



CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers
pittsburgh chapter

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Last Meeting

Chapter 20's December meeting, the annual free lunch/election of officers meeting, was held at Gaetano's on the 15th. Nine guys showed up and after philosophical discussions about the trends in the industry and in SBE meeting attendance, we elected John Humphrey as the new chairman. Annette Parks-Taylor was elected as vice chair person, Blake Richert as treasurer and Glenn Romsos as secretary.

Bob Jordan having just finished his second two year stint as chairman over the past 10 or so years, now begins his second two year term as Immediate Past Chairman. His job? To help the new guy not make stupid mistakes.



Bob Jordan congratulates John on his election.



Chairman's Corner

John J. Humphrey, CPBE
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I've been an SBE member for over 25 years, lifetime certified CPBE, and a past officer. I'm pleased and honored to be the new Chairman of the Pittsburgh SBE chapter. Thanks to Bob Jordan for his past service. I know I'll be depending on him (and others) for help and advice this year.

OK, enough of the opening formalities. Down to my agenda for 2006. I spoke about this at the December Christmas meeting: This chapter's membership has been in a slow decline for many years. The defining event of the year, the Expo, continues to hang on. It was better this year, but needs help to match the stature of the Syracuse SBE show.

Maybe the Pittsburgh SBE chapter is a reflection of how things have changed over the years. The industry has changed: the manufacturers and their products have changed; annual capital budgets and purchasing authority have changed. We're all doing more with less. We've become lean, mean, fightin' machines. We have less time for everything. The SBE, however,

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Next Meeting(s)

January

This month's meeting is on the nineteenth and will feature Ben Perez, a communications attorney from Washington, DC, and a fellow broadcaster from Pittsburgh. His topic: 2006 FCC Update for Broadcast Television and Radio.

The following two months are shaping up like this:

February

David Hopson, Harris Corp.

*NetVX: A New Paradigm in Encoding/
Decoding Equipment*

March

David Russin, MassTech

*Disaster Recovery/Preparedness:
Procedures, Policies, and
Equipment*

If there are any topics you'd like to have discussed at a meeting, or if you know of a great presentation we just have to have, let Annette know. You can send her an email at Annette.Parks-Taylor@cox.com

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 19

Lunch at noon -
come early & shoot the breeze

Ben Perez

with the latest **FCC News** from
DC for TV and Radio

Gaetano's @ 1617 Banksville Road
Use Rte. 19 South (Banksville Rd.) Exit
when coming out of town.
Use the Greentree Exit when coming in.

Lunch fee \$7

Chairman's Corner

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is your professional broadcast organization.

The Pittsburgh chapter has over 80 members. Typically, 10 or 12 attend the monthly luncheon meetings. This is NOT typical of all SBE chapters. The Youngstown, Ohio SBE chapter had a larger turnout for the "Taste of NAB" road show than the Pittsburgh SBE. My goal as chapter Chairman is to find out what the problem is and fix it. Is it the meeting time or location? Is it the meeting presentations? What has happened to the attendance? What can we do to make the meetings, presentations and the SBE Expo more valuable to the members of the Pittsburgh chapter?

This is THE professional and broadcast organization for western Pennsylvania. For those who typically don't make the monthly meetings, please e-mail, call or come to the meetings and tell me what we can do to make the SBE chapter work for you.

I look forward to bigger and better participation and a bigger and better SBE for the new year.

Thanks, Bob!



The XXth Winter Olympic Games from Turino, Italy II

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It is now January here in Torino, Italy and one of the exciting things here, is the venue that I spoke of last month, where the Director and Producer sit in New Jersey at the CNBC studios, and the cameras and crew members are located in Torino, Italy at the curling venue. What is going to be exciting about this is the production team will look at and switch the video and audio signals via the Internet from their studio location in the states. A virtual monitor wall will also be sent to New Jersey so that the various signal paths can be seen by the New Jersey production team.

Using many off the shelf products from Miranda and Tandberg, and of course some custom software, the curling events that will be seen on CNBC will be controlled via the internet. Just to

make sure the show does make it on the air, we will have a back up path that will take the curling show to the IBC which is located in Torino, Italy, so that it can make it on the air through the more traditional paths to the USA.

I'm not sure if the news headlines in the states had the story of the WWII bomb that was found here in downtown Torino last week. The city was building a new underground auto tunnel, and they found this unexploded bomb, so on January 8th they were closing down a 5 block area of town so that they could evacuate the bomb out of the tunnel, and move it to a safe location to detonate it. A small note the IBC is located 2 blocks from that location, so it seemed like a great time for me to make a trip to Zermatt, Switzerland for the day.

Caoi from Italy.



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