

Vermont Association of  
Broadcasters

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## SQUIER WINS YANKEE QUILL

Four New England journalists, including broadcasting legend Ken Squier of Stowe will receive the Yankee Quill award in October for their career contributions to the betterment of journalism in the six-state region.

Selection for the award is based on the broad influence for good honorees have made to journalism and serving the public through the years, according to the Academy of New England Journalists, which selects the award.

Among the achievements for Squier are his eminence as a national sportscaster, including at the Olympics and fostering the growth of the now-popular NASCAR races. Squier is in the process of selling his chain of community radio stations in Vermont, including WDEV-AM (550) and FM (96.1).



Ken Squier

Squier has shown a lifetime commitment to the public's right to know about government proceedings and activities. He is in several halls of fame. Including the VAB Hall of Fame. and won the Matthew Lyon First Amendment Award from the Vermont Press Association in December 2013.

Also selected was former Rutland Herald Editorial Page Editor and Pulitzer Prize winner David Moats. Other 2018 honorees are Wayne Phaneuf, executive editor of the Springfield Republican and Lou Ureneck, professor of journalism at Boston University and former editor of the Portland Press Herald.

## NEXSTAR NAMES NEW GM FOR WFFF-TV



Alex von Lichtenberg

Nexstar Media Group, Inc. has named Alexander von Lichtenberg as its new Vice President and General Manager of FOX affiliate WFFF-TV in Burlington. He will also oversee Nexstar's relationship with WVNY-TV, the market's ABC affiliate owned by Mission Broadcasting, Inc, under a joint operating agreement. He takes over for former GM Craig Marrs, who has retired.

A New England native, Alex von Lichtenberg's career spans over three decades with expertise in general management, sales, sports programming and marketing, local content creation and strategic planning.

He began his broadcasting career in 1994 as a local account executive for WUNI TV27 (Univision) in Boston where he quickly rose through various positions of increased responsibility before being promoted to Director of Sales. When WUNI was purchased by Entravision Communications Corporation, Mr. von Lichtenberg was promoted to General Sales Manager of its New England TV Group.

During his 20-year tenure at Entravision, he broke new ground in Boston with the successful launch of New England's first live, local nightly Spanish-language television newscast. Von Lichtenberg began his career in sports marketing and management where he served a number of professional sports teams and organizations including the New England Patriots, New England Sports Network, U.S. Rugby Football Foundation and F.C. Boston, Inc., among others.

Von Lichtenberg has also served as President of the Massachusetts Broadcasters Association, the VAB's sister organization in the Bay State.

Commenting on his new role, Alex von Lichtenberg stated, "Nexstar's long-term success reflects its core commitment to the viewers and advertisers across each of the individual markets it serves. As a native of New England, I spent many summers in Vermont with my family and am excited to deliver exceptional local news programming and service to viewers and advertisers throughout the Champlain Valley."

## SUBMIT YOUR HALL OF FAME & OTHER AWARD NOMINATIONS

It's easy to make nominations for the VAB Hall of Fame and our other major annual awards! [Follow this link](#) to make your award nominations now. On our nomination page, you'll find criteria used to select our winners in these categories:



- Hall of Fame
- Broadcaster of the Year
- Alan Noyes Community Service Award
- Snyder-Teffner Award for Excellence behind the scenes
- Distinguished Service Awards

But don't wait too long - nominations must be received by **September 7, 2018**.

## NEW NATIONAL EAS TEST PLANNED



*By David Oxenford, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP*

The last month has been one where there has been lots of activity dealing with EAS. The FCC announced that it will be conducting a Nationwide EAS Test on September 20, 2018. The FCC has been conducting these Nationwide tests routinely over the last few years. This test

will include wireless carriers as well as broadcasters. To be prepared for this test, the FCC reminded EAS parties, and to be prepared to file the post-test Forms Two (filed on the day of the test) and Three (due by November 5) to report on the results of the test at their stations.

At its July meeting the FCC adopted an Order making some changes to the EAS rules, as well as asking further questions in an included Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The changes included:

New rules allowing “live code testing” - using actual EAS alert tones in practice alerts, but only after providing lots of publicity that the tones are being used only as part of a test

Allowing the use of the EAS attention signal in PSAs and other informational announcements from FEMA and other public interest organizations - but only where simulated tones developed by FEMA are used, as these simulated tones will not trigger other station’s EAS alerts, and only where the tones used are specifically identified as not being a real notice of an emergency.

Use of the alert tones like this have been approved in the past by the FCC, but only by use of a waiver process. The FCC actions allow for more testing and more public information without having to request FCC approval for each such use.

The FCC also adopted a requirement for stations to notify the FCC when they broadcast a false EAS alert - requiring that notification be provided within 24 hours of becoming aware of such a broadcast. Right now, only a simple email to the FCC Ops Center will be required, but the Further Notice asks whether a more detailed reporting system should be created. The order also adopted certain technical validation requirements for EAS systems, requiring new codes in the EAS test messages limiting the period in which those messages are valid, to avoid having outdated emergency messages popping up on stations after the emergency is over. Other technical changes dealing with the authentication of EAS alerts are postponed while the industry works out appropriate protocols for that authentication.

Watch for the effective dates of the requirements to notify the FCC of false EAS tests, and look for updates to your EAS receivers to include the new validation limiter (to become effective within a year). And be sure to file the required ETRS Form One by the August 27 deadline, and be ready for this year’s national test of the EAS system.

(David Oxenford is the author of [Broadcast Law Blog](#).)

## TIME TO PAY YOUR VAB 2018 - 2019 DUES



Annual dues for both Regular and Associate Members of the VAB are now due. You may wait until we contact you by email or snail mail, or you can pay now if you already know your dues amount.

Thanks to you, we’re able to provide:

Regulatory Assistance/EEO assistance

Jobs Page/ABIP subsidies/EAS assistance

Scholarship programs/Training seminars

Award programs/Our newsletter & much more!

All fully-licensed Commercial and Non-Commercial Radio and Television stations are eligible for full membership in the VAB if their main transmitters are licensed to a Vermont city or town, or if they have a physical studio or office in a Vermont city or town. All others are eligible for Associate Membership in the VAB at a cost of only \$50 per year.

The VAB membership year for both full and associate members runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. Annual dues must be received by October 1 of the membership year; otherwise, members will be switched to “non-member” status.

### FULL MEMBERSHIP DUES

TELEVISION: \$200.00 per license

RADIO: AM BROADCAST STATION

(All classes) \$50.00 per license

FM BROADCAST STATION

100 Watts - 6000 Watts \$75.00 per license

6001 Watts - 100,000 Watts \$150.00 per license

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP \$50.00

[Click here to pay your dues with a credit card](#)

If you’d prefer to pay by check please remit to: VAB, 500A Dalton Drive, Colchester, VT 05446.

If you have any questions, please email Jim Condon at [vab@vab.org](mailto:vab@vab.org) or call 802-655-5764.