

IOWA BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

FAST NEWS

TO: All General Managers & Department Heads

www.iowabroadcasters.com

10-20-05

HELP KEEP US CURRENT!

We are in the process of putting together the **2006 IBA Directory**. Information forms have been mailed to all GM's and Associates and should be completed and returned to the IBA office by **November 11**. Additional forms are available on the IBA website. This information is important as we update not only our printed directory...but also our database and website as well. All Iowa stations are listed in the directory, with copies distributed to Members of Congress, their staff, Iowa legislators, state agencies and libraries. It is also made available to agencies and businesses wishing to use the services of broadcast. The new directory will be available for distribution after the first of the year. If you haven't already done so...please return your completed form to the IBA office as soon as possible. If this form is not returned by November 11...last year's information will be published. IBA is sending out the majority of its communications now via E-mail, so please set your Spam filters accordingly! NAB / FCC Advisories, Legislative Alerts, Legal/Regulatory Memos, Notices and Newsletters are being sent to all GM's via E-mail. In order to continue receiving these important IBA communiqués it is essential that you provide us with your current E-mail address so that a current General Manager's E-mail list can be maintained...ensuring that this information can be delivered directly to your inbox.

2006 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Last year was a record membership year for the IBA! Thanks to your overwhelming support last year, there will be no increase in IBA base membership dues for 2006. IBA annual dues are calculated using a grid formula based on city population, type and number of stations owned. 2006 membership dues statements will be mailed out to all stations in mid to late November for payment due **January 15, 2006**. Plan now to be an IBA member in good standing for 2006, and continue to help us help you and your bottom line!

CAPITOL COMMENT

Kathy Ramsey, Executive V.P. / NAB Public Affairs—“**End of Congressional Session Means Busy Lobbying Period**”

As the end of the first session of the 109th Congress approaches, one thing is clear: we have a busy autumn ahead. The political dynamic in Washington has changed considerably in recent weeks. Hurricane Katrina, and later Rita, impacted significantly Congress' priorities and schedule. While Congress had initially hoped to finish legislative business before Thanksgiving, it appears increasingly likely that Congress will be here into December. Many in Congress anticipated making permanent many of the President's tax cuts this year. However, the financial strains imposed by disaster response and relief made that objective politically difficult. The catastrophe also complicated passage of Congress' "budget reconciliation package" with many rethinking whether such a budget should include steeper cuts in discretionary spending to offset the new outlays for Katrina. For TV broadcasters, the digital television (DTV) transition remains our top priority as the year comes to a close. The hurricanes renewed focus on public safety communications capability and that discussion provided greater political impetus for clearing the analog spectrum. If our industry is to prevail, television GMs need to stay on-message, explaining the importance of including a multicast must-carry rule in the DTV bill. On the radio side, broadcasters should continue playing offense on satellite radio. As of this writing, 84 House Representatives have cosponsored H.R. 998, the Pickering-Green legislation meant to keep XM and Sirius Satellite Radio to the terms of their national-only licenses. While that is progress, we must continue telling our story in coming weeks, explaining that every time the satellite companies are granted an inch, they indulge in a mile. All broadcasters should remain wary of other threats. As the clock continues to tick down and Congress increasingly focuses on passing a budget, completing appropriation work, and adjourning, the legislative atmosphere will become more fluid. As bills move quickly and decisions are made by a handful of key players, the environment will grow ripe for mischief. There are a slew of bills that currently lack momentum, but, if attached to a must-pass appropriations bill and enacted, would harm our industry. Legislation in both the House and the Senate would erase 3rd adjacent channel protections on Low Power FM, allowing the FCC to license thousands of interference generating micro-radio stations. Earlier this year, some in Congress floated proposals to dramatically reduce the broadcast license renewal period. As budgetary pressures grow, Congress could revisit analog television spectrum taxes. In short, the fall will bring heightened activity in Washington. For our industry to enjoy another successful year, we must step up our grassroots. Many GMs, and the state associations in particular, have already invested a great deal of time and effort into this year's lobbying efforts. We thank you for your work to date. However, going forward, all broadcasters need to be on-call, ready to communicate rapidly and effectively with their Representatives and Senators as new threats and opportunities emerge.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The **2006 IBA Summer Convention** has been tentatively set for **June 29** in West Des Moines; The **RAB Radio Sales Training Academy** will be coming to Des Moines, February 27, 2005 - March 1, 2006. Details will be forthcoming -- Plan to attend.

Please note: I will be out of the office today, 10/20 through Monday 10/24. Thank you.

P.O. Box 71186, Des Moines, IA 50325 Ph: 515-224-7237 Fax: 515-224-6560 E-mail: iowaiba@dwx.com Exec. Dir: Sue Toma

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