

# VAB Voice | Monday, October 6, 2025



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## 2025 VAB Hall of Fame Inductions & Award Winners Announced

The VAB is thrilled to announce this year's inductees into the VAB Hall of Fame as well as this year's excellence award winners! These broadcasters will be celebrated during the [VAB Hall of Fame & Awards Gala](#) Saturday, November 15, 2025 at The DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington (see below for details!)

## 2025 VAB Hall of Fame Inductees:

### John Hill



For over four decades, "Big John" Hill was a cornerstone of Vermont's radio landscape. After he graduated from Champlain College in 1969, his broadcasting journey began at WJOY-AM before he transitioned to WDOT-AM in 1970. During the 1970s, "Big John" played a pivotal role in WDOT's radio dominance, achieving a remarkable 70 share in the Burlington market's ratings. Hill's tenure continued with WVMT-AM from 1985 to 1994 and later with Champ 101.3 (WCPV-FM) and Star 92.9 (WEZF-FM) from 1994 until his passing in 2012. His multifaceted role included both on-air talent and sales, culminating in his position as Sales Manager for Clear Channel Radio in Burlington. John's influence extended beyond the radio mic. He DJed at hundreds of events and was a familiar presence in the community. His signature quote, "Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional" encapsulated his outlook on life and broadcasting – approachable, genuine and always engaging. John Hill's legacy is one of dedication, passion and community connection.

Joe Carroll has spent over four decades as a photojournalist at WCAX-TV. The Rutland native began as a videotape editor in August 1985 and rose to the position he holds today as Chief Photographer. His Emmy award-winning series Super Seniors, has brought attention to the lives and stories of older Vermonters with empathy and respect and is a testament to Joe's distinctive storytelling voice. Throughout his career, Joe has chronicled everything from Howard Dean and Bernie Sanders' runs for President to natural disasters like Tropical Storm Irene, always with journalistic integrity and an eye for what truly matters. Beyond the lens, Joe has mentored generations of journalists, fostering talent and professionalism in both photographers and reporters alike. His adaptability in an evolving industry, paired with his unwavering commitment to storytelling, has made him a role model and a cornerstone of the WCAX newsroom. A cancer survivor and a community chronicler, Joe Carroll continues to inspire through stories that resonate far

### Joe Carroll

beyond the screen.



## Joe Tymecki



With a career spanning radio, television, and public broadcasting, Joe Tymecki has consistently demonstrated visionary leadership and technical excellence across Vermont's broadcast media landscape. For four years, Joe has been the Senior Vice President of Engineering & Technology at Vermont Public. Before that, he served as Chief Technology Officer at VPR, Vermont PBS, and held Chief Engineer positions for Sison Broadcasting and then at WCAX-TV. Joe's early career included on-air radio work at WWPV-FM, WVTC-FM, WCVR-AM, WVMT-AM, WXXX-FM, and Vermont ETV. Joe is widely respected as a mentor and trusted voice in the industry, receiving the VAB Snyder-Teffner Award for excellence behind the scenes in a support role in 2015. Joe served on the VAB Board of Directors during one of its most difficult periods, following the passing of Executive Director Jim Condon. His leadership during that time was pivotal—personally recovering essential documents and digital credentials to help ensure the organization's continuity. Joe also serves on the Vermont State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC), playing a key role in the recent revision of the state's EAS Plan. He also serves as a technical liaison between the VAB, Vermont Emergency Management and NOAA.

## 2025 Excellence Award Winners:

### *Broadcaster Of The Year*



While hosting this year's NVAC Cheer Competition, WXXX-FM (95 Triple X) discovered that one of the cheerleaders, Sophie, had been diagnosed with Ocular Melanoma, a rare and aggressive eye cancer. Recognizing the urgent need for community support, they mobilized resources to transform concern into collective action. The station launched an on-air campaign to bring awareness to Ocular Melanoma and keep the community connected to Sophie's progress. When a GoFundMe was started to help Sophie's family with medical expenses, 95 Triple X amplified their efforts, broadcasting frequent appeals to donate and sharing updates through social media channels, which gave rise

### *Distinguished Service*



Merl Grabowski is a seasoned radio professional whose career spans more than four decades. In July 1980, he began working part-time weekends at WSTJ-AM while studying communications at Lyndon State College. After graduation, he joined WYKR-FM in Wells River, building his on-air presence before moving on to roles at WMTK-FM in Littleton, WIKE-AM in Newport and WCVR-AM in Randolph, where he was promoted to Program Director. From 1988 to

to the #SophieStrong movement. In an unprecedented show of solidarity, 95 Triple X took their support to extraordinary heights by temporarily rebranding the station as "Sophie95.5FM" for an entire weekend, which featured genuine, heartfelt, compassionate interviews between the air personalities, Sophie and her mom and raised over \$13,000! Through their unwavering dedication and innovative approach, 95 Triple X accomplished more than just raising money for a family in need and awareness about a rare disease – they demonstrated the extraordinary power of community when radio broadcasters and their listeners unite for a common cause.

1994, Merl was the Morning Drive Announcer and Operations Manager at WSNO/WORK in Barre. In 1995, he transitioned from the studio to the sales floor, returning to WYKR-FM to begin a long and successful career in radio sales and management. He moved to Newport in 2018 to join Vermont Broadcast Associates and in 2021, he returned once again to WYKR, where he was promoted to Sales Manager. His final role was Group Sales Manager for the Radio New England Broadcast Group in Essex county, before he retired in September of this year. Merl is known throughout the local broadcasting community for his passion for radio and the wealth of stories he has collected over the years.

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### ***Snyder Teffner Award for Excellence Behind the Scenes***



**Peg Doolin**

For more than 43 years, Peg Doolin has kept leaders at WCAX "in check." as the station's Business Manager. For the last 15-20 years, she has also been the steady hand managing the finances for the Mount Mansfield Colocation Corporation, on behalf of the TV and radio broadcasters at the mountain. She has created and kept deep relationships with key people in Vermont broadcasting regardless of employer and has been the friend, confidant and staff "mom" to hundreds of employees at WCAX. As she hangs up her calculator and retires her notary's stamp this year, we honor the thousands of efforts, long nights, weekends, and mostly the love and care she has given to her friends and coworkers to help them succeed. Peg is the epitome of the values the Snyder Teffner award represents.

### ***Alan Noyes Community Service Award***



The WSYB Christmas Fund began in 1972 when the radio station received a letter to Santa from a Rutland County child asking for a blanket and boots for his little brother who kept getting sick because their bedroom window was broken and it got very cold at night. The child was hoping Santa could help, but it was WSYB that made sure that family had warm winter boots and blankets. The response from the community when the air personalities shared this child's story was the start of the WSYB Christmas Fund and they have been making Christmas better for Rutland county families for 52 years. Using the power of radio, they dedicate two weeks of the WSYB and WJJR morning show to raising donations, with heritage broadcasters like Terry Jaye and Brian Collamore leading the charge. They learn about the families in need from local schools and churches and many businesses donate, but most of the donations come from listeners. Every year, they try to help as many families as time and donations will allow and this past Christmas, they collected \$64,000, which enabled them to issue 1,280 VISA gift cards!

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### ***Rising Star in Reporting***

### ***Rising Star in Anchoring***





***Lily Sakaniwa - FOX44/ABC22***

Lily Sakaniwa earned her degree in Professional Writing with a specialization in Journalism from Champlain College. Shortly after graduation, she joined the WFFF/WVNY team in September 2023 as a multimedia journalist. Since then, she has quickly made her mark in the newsroom—not only through her impactful reporting but also through her unwavering team spirit. Always ready to step in at a moment's notice, Lily supports her colleagues with a consistently positive attitude. With her talent, drive, and collaborative mindset, Lily is poised to bring continued excellence to this market!

### ***Rising Star in Executive Producing***



***Sam Shinn - WCAX-TV***

Sam Shinn is an emerging leader whose rise through the ranks at WCAX is remarkable. Despite entering broadcast journalism with no formal background, Sam brought an unshakable attitude, relentless curiosity, and an eagerness to learn that have propelled her into one of the



***Adrian Pastor - NBC5***

Adrian Pastor officially joined NBC5 full-time in June 2022, nearly a full year after stepping into the newsroom for the first time. After spending time with producers writing scripts and timing shows in the control room, he started his storytelling career in front of the camera. He excelled in a reporter role, started anchoring weekend newscasts in 2023 and he joined the weekday morning show team in July 2024. Adrian has a passion for authentic storytelling—including his love and pride in his Puerto Rican heritage and is a leader others can turn to for guidance and support.

### ***Rising Star in Development***



***Bobby Lussier - Vermont Public***

Bobby Lussier is a Development Specialist at Vermont Public, working with business sponsorship, membership, and philanthropy. Bobby's contributions include the building of donor stewardship processes, financial tracking tools and a redesign of graphic assets that have

newsroom's key management roles in under three years. She began as a producer for WCAX's weekend morning show, quickly earning a promotion to the 4 p.m. newscast. Her sharp instincts and commitment to excellence shone through in special projects, including the station's Edward R. Murrow Award-winning coverage of the 2024 Eclipse. Now serving as Executive Producer, Sam oversees newsroom operations with a focus on clean visuals, grammatical precision, and strong storytelling.

elevated internal operations and external communications. He was also instrumental in the successful launch of the "Corporate Circle" program. As the liaison to the Vermont Public Board of Directors, Bobby organizes meetings and retreats, enhancing board participation and communication between members and leadership. Bobby also lends a hand hosting pledge drives and recently learned to board on broadcasts. Bobby also serves on the Board of Directors for the Princeton Broadcasting Service.

## 2025 VAB Hall of Fame & Awards Gala



# HALL OF FAME & AWARDS GALA



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025**

● **DOUBLETREE BY HILTON BURLINGTON VERMONT** ●

**REGISTER AT [VERMONTBROADCASTERS.ORG](https://vermontbroadcasters.org)**

The 2025 VAB Hall of Fame & Awards Gala is Saturday, November 15th at The DoubleTree by Hilton (formerly the Sheraton) just off exit 14W I-89 at 870 Williston Road in South Burlington.

This year's theme, "*Platinum & Pearls*", celebrates two milestones; the 70th "Platinum" Anniversary of the VAB and the 30th "Pearl" Anniversary of the Hall of Fame & Awards Gala which together equal a night of 100% fun!



### Schedule of Events:

- 5:00-6:00PM: Cocktail Reception
- 6:00-7:00PM: 3-Course Dinner
- 7:00-9:00PM: Awards & Inductions



**Attire:** Semi-Formal attire encouraged by not required. We encourage you to dress to match this year's theme of "Platinum & Pearls!"

**Cost:** \$70 for VAB Members and their guests. \$140 for Non-VAB Members.

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NO LATER THAN NOV. 7TH**

*(before you register individually, ask your station's GM or owner if they are organizing a group registration)*

**Discounted Hotel Rooms:**

A limited number of discounted hotel rooms at The DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington are available for \$149 +tax the night of Saturday, November 15th on a first come first serve basis.

DoubleTree Hotel  
Reservations

## Free Sales Webinar Tuesday Oct. 14th



On-Demand Broadcast Training  
And Revenue Development That Works!



### Purposeful Contact, Clear Framing, and Whale-Sized Results

Chris Fleming, President of CD Media Consulting



**Tuesday, October 14th, 2025 at 12:00PM ET**  
**Part of the LBS 2nd Tuesday Webinar Series**

**REGISTER HERE**

Get ready to dive deep into the art of meaningful sales communication! In this energizing session, we'll explore how a steady diet of contact builds trust, how to frame the customer's problem with clarity and empathy, and how to speak with purpose instead of pressure. Whether you're chasing whale-sized accounts or nurturing a bunch of minnows, this session will equip you with the mindset and methods to land results that make waves. Join us and let's turn conversations into conversions! Chris is popular with LBS members from the weekly LBS Sales Meetings service.

## Free Webinar For Managers October 16th

### ***"Closing the Gap Between Upper Management & Gen Z"***

**Thursday, October 16th  
1:00PM**



Presented by Derron Steenberg,  
Swagger Institute

This webinar is free for VAB members. Use promo code **NASBA25** at checkout to change the balance due from \$35 to \$0!

REGISTER HERE

## How Fed Gov Shutdown Impacts Broadcasters



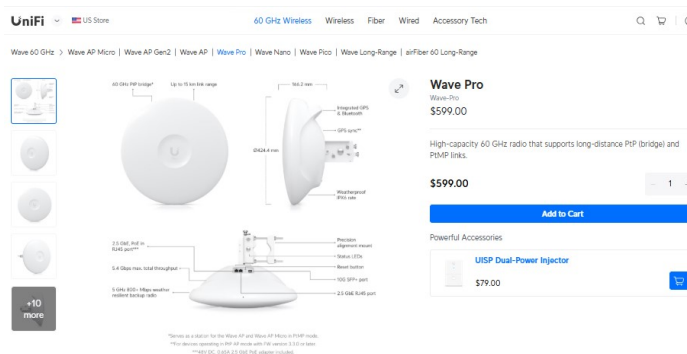
Federal  
Communications  
Commission

The FCC has suspended most of its operations and websites due to the Federal Government shutdown. The FCC announced that most filing deadlines will be extended to the next business day following the resumption of normal FCC operations.

Communication attorneys recommend completing and uploading required items to minimize confusion and potential delays when the shutdown concludes. Required documents can be filed as long as the FCC public file website remains accessible. If the FCC web site is not working on October 10th, prepare a memorandum stating that you had the document ready on the deadline, attempted to upload, but the system was down. Save the memorandum for future use in uploading and for reference when your station's license renewal application is filed. When the FCC's system is eventually up and running, upload the issues-programs list for the 3rd Quarter along with your brief memorandum. Here is the FCC's Public Notice, [Impact of Potential Lapse in Funding on Commission Operations](#), released September 30th, which address filings and deadlines.

## Ubiquiti Wave Pros For Sale @ 50% Retail Cost

VAB has a pair of brand new Ubiquiti Wave Pros for Sale for 50% of retail cost. They are still in their shipping boxes and have never been opened. If you were to buy them from the supplier, the pair would be \$1,200, but the VAB is selling the pair for \$600 and will deliver for free within Vermont. Call or email Wendy Mays at 802-233-0296 or [wendy@vermontbroadcasters.org](mailto:wendy@vermontbroadcasters.org)



## Broadcast Job Openings Around Vermont



[Air Talent](#)



[Sales Representative](#)



[95 Triple X Midday Host, Part-time Board Operator](#)



[Office Manager, Sales/Traffic Assistant, Newscast Producer, Media Executive](#)

[Multimedia Sales Executive, Junior Account Executive, Digital Marketing Consultant](#)



[Production Assistant, Master Control Supervisor, Account Executive \(Plattsburgh\), Multimedia Journalist, Local News Producer, Account Executive \(South Burlington\)](#)

[Fall Marketing Internship, Fall Broadcast Internship, Multimedia Journalist, Photographer/Director, Multiplatform Account Executive, IT Broadcast Engineer, Graphic Artist/Photographer, Digital Content Manager, Senior Sales Account Executive](#)

## This Week at the FCC



Every week, the attorneys at [Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP](#) in Washington D.C. provide a summary of the regulatory and legal actions of significance to broadcasters within the FCC. They also provide links to information about how these actions may affect your operations. Read this week's summary as well as summaries from past weeks at:

[vermontbroadcasters.org/this-week-at-the-fcc](http://vermontbroadcasters.org/this-week-at-the-fcc)

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