



# CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers  
pittsburgh chapter

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## Last Meeting



Chapter 20 Officers for 2005 – Bob, Blake, John, and Glenn.

The December meeting was held at Gaetano's with about 20 members in attendance. The main business on the agenda was the election of officers. The nominating committee's slate of names was unanimously elected. Chairman, Bob Jordan; Vice Chairman, John Humphrey; Treasurer, Blake Richert; Secretary, Glenn Romsos.

The second item of business was to welcome the new Director of Engineering for WPXI, Annette Parks-Taylor. She is taking over for Glenn Romsos who has retired.



## Chairman's Corner

### Fast Forward – 2005

Bob Jordan, CPBE  
bjordan@wpxi.com

As first order of business, I'd like to welcome our new Chapter 20 officers. John Humphrey of Azcar is our new Vice Chairman. Blake Richert, having served two terms as Vice Chairman, is moving into the Treasurer's slot, and Glenn Romsos, having just retired but wanting to remain active, has agreed to serve Chapter 20 as Secretary. Thank you all for your willingness to serve. And me, well, I wasn't paying attention when they said 'everybody take two steps backwards', so I'm still Chairman. Actually, I don't want to make too light of that. It's an honor to serve.

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## Media in the New Year



by John Luff, Sr.  
Vice President Business Development  
AZCAR

Nothing changes on the first of January, but this year certainly promises to be a swing year in our industry(ies). HDTV has become "visible", and is in the plans of every company we are working with today. Some touted 2004 as the year DTV and HDTV turned the corner, but the number of new services and hours of HD programming will explode in 2005. Even Europe is finally in motion towards the new paradigm.

Probably more immediate for all of us is the movement away from conventional broadcast hardware solutions and towards IT based facilities and compressed operations for broadcast. In 2004 Fox implemented a totally compressed approach for HDTV pass-through

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## Next Meeting

**Thursday, January 20**

**12 noon**

*Come at 11:30 to shoot the breeze*

### Program

**Randy Conrod**

Product Manager

Signal Processing Products

Leitch, Inc.

**Audio and Video Signal Processing and  
Manipulation for HD/SD  
Infrastructures**

### Gaetano's

1617 Banksville Rd.

Use the Rt. 19 South (Banksville Rd) exit  
when coming out of town.

Use the Greentree exit when coming in.

**Lunch fee \$7**

## Chairman's Corner continued from page 1

On the Regional Broadcast Expo front, Joann Garvin has been meeting with various facilities. We're still looking at October 6th, with the 5th for set-up. One tiny little problem is that flooding from Ivan's ghost in early January has wrecked havoc with one of the facilities we were looking at. That may or may not be a factor as our Expo/Convention is still 10 months away. More news when we have it.

As I mentioned, Glenn Romsos has retired from WPXI after 42 years of service, dedication, and leadership in broadcast engineering. Beginning at WPTA in Ft Wayne, Indiana, Glenn's professional journey has taken him through Detroit and Philadelphia, then on to two stints at WPXI in Pittsburgh with another trip back to Philadelphia in between. Not wanting to spend all of his time hunting and fishing, Glenn tells me in addition to serving as our Chapter Secretary, he's also thinking of doing some consulting on the 2 Ghz BAS change-over. I know all of you join me in wishing him well.

In the meantime, I hope you'll also join me in welcoming Annette Parks-Taylor to Pittsburgh. Annette is Glenn's successor as Director of Engineering at WPXI, and comes to us from WSOC in Charlotte, NC, where she served as Technical Operations Manager. Annette has already changed her SBE chapter affiliation to Chapter 20 and marked our meeting dates on her calendar.

What's happening in audio? On a nostalgic note, the first and last US tape manufacturer has closed its doors. With roots traceable to an order from Gen. Eisenhower in 1945, the future of the company first known as Irish, then Ampex, then Quantegy, is now uncertain. Workers returning from the holidays were greeted by "No Trespassing" signs and changed security codes. In a brief statement issued by the company, "Quantegy, Inc. has ceased operations pending (financial) restructuring." More details and historical perspective can be found at [www.oanow.com](http://www.oanow.com) under 'Local News' January 2, 2005, "Opelika Plant Closes." (The link is too long to print here).

While the purists (and I mean that with total respect) will forever

listen to oxide tape while they warm themselves over their McIntosh amps, the reality is that Quantegy's closing is just another indicator of our rapidly changing technology.

Whether your business is radio, or radio with a light to read by (TV), if you're like most of us, confused about how to make it all work in a hybrid infrastructure of analog and digital with a multiplicity of formats and sample rates, you'll absolutely want to attend our next meeting on January 20 when Randy Conrod of Leitch will be here to help us put it all together and make sense out of it. See you there – Noon sharp!

## Media in the New Year

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for their affiliates. Leitch introduced the "DTP", Digital Turnaround Processor, based on Sarnoff IP they gained when they bought Agilevision. Devices like the DTP allow transitions, logo insertion, bit rate grooming (changing) and other key processes that make a totally compressed master control operation a certainty in the future. Final Cut has moved into the newsroom in many small stations. We find ourselves installing a lot more Cat5/6 cable and less coax and twisted pair these days, and expect that to accelerate.

Lastly, the sleeping giants in media, the telcos, are implementing IPTV solutions, the much expected triple play (voice, Internet and video). Consumers will be tempted to try it, no antennas, no new wires to their homes, and only one bill to pay each month. 2005 is a new ball game. Enjoy!

## Next Meeting

Our first meeting this year will be at Gaetano's on the 20th. Randy Conrod, Product Manager, Signal Processing Products–Leitch, Inc., will be giving a talk on "Audio and Video Signal Processing and Manipulation for HD/SD Infrastructures."



*Annette Parks-Taylor is replacing the retiring Glenn Romsos as director of engineering at WPXI.*



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