

**Meeting Notice****Thursday, December 8, Zarda Barbecue**11931 W. 87<sup>th</sup> Street; Lenexa, KS; 913-492-2330**Gather at 11:30 a.m., meeting and lunch at noon**

*Closed Caption Fundamentals for Offline and Live.* Ken Ostmo, Midwest regional sales manager, and Bob Henson, national sales manager, of Link Electronics will discuss the critical signal path of closed caption information in online and offline modes. In the case of online captioning, the encoder output is sent to the transmitter for broadcast. In the case of offline captioning, the encoder output is the source for the closed-caption master videotape that may eventually be broadcast. The specific considerations of each situation will be discussed, and ideas will be presented to maintain closed captioning with video processing. A closed caption booklet will be available as a handout.



Lunch will be provided by Link Electronics. ☺

Certification Exam Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
Feb 10 - 20, 2006	Local Chapter	Dec 30, 2005
Apr 25, 2006	NAB Las Vegas	Mar 3, 2006
Jun 2 - 12, 2006	Local Chapter	Apr 21, 2006

**Last Month's Meeting***By Ben Weiss, CPBE*

The November meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held Nov. 10 at Jack Stack Barbecue in Kansas City, MO. There were 19 in attendance. Matt Kinnan, chapter chairman, presided over the business meeting.

Matt opened the business meeting at 12:25 p.m. Ben read the minutes of the October meeting. Chriss Scherer made the motion to accept the minutes as read and Mike Rogers the second; passed. Ben reported on the chapter checking account balance.

Regarding EAS, Kirk Chestnut, Kansas City EAS chairman, reported that The FCC has announced a second Notice of Proposed Rule Making on EAS. This voluminous set of documents (almost 100 pages) spells out the particulars of including wireless services and satellite services into the EAS communications structure.

On the local front, Kirk remarked that LP-1 610 AM might have been able to eliminate the secondary RMT (Required Monthly Test) due to the monitoring of WIBW for receiving Kansas Amber Alerts. The Harris Service Dept. suggested that 610 AM should set its RMT filter to listen for just the Jackson County Missouri FIPS code. This arrangement should eliminate the carriage and relay of the two RMTs. If the State of Missouri decides to generate RMTs, we may need to consider a revised test schedule.

Chriss mentioned that certification exams would be given locally in February. The deadline for signing up for them is December 30.

Chris Castro is taking over the publication of the chapter newsletter. He told us that letters to the sponsors would go out soon asking for their continued support in 2006.

The motion to adjourn was by Kirk Chestnut and the second by Jerry Agresti.

Our program featured Mike Troje of Continental Electronics, who discussed various methods of implementing HD Radio, with a focus on Continental's low-level combining system with a tube final.

Lunch was provided by Continental Electronics.

**Chairman's Chat****Changing Captioning Rules***By Matt Kinnan, CEV CBNT*

The rules for closed captioning as you know them are changing soon. As of Jan. 1, 2006 all non-exempt programming must have closed captioning. This might not seem like a big deal to some, but to broadcasters, it could mean steep fines if you are non-compliant.

We have all seen the CC icon on the television screen at the beginning of a program, along with various other symbols. However, this symbol is an important one to someone with a hearing impairment. Captioning can be helpful in public places, where there is just too much noise to hear the program. Captioning has also been beneficial to those who use it as a learning tool. No matter how it's used, it does have importance.

As of Jan. 1, 2006, all new programming must be captioned. Spanish captioning requirements will increase to 1,350 hours

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of new programming per channel on Jan. 1, 2007, and by 2010 all Spanish programming must be captioned.

As with any rule there are always exceptions. Some are simple, while others are a little more complicated. So a visit to the FCC website might be a good idea. Here are a few exceptions to help you get an idea of the changes:

Programming airing between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. are exempt; commercials under five minutes in length, and promos shorter than 10 minutes are also exempt, as long as they are not federally funded. Locally produced non-news programming like a high school football game is also clear to not be captioned. Here is a good link with more details:

<http://ftp.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/closedcaption.html>

If you still want to learn more about captioning and how to do it, please join us this month as we meet with Link Electronics. Kenneth Ostmo will be our presenter, and will give us some more insight on how to get your programming closed captioned.

### Annual Membership Directory Mailed To Members

The annual SBE Membership Guide and Buyers' Guide has been mailed to all SBE members. Members should have received their copies by now. The 2005-2006 edition includes contact information for more than 5,000 individual members. Listings are arranged alphabetically and by state and chapter.

A Buyers' Guide is a special section devoted to more than 130 SBE Sustaining Members, which are also listed alphabetically. Sustaining Members can also be located using the classified yellow section that lists members' services and products in more than 140 categories. There is a listing of contract and consulting engineers organized by state.

The SBE Membership Directory also includes helpful and historical information about the SBE including a list of all chapters and their websites, the national Board of Directors and staff, lists of Charter, Fellow, Honorary and Life members and all past winners of the national SBE awards. The SBE By-laws and Canons of Ethics and a directory of SBE programs and services are also included.

Members received their directories with an enclosed yellow page that includes each member's login and password for the new SBE website. Website passwords were randomly assigned. If you would like to change your password, contact Scott Jones at the National Office (917-846-9000 or [kjones@sbe.org](mailto:kjones@sbe.org)).

**Robert C. Leedham**

Robert C. Leedham passed away Nov. 9, 2005, at Trinity Lutheran Manor. He was 81. A resident of Merriam, KS, the private service was held at his home on Nov. 15. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association Memorial and Honor Program, PO Box 1132 Fairfax, VA 22038-1132. Leedham was a veteran of WWII. He was the chief engineer for radio stations KPRS and KPRT for more than 20 years.

Leedham was initially admitted to the hospital in October with blood pressure issues. While there he suffered a stroke. He was in a nursing facility when he went into diabetic shock the evening of Nov. 8 and then suffered a cardiac arrest on Nov. 9.

**SBE Will Work With Excelsior College**

At its October 19 meeting, the SBE Board of Directors voted to begin a working relationship with Excelsior College of Albany, NY. Excelsior College offers degrees in a number disciplines including business technology and grants college credit for completion of qualified certifications and training courses. Students are able to package these credits with other college credits they have accumulated to earn a degree through Excelsior or another institution.

Excelsior assessment staff will review the SBE's certification exams and educational offerings to determine if they would be eligible for college credits. SBE members who may have accumulated some college credits in the past may be able to convert SBE certification into additional credits and earn a degree. More information about this new program will be available in the December issue of the *SBE Signal*.

**Newest SBE Chapter: Ithaca, NY**

The charter application for Chapter 140 of Ithaca, NY, was approved by the Board of Directors on Oct. 19. The chapter is based at Ithaca College and its members consist of employees at the college's broadcast stations. Ithaca is in the Finger Lakes Region of New York State. The new chapter chairman is SBE Charter member David Allen.

**Central New York Chapter 22 to Host 2006 National Meeting**

The 2006 National Meeting of the Society of Broadcast Engineers will be hosted by Chapter 22 of Central New York during the 34th Annual Broadcast Technology Expo in Verona, NY, on Sept. 26 and 27. The events of the National Meeting and Broadcast Technology Expo will be at the Turning Stone Casino Resort, located 30 miles east of Syracuse, NY.

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The SBE Board of Directors accepted the invitation of Chapter 22 after considering invitations from several chapters. This will be the third time that the SBE has held its National Meeting in conjunction with Chapter 22's regional convention since establishing the National Meeting concept in 1997. Past SBE National Meetings have been held with the Chapter 22 regional convention in 1997 and 2001.

### **Bush Nominates Tate to FCC; Abernathy to Resign**

President Bush has nominated Tennessee regulator Deborah Taylor Tate to fill the vacant Republican Commissioner seat at the FCC.

Tate is currently serving a six-year term as a director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA). She served a one-year term as chairman of the TRA from 2003 to 2004. Previously, Tate served as director of the State and Local Policy Center at Vanderbilt University.

Prior to her association at Vanderbilt, Tate served as an assistant to Tennessee Governor Don Sundquist and was a member of his senior staff. She was his designee to the Juvenile Justice Commission, the TennCare Partners Advisory Committee and the Title 33 - Mental Health Revision Commission.

Her experience with regulatory affairs includes work on the FCC Federal-State Joint Conference On Advanced Telecommunications Services, and being a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Gas Committee and Consumer Affairs Committee.

Tate's appointment must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. She would fill the seat vacated by former FCC Chairman Michael Powell who stepped down in March.

Bush also plans to reappoint Democrat Michael Copps to another term. Copps is a former aide to now-retired Sen. Ernest Hollings. Copps has been a Democrat FCC commissioner since May 2001. His term expired in June, but without being renominated and confirmed he can only stay until Congress adjourns next year.

Separately, on Nov. 16, FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy sent a letter of resignation to President Bush. Her last day at the Commission will be Dec. 9, 2005. In a statement, Abernathy reflected on her 4.5 years at the FCC and touched on the actions that FCC had taken in telecommunications, describing the work as being competition-driven instead of being based solely on regulation.

She noted that regulation was applied to "those comparatively few situations in which marketplace competition and informed consumer choice do not increase consumer welfare." She noted that emergency communications reliability and children's multichannel TV viewing choices are two of these situations.

President Bush has not yet hinted at any possible candidates for Abernathy's seat.

### **Clear Channel to Mark 200 HD Radio Stations**

Clear Channel Radio expects that 200 of its radio stations will provide HD Radio broadcasts by the end of November 2005. The stations span the country and cover 65 markets.

While Clear Channel's specific plans for market roll-outs are not openly discussed, these first 200 stations were targeted to be in the top 100 markets. When asked about the next wave of station rollouts, Jeff Littlejohn, executive VP of distribution deployment, said, "We intend to keep converting stations at this pace until we are able to get 1,000 converted."

**Next EAS Required Monthly Test: December 27**  
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

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**Upcoming Meetings and Events**

**December 8**

*Closed Captioning Fundamentals*  
 Zarda Barbecue

**Upcoming meeting dates**

Mark your calendar now

**January 12**

**February 9**

**March 9**

**April 13**

**May 11**

**June 8**

Do you have a suggestion for a program topic?  
 Please share it with Mike Rogers.

**Synchronized Certification**

The SBE National Certification Committee adopted an item of interest to individuals who hold multiple Certifications. In most cases, the different Certifications were awarded at different times, which results in the Certified individual having to recertify various items at various times. In many cases, the same point credits are claimed for the various Certifications.

To reduce the burden of tracking various periods concurrently, a method has been devised to allow various levels of Certification to be synchronized in their renewal cycle. Doing this is at the option of the Certification holder. It is not mandatory. Contact the SBE National Office for details on synchronizing your Certifications.



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