

VAB Voice | Monday, May 11, 2026



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Save \$10/person on Early Bird Enrollment to VAB Summer School Now Thru May 31st!



**Thursday, June 11,
2026**

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Dion Student Center
Saint Michael's College
Route 15, Colchester

Sponsored by:



In honor of this year's instructors from Kentucky and Mississippi, we're injecting a little "Southern Charm" into VAB Summer School! This year's event features:

- Classes for broadcast professionals lead by experienced and inspiring instructors
- VAB Content of the Year competition awards ceremony
- Coffee social with continental breakfast
- "Southern Inspired" Hot Lunch
- "Broadcast Proud" keynote presented by Derron Steenbergen
- Peer Networking
- VAB Annual Meeting & College Scholarship Presentations
- Southern Inspired Prizes!

VAB Summer School 2026 Instructors:



**DERRON
STEENBERGEN**



**AMANDA
FONTAINE**



VAB Summer School 2026 Schedule:

- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM: "Homeroom" with coffee, breakfast & networking
- 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM: "First Period" Classes for Media Sellers & Station Owners & Managers
- 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM: "Second Period" Classes for Media Sellers & Station Owners & Managers
- 12:00 - 12:30 PM: Southern-inspired Hot Lunch served buffet style
- 12:30 - 1:00 PM: "Broadcast Proud" Keynote by Derron Steenbergen
- 1:00 - 1:15 PM: VAB Annual Meeting & College Scholarship Presentations
- 1:15 - 2:00 PM: VAB Content of the Year Competition Awards Presentation

Classes, Annual Meeting & Content of the Year awards presentation are open to all VAB members at \$0 cost, but you must pre-register.

Speak to your manager about group enrollment or...

REGISTER HERE

Add Breakfast & Lunch & Register by 5/31: \$30
Add Breakfast & Lunch after June 1st: \$40
Non-VAB Members: \$100

Free Webinar Tuesday, May 12th



On-Demand Broadcast Training
And Revenue Development That Works!



Five AI Habits That Give Broadcast Sellers a Real Edge

AI has already changed how we sell and what clients expect. The real question now is how you stay valuable, relevant, and ahead of everyone else in your market. Clients want more from their station rep than someone who can place a schedule. They want a partner who brings ideas, cuts through the noise, and makes their marketing easier. This fast-paced session walks through five habits that help you do exactly that. Discover how AI can save time, sharpen your thinking, and help you walk into every meeting with stronger insights and better ideas. Learn how these tools can help you win more appointments, build trust, and grow revenue without adding more hours to your week. Don't miss out on these strategies that will help you win more business right away!



Pat Bryson
Owner of Bryson
Broadcasting International



May 12

12:00pm EDT

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR FREE

Free Webinar Thursday, May 21st

**2026
THIRD
THURSDAY
SESSIONS**

**2026 Broadcast
Policy Update**
NAB Government
Affairs Team

May 21, 2026
1:00 PM EST



"2026 Broadcast Policy Update" by the NAB Government Affairs Team

Explore the latest federal policy and regulatory developments shaping the broadcasting landscape as we head into 2026. Learn about key actions, trends, and priorities emerging from Capitol Hill, federal agencies, and industry coalitions that could affect stations of all sizes. Gain timely insights and practical takeaways to help you anticipate, interpret, and respond to policy changes, safeguard your operations, and advocate effectively for your station and your community.

[REGISTER FOR FREE HERE](#)

Use promo code **"NASBA26"** to make the balance due \$0 at checkout.

Free Recap of 2026 NAB Show Webinar 5/26



[CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER
FOR FREE](#)

Alabama Broadcasters Association offers a free webinar for engineers almost every month. On Tuesday, May 26th, Paul McLane, Editor-in-chief with Radio World, will give an overview of all the happening at the recent NAB Show in Las Vegas. The webinar starts at 11:00 AM Eastern.

FCC Releases Proposed 2026 Reg Fees

The FCC released its [proposed Regulatory Fees for 2026](#), which would increase 2026 broadcast fees over 2025 fees. However, it appears that the proposed broadcast regulatory fees for 2026 went up *less* than the 6.6% overall increase in the FCC's 2026 operating budget over 2025's budget. Stated differently, while it is an increase, it initially appears broadcasters will be paying a slightly lower percentage of the FCC's operating budget in 2026 than in 2025.

For TV, where fees are set by multiplying station population coverage by a per-person fee, the proposed fee for 2026 for each full-power broadcast television station is \$.006957 per person served, as compared to 2025's \$.006674 (a 4.2% increase).

For radio, below on the left is the proposed radio fees grid for 2026 and on the right is the final radio fees grid for 2025. Most categories appear to have increased around 5-6%.

FY 2026 Radio Station Regulatory Fees						
Population Served	AM Class A	AM Class B	AM Class C	AM Class D	FM Classes A, B1 & C3	FM Classes B, C, C0, C1 & C2
<=10,000	\$575	\$415	\$360	\$395	\$630	\$720
10,001 - 25,000	\$960	\$690	\$600	\$660	\$1,050	\$1,200
25,001 - 75,000	\$1,440	\$1,035	\$900	\$990	\$1,575	\$1,800
75,001 - 150,000	\$2,160	\$1,555	\$1,350	\$1,485	\$2,365	\$2,700
150,001 - 300,000	\$3,245	\$2,330	\$2,030	\$2,230	\$3,550	\$4,055
300,001 - 1,200,000	\$4,860	\$3,490	\$3,035	\$3,340	\$5,315	\$6,070
1,200,001 - 3,000,000	\$7,295	\$5,245	\$4,560	\$5,015	\$7,980	\$9,120
3,000,001 - 6,000,000	\$10,935	\$7,860	\$6,835	\$7,515	\$11,960	\$13,670
>6,000,000	\$16,405	\$11,790	\$10,255	\$11,280	\$17,945	\$20,510

FY 2025 RADIO STATION REGULATORY FEES						
Population Served	AM Class A	AM Class B	AM Class C	AM Class D	FM Classes A, B1 & C3	FM Classes B, C, C0, C1 & C2
<=10,000	\$545	\$395	\$340	\$375	\$600	\$685
10,001 - 25,000	\$910	\$655	\$570	\$625	\$1,000	\$1,140
25,001 - 75,000	\$1,365	\$985	\$855	\$940	\$1,500	\$1,710
75,001 - 150,000	\$2,050	\$1,475	\$1,285	\$1,405	\$2,250	\$2,565
150,001 - 300,000	\$3,075	\$2,215	\$1,925	\$2,115	\$3,380	\$3,855
300,001 - 1,200,000	\$4,605	\$3,315	\$2,885	\$3,160	\$5,060	\$5,770
1,200,001 - 3,000,000	\$6,915	\$4,980	\$4,330	\$4,750	\$7,600	\$8,665
3,000,001 - 6,000,000	\$10,365	\$7,460	\$6,490	\$7,120	\$11,390	\$12,985
>6,000,000	\$15,550	\$11,195	\$9,740	\$10,680	\$17,090	\$19,485

Female Broadcasters at AHA Go Red For Women

Ladies from Vermont's broadcast community showed up in force at the American Heart Association's *Go Red For Women* fundraising dinner April 15th at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in South Burlington! FOX 44 & ABC 22 anchor Lauren Maloney and Star 92.9 morning show cohost Mary Cenci have been volunteer co-emcees for this event for over a decade and do an outstanding job!



L-R: Tanya Thibeault, Mel B, Wendy Mays, Tina Castano, Izzy Mitchell, Dana Nahumck, Lauren Maloney, Mary Cenci, Amanda Lee (missing Haley Bouley)

Political Advertising Refresher, PB-19 Forms & New VT Synthetic Media in Political Ads Law



With political advertising season getting underway, the VAB has three important items to share:

1. Unlimited use of the NAB PB-19 Forms for VAB Members:

We are excited to give you a new VAB member benefit that will likely save you money! The VAB has paid the NAB a fee to give all VAB members unlimited use of the NAB's proprietary PB-19 forms for political candidate ads as well as non-candidate/issue ads. Normally, to use these forms, it's \$40.46/station for NAB members or \$44.95/station for Non-NAB members. But thanks to the VAB, you have unlimited use of both forms for all of 2026!

DOWNLOAD PB-19
CANDIDATE FORM

DOWNLOAD PB-19 NON-
CANDIDATE / ISSUE FORM

2. Political Advertising Refresher Webinar Recording:

In November 2025, Washington D.C. attorney David Oxenford hosted a webinar refreshing broadcasters on FCC political advertising rules and how to be compliant. Watch the video below or copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xnC9BdAYbQ>

First, What's New?

- Generally, the rules have not changed in the last two years
- The FCC has changed
 - Bobby Baker, the head of the FCC's Office of Political Broadcasting for about 30 years, retired early this year along with one of his deputy
 - FCC Chairman is looking at many old broadcast policies through a different lens – so there is some uncertainty of the interpretation of some political policies – though hard to undo decades of precedent without formal proceedings which have not been initiated
- Political environment is much more adversarial – more challenges to trust of political ads – and more threats of litigation
- Digital and AI add new wrinkles to political ads – and states are getting more involved in regulation as federal government intervention lags

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Download David Oxenford's Political Refresher Slide Deck

3. New Vermont Law Requiring Synthetic Media Disclosures in Political Ads:

In March, the state legislature passed S23 and Gov. Scott signed it into law as Act 75. What this law says is, if a political candidate creates an ad or has an ad created by someone and it contains “deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media” and it airs 90 days before an election, it must have the following disclosure:

“This media has been manipulated or generated by digital technology and depicts speech or conduct that did not occur.”

The VAB worked hard to ensure the new law included protections from liability and penalty for broadcasters who, because of FCC rules about equal time and censorship, have to air political ads they are given by the candidate making the ad buy. The law also has exemptions for broadcast news stories about a questionable political ad.

The VAB created a [What You Need to Know About Use of Deceptive & Fraudulent Synthetic Media In Political Ads 90 Days Before An Election one-sheet](#). We are advising you read and share it with your staff

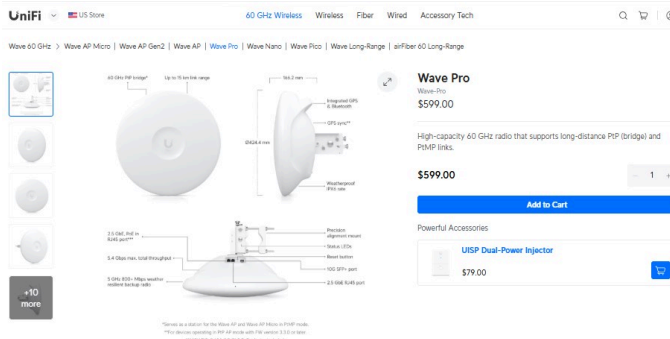
and post it in your common areas so everyone is aware of the required if they create a political ad for a candidate that contains “deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media” that airs 90 days before an election.

It is the ad creator’s responsibility to include the mandatory disclosure if the ad contains “deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media” and airs 90 days before an election. If you’re given an ad by a political candidate, you will not be held liable or penalized for airing it even if it does contain such material. But, if your station employee is the one creating the ad for the candidate and they use “deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media” and it airs 90 days before an election, they must include the mandatory disclosure as outlined in the new law.

Questions? Email wendy@vermontbroadcasters.org or call (802) 233-0296

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



Broadcast Job Openings Around Vermont



[Multimedia Journalist - Plattsburgh, Digital Sales Manager, Production Assistant, Account Executive \(Plattsburgh\), Account Executive \(South Burlington\)](#)

[Photographer/Director, Multi-Platform Account Executive, Broadcast Internship, Digital Sales Coordinator, Multimedia Journalist](#)



[Assignment Manager, News Anchor/MMJ \(Weekend\), Executive Producer, Multimedia Journalist, Media Executive, News Photographer](#)

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

[Broadcast Engineering Internship Staff Accountant](#)

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

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- ✓ \$20 million in grants funded
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