

IOWA BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

FAST NEWS

ROUTE TO: General Managers & All Department Heads

www.iowabroadcasters.com

4-15-05

FROM THE STATEHOUSE

Yesterday HF 772 ...the "2 strikes" Open Records Bill, passed the Iowa Senate and is on its way to Governor Vilsack for his signature. The bill supported by IBA amends the Iowa open meetings/open records law by requiring a court to issue an order removing a custodian of a public record from office if that person engaged in a prior violation of the open meetings/ open records laws. Governor Vilsack has not said whether he will sign the bill.

SUMMER CONVENTION

Mark your calendar...Plans are being finalized for the **IBA Summer Convention** to be held **June 17** at the West Des Moines Marriott. This year's convention will feature a one-day marketing seminar "Creating Commercials that Get Results and Get Renewals" presented by Jeffery Hedquist...A Time Management Workshop for all radio/TV Managers...A Legal Seminar with Iowa and DC Hotline Attorneys Sharon Mahleiro and David Oxenford, along with an engineering session on "Preparing for the Alternative Inspections." Watch for further details in the weeks ahead.

CALLING FOR NOMINEES

Nomination forms for the **2005 IBA Broadcaster of the Year** and **Hall of Fame** awards have been sent to all stations. If you did not receive this mailing, please contact the IBA office at [515-224-7237](tel:515-224-7237) or download nomination forms from the IBA website at www.iowabroadcasters.com. The deadline for nominations is May 11.

SCHOLARSHIPS BEING JUDGED

We have received well over 75 IBA Broadcast Scholarship applications for consideration. The final selection process is underway, with the winners to be announced on June 17 at the IBA Awards Luncheon. Five students will each receive a renewable scholarship, to pursue an education in broadcasting at an Iowa college/ university. IBA scholarships are awarded annually to Iowa students, through the support of our Q-Mac/IBA Endowment Fund. In '04 our Endowment provided over \$90,000 in scholarship and grant funding.

REP. KING SIGNS ONTO SATELLITE RADIO BILL

Iowa Rep. Steve King (R-5th) has joined Reps. Boswell (D-3rd), Latham (R-4th) and Leach (R-2nd) as a co-sponsor of the Satellite Radio Bill--H.R. 998. Thanks to all 5th District radio broadcasters who contacted Rep. King about this issue. Please be sure to take a moment to thank Rep. King for his support of local radio broadcasters! Rep. Jim Nussle (R-1st) is now the only Iowa Congressman not yet on the bill...if you haven't yet done so...please contact Rep. Nussle or Telecom Aide, Chris Swenson, and encourage Rep. Nussle to sign on as well. Contact numbers for the Iowa Delegation can be found at: <http://www.iowabroadcasters.com/congress.htm>.

2005 REGULATORY FEES PROPOSED

The FCC has announced a proposed schedule of annual regulatory fees to be assessed and collected this summer. For 2005, there is to be only a slight increase in most fees to meet the Congressional requirement of a 2.6% adjustment. As before, TV fees are based on market size and status (VHF or UHF), while radio fees are a function of station class and estimated service population. Although there are to be no fees for digital or AM expanded band stations, the FCC raises the prospect of assessing fees upon such facilities in the future. **Again this year, the FCC intends to mail an assessment postcard to each broadcast licensee. However, they caution that card itself is NOT to be returned with the payment; rather, submission of the fees MUST be accompanied by a completed remittance advice form (Form 159).** The responsibility for payment of all 2005 regulatory fees will rest with the holder of an authorization as of 10-1-04. Last year payments were due in August, however since the FCC has issued its proposal 6-weeks earlier this year, it's possible that an earlier deadline might be specified. We'll keep you posted of further developments, including payment details once the FCC issues a decision. A chart of fees can be downloaded from at: <http://www.fcc.gov/fees/regfees.html>.

DISCLOSE POLITICAL VNRs

Broadcasters and cable operators were put on notice Wednesday by the FCC that they'd better identify the source of video-news reports on controversial and political issues. The FCC said whenever they run video news releases, broadcast and cable outlets "generally must clearly disclose" to the audience the "nature, source and sponsorship" of the material," or face possible fines, license revocation, or imprisonment of up to a year. "Generally" because they don't necessarily have to identify VNR material that they are not paid to run and that does not deal with political hot-button issues. But they will get in trouble for running undisclosed VNRs for controversial government policies, whether or not they have been directly paid to use them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26 & May 3 (via Satellite): TV Sales Training Workshops. June 17 (W. Des Moines): IBA Summer Convention.

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"Radio and television stations working to promote, protect and enhance free over-the-air broadcasting"