

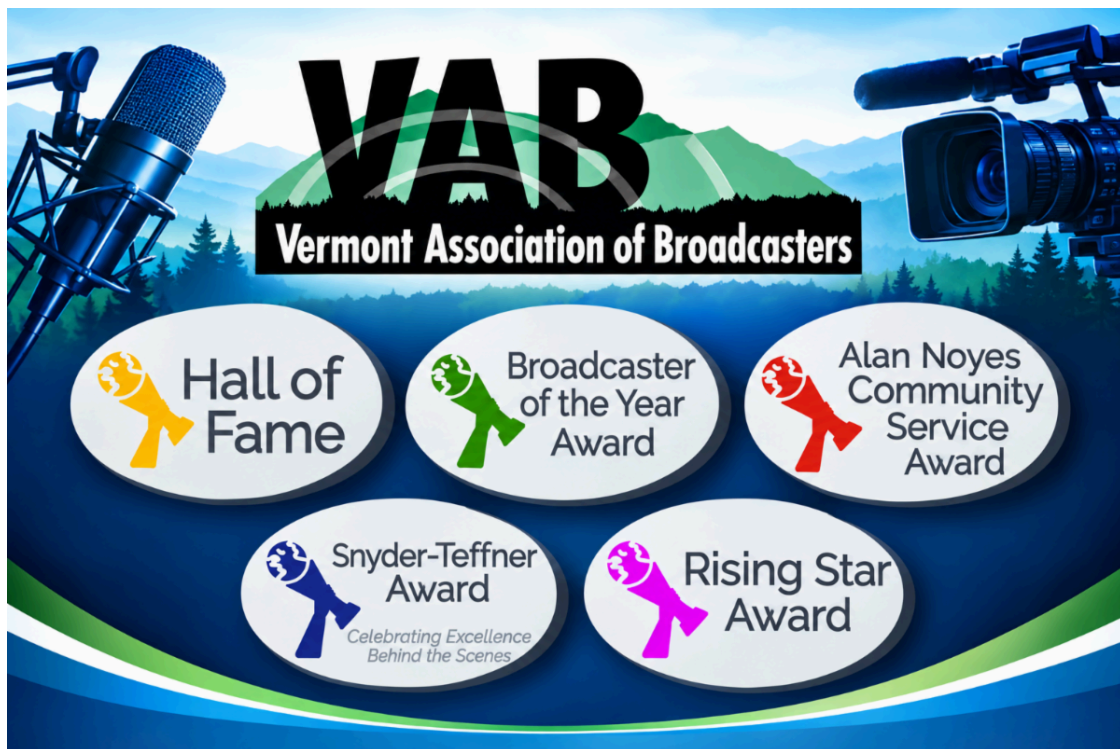
VAB Voice | Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026



In This Issue:

- Last Call for VAB Hall of Fame & Awards Nominations Due Friday, September 18th
- AM For Every Vehicle Act Passes US House
- Free Webinar Thursday, September 17th
- Grants For News & Information Providers
- LBS New Seller Academy Starting Oct. 5th
- Broadcast Job Openings in Vermont
- "This Week at the FCC" by WBK Law

Last Call for VAB Hall of Fame & Awards Nominations - Due Friday, September 18th



Each year, the VAB recognizes outstanding Vermont broadcasters with inductions into the elite VAB Hall of Fame as well as with excellence awards. We rely on VAB members to nominate colleagues and this year's nomination window is getting ready to close. Now is time for you to let the VAB know who is deserving of these prestigious recognitions! **Nominations must be received no later than Friday, September 18th, 2026 at 11:59PM.**

[View Hall of Fame Criteria & Award Descriptions and Make A Nomination](#)

AM For Every Vehicle Act Passes U.S. House



Last night, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the AM for Every Vehicle Act!

This bipartisan legislation (H.979) directs the U.S. Department of Transportation to make AM radio receivers a mandatory piece of safety equipment in every car sold in the U.S. It reverses the current course of some car manufacturers, especially electric vehicles makers, who had been removing AM from the dashboard.

The NAB and all the state broadcasters associations have worked extremely hard for 4 years, first getting this piece of legislation introduced, then convincing 318 House reps (including Rep. Becca Balint) to co-sponsor it, then garnering support when it went through the House Energy & Commerce committee and the most recent push to get floor time for a full vote. We are thrilled to report our collective advocacy over the last 4 years and especially the last few months (including a special AM radio fly-in to DC) paid off! It wasn't easy, the bill faced push back from the car manufacturers, the Consumer Technology Association and some politicians who oppose government mandates of any kind. But the bill also received a massive amount of support from more than 125 organizations including the National Emergency Management Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, AARP and SAG-AFTRA.

The next step is for the U.S. Senate to take the AM For Every Vehicle Act up for a full floor vote since it already passed favorably through the committee of jurisdiction. Since there are 61 Senators co-sponsoring the Senate version of the bill (S.315), including Senator Bernie Sanders, as long as it gets floor time before the end of the year, it is expected to pass and go to the President's desk to be signed into law!

Free Webinar For Content Creators Thur. 9/17

2026
THIRD
THURSDAY
SESSIONS

Creating
Breakthrough
Content
Steve Wexler,
WEXL Coaching

Sept. 17, 2026
1:00 PM EST



"Creating Breakthrough Content"
by Steve Wexler, WEXL Coaching
Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 1:00PM

Why does so much of our radio, TV and digital content look and sound the same? In this session, we'll discover why we leave so much of our best content on the cutting room floor and discuss a creative process for capturing and presenting more compelling, relatable stories and topics. Exclusive, local content is available to us...if we know how to identify and create it. This session is perfect for anyone involved in content creation!

REGISTER FOR FREE HERE

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

Grants For News & Information Providers

Press
Forward >>

Funding is available for news and information providers and community partners through the Press Forward Vermont News & Community Collaboration grant program. This is the first competitive funding opportunity from [Vermont's chapter](#) of Press Forward, a national effort to strengthen local news so people have the information they need to stay informed, connected, and engaged.

The Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) is leading this work in Vermont. Last year, when VCF asked Vermonters what they want from local news, they heard that people want to see themselves reflected in local stories. They want reporting that is accessible, solutions-oriented, and relevant to their communities.



At the same time, many local newsrooms face increasingly limited capacity to comprehensively cover local issues and community perspectives. Even when important stories are produced, they don't always reach everyone who could benefit from them. Meanwhile, many Vermonters turn to trusted community-based organizations, such as service providers, nonprofits, and neighbors instead of traditional media to get information they can count on. These findings point to an important opportunity. This new grant program will support collaboration between local news providers and community organizations to expand the reach of local news, engage new audiences, and create community-informed content. Funding may be used to launch new models or strengthen existing collaborations.

Applications must be submitted as a partnership between a Vermont news or information provider and a nonprofit or governmental community partner (examples include nonprofit organizations, schools, libraries, etc.). Priority will be given to projects that address one or more community-related needs, challenges, or opportunities identified in the [Vermont News & Information Ecosystem Report](#).

VCF intends to award approximately 10-12 grants of up to \$10,000 each. First-time grantseekers are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 9, 2026. Applicants will be notified about funding decisions by December 2026.

For complete eligibility requirements, program guidelines, and application information, visit vermontcf.org/pfvt-community-collab.

LBS New Seller Academy Starting Oct. 5th



- ON-LINE LEARNING!
- LIVE INSTRUCTION!



**FREE THANKS TO YOUR STATE
BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION!**

CONFIDENCE

CLARITY

CONNECTION

**OUR NEXT SESSION BEGINS
MONDAY, **OCTOBER 5TH**
AND RUNS FOR SEVEN
CONSECUTIVE MONDAYS.**

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

**THIS SALES TRAINING PROGRAM ALLOWS SELLERS
TO LEARN AT THEIR OWN PACE AND STILL SPEND
MEANINGFUL TIME BUILDING THEIR NEW BOOK OF
BUSINESS OUT IN THE FIELD!**

**PARTICIPANTS EARN CERTIFICATES THAT SET
THEM APART IN YOUR MARKET!**

**BUILDING TOMORROW'S
BROADCAST SELLERS TODAY!**

REGISTER FREE AT

www.localbroadcastsales.com/lbs-new-sellers-program/



Local
Broadcast Sales

On-Demand Broadcast Training
And Revenue Development That Works!

EAS Cybersecurity Webinar Recording

LIVE WEBINAR

Complying with New FCC EAS Cybersecurity Rules

12 p.m. ET | Tuesday, Sept. 1

MODERATORS:

David Donovan | New York State Broadcasters Association

Dave Arland | Indiana Broadcasters Association

PANELISTS:

Wayne Pecena | KAMU TV and FM

Dr. Ed Czarnecki | Digital Alert Systems

Harold Price | Sage Alerting Systems

PRESENTED BY



As you are well aware, the FCC has made new EAS Cybersecurity requirements that every station must comply with by September 29th (60 days after it was published in the register.) In case you missed it, the webinar organized by the NAB and NASBA from September 1st designed to help stations understand their obligations and how to go about compliance was recorded. Click the button below to watch it:

WATCH THE EAS CYBERSECURITY WEBINAR HERE

FCC Regulatory Fee Schedule



Federal
Communications
Commission

The FCC has announced that 2026 Regulatory Fees must be received by the FCC no later than 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time on **September 24, 2026**. All regulatory fees must be paid using the CORES platform. The Media Bureau's Fact Sheet provides a detailed reference for the calculation of fees for different broadcast services (including the fees for construction permits) and the process by which payments can be made.

Licensees may find that some station fees have been preloaded into CORES but licensees should always check the FCC's regulatory fee look-up website, <http://fccfees.com/>, before paying to confirm the amount due for each station. This site will also inform the payee of the relevant codes needed to input into CORES for any station fees that must be manually input. Full-power television stations will find their fees in the chart found in Appendix F of the Report & Order. As in prior years, the FCC has set a *de minimis* threshold of \$1,000. If the total amount owed by a licensee is \$1,000 or less, that licensee does not owe any regulatory fees.

As a reminder, underpayments and late payments will be assessed a 25% penalty on September 25th, interest may accrue on the balance thereafter, and the FCC will withhold action on, and may dismiss, new and pending applications until the balance is satisfied.

This article is courtesy of David Oxenford and Davina Sashkin from [Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP](#)

WILKINSON) BARKER) KNAUER) LLP

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

WILKINSON | BARKER | KNAUER | LLP

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.

ADDITIONAL CAUTION FROM ATTORNEY DAVID OXFENFORD - PLEASE READ:

Although broadcasters are protected from liability and penalty under S.23, D.C. Media Attorney David Oxenford cautions stations that an ad that is not sponsored by a candidate that uses AI and

misrepresents what a candidate said or did, which a broadcaster runs knowing that the ad is untrue, can still create liability for the broadcaster under traditional concepts of defamation. A broadcaster who knowingly runs an ad that makes defamatory claims about a recognizable individual (like a candidate) can be held liable for continuing to run the ad once they are on notice of its contents. This is true whether the untrue statements contain any image of the candidate being attacked or not, and could apply whether a false image or voice of a candidate was generated by AI or by traditional editing techniques. An ad sponsored by a legally qualified candidate and only run over the air does not raise these issues even if it contains AI that misrepresents another candidate because the broadcaster cannot, under FCC rules, censor an ad from the candidate themselves. But ads from PACs, political parties, and other interested groups can raise this issue. Stations should contact their own attorney to see if there may be any liability under defamation law or under other legal principles.

David wrote more about this concern in this blog

article: <https://www.broadcastlawblog.com/2026/03/articles/ai-in-political-attack-ads-watch-state-laws-on-deep-fakes-and-synthetic-media-in-political-content/>. The discussion of defamation is in the second half of the article.

Broadcast Job Openings Around Vermont



[Meteorologist, National Sales Specialist, Local News Anchor Reporter, Digital Sales Manager, Account Executive](#)



[Marketing Intern, Photographer/Director, Broadcast Intern, Multimedia Journalist, Multi-Platform Account Executive](#)



[Sales Traffic Assistant, Media Executive, Technical Media Producer, Gray Media Training Program - Fall 2026, Assistant News Director](#)



[Events & Marketing Coordinator, Philanthropic Operations & Engagement Officer, Senior Vice President of Development](#)



[Account Executive](#)



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

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

WILKINSON) BARKER) KNAUER) LLP



- ✓ Supporting broadcast professionals
- ✓ \$20 million in grants funded
- ✓ Serving all US states & territories

[LEARN MORE](#)

broadcastersfoundation.org

[@BroadcastersFDN](#)

Find out how the **BFOA** can help
broadcasters in your community.

Vermont Association of Broadcasters | 4 Carmichael St. Suite 111-106 | Essex Junction, VT 05452 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!