



## VAB Hall of Fame Inductees & Award Winners!

Stewart Ledbetter, Roland Lajoie and Dick Noble will be inducted into the VAB Hall of Fame during the 25th Anniversary Awards Banquet, Saturday, December 7, 2019 at the Hilton Hotel in Burlington! Awards for Excellence will be given to Darren Perron, Tom Reed, Victoria St. John, Jon Francois and WEZF/WCPV/WXZO!



### NBC5 News Anchor & Reporter Stewart Ledbetter

After getting his start in radio on WJOY and WQCR, Stewart Ledbetter launched his television career at WPTZ in 1984, serving as the station's News Director through most of the 1990s. Although he has since returned to his first love of reporting on the street and anchoring, he continues to serve as a leader and mentor. As the most experienced television news journalist in the state, Ledbetter sets the bar for ambitious, thorough and responsible reporting. Also the longtime host of *Vermont This Week* on Vermont PBS and a Distinguished Service award winner with both the Vermont Press Association and the VAB, Stewart Ledbetter represents broadcasting at its finest.

### WLVB PD & Morning Show Host Roland Lajoie

Roland Lajoie began his career in 1976 at WSNO in Barre and went on to WRFB in Stowe, WDEV in Waterbury and eventually WLVB in Morrisville, where he's been the host of *Vermont Country Morning* since 1993. As WLVB's Program Director, Lajoie believes in radio's ability to build community. A tireless promoter of Lamoille County events, he has worked for years on Chris' Turkey Challenge, which last year served 1,866 people Thanksgiving dinner. Lajoie volunteers for numerous non-profits and is a reliable friend to the Lamoille County region with his warm presence and true devotion to community.



### Former WSYB/WZRT PD & WJJR Owner Dick Noble

As a teenager in the 1970's, Dick Noble worked at WSYB while still in high school. He left Rutland to serve in the Navy before returning to his radio career in



1984. As Program Director of WSYB & WZRT, he cultivated a culture of great promotions, fun music, award winning sports, news broadcasts and fantastic production. Under Noble's guidance, the WSYB Christmas Fund set records and not only changed the stations, but changed the town. Noble later owned WJJR before moving to Nebraska, where he became the GM of KZUM. He was a teacher, friend and cheerleader that believed being a broadcaster was the greatest job in the world! Dick passed away in 2018 at the age of 74.



### **Darren Perron Broadcaster of the Year**

WCAX-TV News Anchor & Reporter Darren Perron will receive the VAB's *Broadcaster of the Year* award. Though anchoring takes much of his time and energy, he remains one of the top investigative journalists in the state. Perron's ground-breaking investigation into military burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan this past year shined a light on the lasting health impacts to Vermont guardsmen and American soldiers from breathing in smoke from those fires. Perron's stories helped spawn a congressional investigation and garnered a national Edward R. Murrow Award for Best News Series. This past year, Perron also led the WCAX news team to a first-ever New England Emmy for outstanding newscast.



### **Tom Reed Distinguished Service Award**

News Director Tom Reed, who just retired after 37 years at NBC5, will receive a VAB *Distinguished Service Award*. Tom estimates he has directed 10,000 newscasts; during massive snow storms, ice storms, even a prison break! Often staying late and always willing to cover an extra shift, Reed goes above and beyond to do what's best for the station. His calm demeanor and wealth of industry knowledge made him a well respected and natural leader. An integral part of training countless staff and production crews, Reed remained ready to adapt to all kinds of changes in technology and personnel. In retirement, he is looking forward to much deserved sleep and free time.





### **Victoria St. John Snyder-Teffner Award**

For excellence behind the scenes, Vermont Public Radio's Director of Operations Victoria St. John will receive the Snyder-Teffner Award. With 20+ years of experience, St. John is a respected and trusted member of VPR's team and one of the key people responsible for the "Sound of Station". In addition to nurturing projects such as a recent cross-department metadata initiative, St. John has brought talented, diverse people into VPR, ensures their voices are heard and that they have the tools and resources needed to do their job. She is the President of the Association of Public Radio Engineers, sits on several NPR committees and is behind the expansion of the Public Radio Engineering Conference.



### **Jon Francois Rising Star Award**

For the first time ever, Vermont Association of Broadcasters is recognizing new talent with a "Rising Star" award. The first ever recipient is Jon Francois, host of the night show on Magic 97.7 (WGMT) in St. Johnsbury! According to his colleagues, Jon is hard working, takes on challenges with enthusiasm and is a team player who does extra work to keep things running smoothly. He spends extra time in the studio everyday doing production that brings a sense of quirky fun to his show. The time and energy Jon devotes to his job is proof he has the passion and exuberance to go far in this field.

### **WEZF, WCPV & WXZO Christmas Is For Kids Alan Noyes Community Service Award**

Star 92.9, 101.3 The Game and 96.7 MeTV FM partner with the Salvation Army, who furnish "Angel Tags"; Christmas wish lists of local children ages 2-17 in need of a hand up. The stations invite listeners to take an Angel Tag and fulfill the Christmas list of a local child, then deliver the donations to Salvation Army locations in Burlington, Plattsburgh and Barre. In 2018, they were able to fulfill Christmas wish lists for approximately 1,000 local children! This year, WXXX & WVMT will be joining this annual community service project, now in its 9th year!



Cocktails: 5pm | Dinner & Awards: 6:30pm | After party in Presidential Suite: 9:30pm  
\$30 per person includes 3 drink tokens & a 3-course meal  
Semi-Formal / Cocktail Party Attire Encouraged

[Click Here to Register by 11/30](#)

VAB is subsidizing hotel rooms to encourage guests to stay overnight, so your cost is only \$60 and includes parking! Deadline to reserve a room is Friday 11/22. Call Molly at 802-859-5055 M-F between 9am-4pm or email [molly.mckenna@hilton.com](mailto:molly.mckenna@hilton.com). Please do not call the front desk or make the reservation online as they are not familiar with the VAB subsidy.

## Free Sales Webinar Tuesday 11/12 at 12pm



This webinar is presented to you **FREE** by your State Broadcasters Association

# 2nd

TUESDAY

LBS WEBINAR SERIES

## SETTING OURSELVES UP TO WIN 4x MORE LOCAL DIRECT BUSINESS

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12TH, 2019 - NOON ET**



Presented by: Paul Weyland  
LBS Broadcast Expert

In this session, Paul uses a real headline to get an appointment with the decision-maker. Then he'll make the best presentation the client has NEVER heard, and ask for 4x more money than he's been asking for previously. The second part of this session is "On the Spot" where broadcasters ask for creative help on any product/service category.

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