross and the second by Chriss; passed.

The program was presented by Michael Wegner of Kansas City Power and Light.

February Meeting Review*By Ron Rockrohr, CBTE*

There were two parts to the February meeting presentation, which was led by Michael Wegner of KCPL. We began with a discussion of power generation and distribution. Power lines can be categorized as either transmission lines or distribution lines. The transmission lines carry the highest voltages and connect power generating stations to power substations. These lines create the electrical power grid.

Power is generated at about 13,200V line-to-line and then stepped up to a typical voltage of 161,000V for transmission. Transmission voltage can actually range from 69kV to 345kV depending on the area and the system.

Distribution lines are those that carry power from substations to users. In the KC area, substations have two or three transformers and distribute current at 13,200V in Missouri and 12,470V in Kansas. There are one to six circuits from each substation transformer that are called feeders. These feeders are the three-phase backbone that we commonly see delivering power to a residential or business area. The laterals off of this backbone deliver single-phase or three-phase power at approximately 7,620V. Distributed power from the laterals to a user's location is tapped for 277/480V or 120/208V.

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There are 170 substations with power capacities from 10 to 50MVA with each circuit handling 2500kVA. When needed, capacitors are placed on feeders to boost the voltage. The capacitors can be switched manually.

Automatic fault protection is incorporated into the power distribution system. When a fault occurs, the power will drop out for five cycles. If the fault does not clear the power is dropped for 20 cycles. If the fault is still not cleared then the power is locked out on that circuit. The power is "dropped out" via the switching of a breaker at the substation. This method protects the substation and the power grid from overloads.

After the discussion, we were led around the facility to see the storage facilities, which provided some insight into the operations of KCPL.

Chairman's Chat

Chapter 59 Needs You!

By Steve Epstein, CPBE CBNT

It is that time of year again—SBE chapter elections. Every year it seems the same thing happens: volunteers are asked to step forward, and everyone steps back. This leaves one or two people apparently "volunteered." This year more than ever Chapter 59 needs you. I am moving to Columbia, Chriss Scherer has taken on national duties, and the newsletter as well as the website need caretakers.

As I am sure many of you have noticed, the role of the broadcast engineer is changing. Radio station consolidations are pretty much over, but the phenomenon has found its way into television. While today's stations no longer need the number of engineers they had in the past, today's engineers need to be more technically savvy than ever before. Radio has driven so many engineers out of the business that stations are having a problem finding qualified help. As a result, salaries are up and well-qualified engineers are in demand.

It is up to you, today's broadcast engineer, to ensure that there will be a role for you in the future. One sure-fire way to do that is to play a larger role in an organization that promotes engineers and technicians in the broadcast industry: the SBE. If you have not served as an officer in the chapter, please consider doing so, for yourself, your career and your fellow engineers.

As engineers, our mission is to keep our facilities running smoothly. If all we do is go in the back room and do our jobs well, no one knows or understands our contribution. Socially, most of us would rather spend an afternoon be-

hind a rack or at the transmitter than get up in front of a crowd. Being an officer in Chapter 59 does mean an occasional stand-up in front of a crowd, but it is fairly painless. It is a crowd of friendly engineers rather than hostile managers. It is an audience of your peers.

Take some time over the next few days, and determine what role in Chapter 59 you will play during the next year. Officer? Newsletter editor? Webmaster? Bystander? All but the last role will further your career and earn you recertification points. It's up to you.

"Engineer" in Missouri – Update

The pending legislature in Missouri (SB278 sponsored by Gary Nodler and HB482 sponsored by Bob Dixon) that could restrict the use of the term "engineer" to only those people who are registered professional engineers shows promise for broadcast engineers. According to Don Hicks at the Missouri Broadcasters Association, the restrictive language was not meant to be so exclusive. It is anticipated that the wording in the identical bills will be modified to allow certain uses, including broadcast engineers.

Leader Skills Seminars Scheduled for 2005

The SBE has scheduled Course I of the SBE Leader Skills Seminar for June 7 to 9, 2005, in Indianapolis. The SBE Leader Skills Seminar provides management and people skills training for broadcast engineers and technicians. Dick Cupka will again lead the seminar. Contact Angel Bates at the SBE office for more information: abates@sbe.org or 317-846-9000.

Nomination Committee Seeks National Candidates

Eligible members of the Society of Broadcast Engineers interested in serving on the national Board of Directors or as an officer of the Society are encouraged to contact a member of the SBE Nominations Committee by mid-April. The committee includes Larry J. Wilkins, CPBE CBNT, chairman (larry.wilkins@cumulus.com) and members Jim Bernier, CPBE CBNT (jim.bernier@sbe.org), Bob Stroupe, CSRE (bobstroupe@clearchannel.com) and John Bisset, CSRE (John.Bisset@dielectric.spx.com).

Program Set for Ennes Workshop at NAB2005

What does the next-generation broadcast master control look like? This will be addressed as part of the insight to broadcast operations for radio and TV of the future. For 2005, PBS joins the Ennes Educational Foundation Trust and the SBE in presenting this one-day program. The event will be held on Saturday, April 16 at the Las Vegas Convention Center beginning at 9 a.m. The Ennes Program is a part of the Broadcast Engineering Conference, co-presented by the NAB and the SBE.


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Nominations Open for SBE Fellow

The Fellow designation is the most distinguished recognition presented to members of the SBE by the SBE. Members may be elected to the Fellow rank through conspicuous service, valuable contributions to the advancement of broadcast engineering or its allied professions, or by disseminating their broadcasting knowledge and promoting its application in practice.

Candidates must be proposed in writing by a voting member to the Fellowship Committee. The nomination must include an appropriate and complete history of the nominee's career and written letters of endorsement from at least five SBE members. Nominees should not be made aware of their candidacy.

Submit nominations for Fellow by March 31 to Martin Sandberg, CPBE; Chairman, SBE Fellowship Committee; 9807 Edgecove Drive, Dallas, TX 75238-1535 or to sandytex@swbell.net.

NAB Announces Engineering Achievement Awards

Each year, the NAB presents its Radio and Television Engineering Achievement Awards. The awards, first established in 1959, are presented to individuals for their significant contributions that have advanced the state of

the art of broadcast engineering. This year's winners, Oded Bendov and Milford Smith, will be honored at the NAB2005 Technology Luncheon on April 20 in Las Vegas where Dr. Robert W. Lucky, engineer, author and commentator on the state and future of data communications technology, will provide the keynote address.

Radio Engineering Achievement Award : Milford K. Smith
Milford Smith is vice president of radio engineering for Greater Media. He has held this position for the past 19 years. For the 11 years preceding this position, he held a similar position with First Media Corporation. Prior to that he spent several years with Tribune Broadcasting in New York. He has also been a major contributor to industry advisory and standardization activities. He is the senior co-chairman of the National Radio Systems Committee DAB Subcommittee, a position he has held for nearly a decade, and is a past chairman of the NAB Digital Radio Committee.

Some of the more exciting and innovative engineering projects tackled by Smith include the Peachtree Plaza hotel FM transmission system, considered by many for over 20 years to be the finest RF facility in the Atlanta market; the Prudential Center FM transmission system, where he led the effort to design and replace an existing transmission facility for four FM stations while all remained on the air, then some years later adding three more stations without causing disruption to the other facilities; and, the relocation of KLSX Los Angeles to Mt. Wilson, where he came up with a unique strategy to relocate this station from an inferior site, in the process creating a full-market signal. More recently Smith and his staff at Greater Media have been involved in an ambitious IBOC digital radio build out. In 2005, Greater Media expects to be the first radio group to have fully converted all its stations to IBOC.

Television Engineering Achievement Award : Oded Bendov
Dr. Bendov is president of TV Transmission Antenna Group, a company established in 2003 and dedicated to the development of new technologies, design, and consulting services to broadcasters and television set manufacturers. In 2004, the Metropolitan TV Alliance (MTVA), the umbrella group of New York City broadcasters, awarded Bendov a contract to design the master antenna tower atop the Freedom Tower, the new building to be built on the site of the World Trade Center. Planned to be completed in 2009, the main digital TV transmission facilities will serve the New York metropolitan area from

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Next EAS Required Monthly Test: March 29
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

the top of the Freedom Tower in lower Manhattan, with an overall height exceeding 2,000 feet.

Bendov received his Ph.D. degree from Northwestern University in 1967, the year he joined RCA. For most of his career, Bendov worked for RCA and then Dielectric. He worked at the RCA Antenna Engineering Center, which in 1986 was acquired by Dielectric Communications where he was senior vice president and chief scientist. Bendov has been a major contributor to the analysis and design of a large number of analog and digital antenna installations, the most complex being at the World Trade Center in New York City and Mt. Sutro in San Francisco. Bendov was also the principal architect of the industry's transition to circularly polarized TV antennas. Circular polarization for television transmission was recognized with an Emmy Technical Achievement Award in 1984.

Bendov holds several patents and has published many technical papers on television antennas, propagation, and interference. He is the author of chapters on transmitting antennas in the *TV Engineering Handbook* and the *Encyclopedia for Electrical and Electronics Engineering*.

House Votes to Stiffen Broadcast Indecency Fines

The House of Representatives has approved legislation that would impose huge fines for airing content that government regulators deem inappropriate. Rejecting criticism that the penalties will stifle free speech, homogenize radio and TV broadcasts, and threaten viability of broadcasters to compete with cable, supporters of the legislation said stiff fines are needed to give "deep pocketed" broadcasters more incentive to clean up their programs and to assure parents that their children won't be exposed to inappropriate material, the Associated Press reported.

The measure, which passed 389 to 38, boosts the maximum fine from \$32,500 to \$500,000 for a company and from \$11,000 to \$500,000 for an individual entertainer. The legislation garnered broad bipartisan support from lawmakers upset about incidents like Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" at the 2004 Super Bowl.

The bill gives affiliates protection from fines in cases in which they air network programming that is later found to be indecent. The legislation would also force the FCC to respond to viewer complaints within six months and require the Commission to hold a license revocation hearing after a broadcaster's third offense.

The White House, in a statement, said it strongly supports the legislation that "will make broadcast television and radio more suitable for family viewing."

The House bill, H.R. 310, allows the FCC to fine an individual entertainer without first issuing a warning, which is the case now. The FCC has never before issued such a fine. A similar Senate bill, missing many of the provisions in the House legislation, calls for raising the maximum fine on broadcasters to \$325,000, with a cap of \$3 million for one day. The House bill does not include a cap.

Chapter Newsletter Help Needed

Submit a story, provide a news item, forward some station news. Take an active part in creating your chapter newsletter. All submissions qualify for SBE recertification points. ☺



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Upcoming Meetings and Events

March 10 - Taketwo Productions
 Engineer Appreciation Lunch w/ RF Specialties

April 14 - KCUR-GM
 Facility Tour

June 21-24 - Location TBA
 Orban/CRL Mobile Broadcast Lab Tour

Upcoming meeting dates
 Mark your calendar now
May 12
June 9
July 14
August 11

Be an All-star: Recruit a new SBE Member

The SBE 2005 Membership Drive is underway. The goal is to increase awareness and SBE membership. All current SBE members can participate, and are eligible to win part of the \$7,000 worth of prizes. In addition, for each member you recruit, you will earn \$5 off your 2006 membership dues (up to \$25). New members will also be entered into a drawing for the New Member Prize.

To earn credit for recruiting a new member, be sure the member applicant includes your name on his membership application on the "sponsor's name" line. A Membership Application is available on the SBE website.



Eligible applications must be received at the SBE National Office by April 31, 2005.



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