



# CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers  
pittsburgh chapter

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## FCC: 80 Percent of TV Stations Can Stay Analog

As the public is being told that all TV stations must cease analog broadcasting in February of 2009, broadcasters are reminded by the latest official FCC Broadcast Stations Totals list that it ain't so. That is, if you look at the numbers. Of the 9,087 TV stations in the country, only 1,760, or 19.4%, are full power stations required to shut down analog. The remaining 7,327, or 80.6%, are various forms of LPTV stations which don't yet have an FCC mandate to start digital broadcasting.

While admittedly most of these low power TV stations don't have the impact of full power network stations, their ERP's can range up to 150 kW, and they are just about everywhere. While you might have thought LPTV and Translator stations are a far west, rural phenomenon, the Pittsburgh market has six centrally located LPTV's and more than a dozen more in surrounding areas serving much of the market. And that scenario is repeated all across the country.

Some LPTV's will "flash cut" to digital or add a digital companion channel, but the vast majority will stay analog until market forces or the Commission make them change.

### FCC Broadcast Station Totals

as of September 30, 2007

UHF COMMERCIAL TV	795
VHF COMMERCIAL TV	584
UHF EDUCATIONAL TV	253
VHF EDUCATIONAL TV	128
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,760</b>

CLASS A UHF STATIONS	465
CLASS A VHF STATIONS	95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>560</b>

UHF TRANSLATORS	2661
VHF TRANSLATORS	1749
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,410</b>

UHF LOW POWER TV	1830
VHF LOW POWER TV	527
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,357</b>

Grand total 9087

### November Meeting



*Treasurer Henry Lassige, Sr., makes his report of the Expo finances at Chapter 20's November meeting at Gaetano's Restaurant.*



### Last Meetings ... September & November

Henry Lassige, Jr.  
KDKA-TV  
hlassige@KDKA.com

Our November meeting was held at Gaetano's Restaurant on the 15th. John Humphrey was the presiding officer and 14 people attended. The meeting program was the Expo review. We had 59 exhibitors at the Expo and 250 attendees. Although the attendance

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## Chairman's Corner

John J. Humphrey, CPBE  
john.humphrey@azcar.com

Well, this is my last Chairman's Corner. Next month, it will be your newly elected Chairman writing in this space.

The last two years have been interesting and challenging. An old Chinese proverb is reputed to say; "May you live in interesting times." That about sums it up for me. Changes in the broadcasting business model, new technology, the DTV transition, and the rush to HDTV have certainly been "interesting."

### Thanks

I want to take this opportunity to thank some of the people who gave their time to make the SBE and my term as Chairman a success:

- Every year, Joann Garvin does a great job of handling all the details of the Expo show.
- Gary and Jean Stewart tirelessly put out newsletter and maintain the info on the web site.
- Bob Hoffman has been a huge help with the web site architecture. Thanks also to Stephan Zelenko for hosting the web site.
- Vice Chair Person, Annette Parks for handling the meeting locations and monthly presentations.
- Our other officers through my 2 year term; Henry Lassige Sr. and Henry Lassige Jr., Glenn Romsos and Bob Jordan.
- Nick Capp who went to the NAB and arranged the technical presentations for the show.

### Accomplishments

I feel my accomplishments as Chairman have been (in no particular order):

- A new look for the web site and a new address, [www.sbe20.org](http://www.sbe20.org), that actually is understandable.
- An improved (but not perfect) database for the Expo vendors and attendees.
- First-ever credit card processing for the vendor booths at the Expo.
- Hosting the National SBE meeting this year.
- Excellent Expo profits due to vendors and sponsors.

However, we still need more attendees.

-Trying new ideas like moving the meeting to the evening and moving the meeting location to several new places.

-A really improved location, food and drinks at the last couple Christmas Parties (so we can spend some of the Expo profits).

### Christmas Party

And speaking of the Christmas Party, the next meeting is the annual Christmas party meeting and election of officers. The party is at The Willow Restaurant, 634 Camp Horne Rd. off of I-279 north.

Hors D'oeuvres, bar drinks and a unique form of entertainment by master magician, Chuck Caputo is planned from 6:30 until 7:15 PM.

The dinner entrée will be served at about 7:15 PM. Spouses and Guests are welcome.

You need to RSVP and make entree selections by Dec. 18. Go to our SBE web site ([www.sbe20.org](http://www.sbe20.org)) and register to attend. Make sure to select your appetizer, entrée, and desert. The first 25 SBE MEMBERS to RSVP will receive a special SBE coffee mug.

I hope to see all of you at the Christmas Party and meeting on December 20th.

And don't forget, there's no charge!



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## Last Meetings

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was down, the exhibitors seemed pleased with the quality of the attendees. We discussed possible ways to improve the Expo, including getting the fliers out earlier.

With our officers' terms coming to an end, it was time to pick a nominating committee to find their replacements. Bob Jordan, John Luff and Henry Lassige, Sr. were chosen to select nominees for chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and treasurer.

The other order of business was the location and date of the Christmas party, which will also be our next meeting. Some possible locations were discussed and the date was set as December 20th. Attendees will be permitted to bring their spouse or other guest.

Our September meeting was held on the 20th at Gaetano's Restaurant. There were fifteen attendees including some new faces. John Humphrey was the presiding officer. Chapter business discussed included the treasurer's report, the continuing work on the data base, and an update on the Expo.

After dinner Karl Paulsen of AZCAR gave us an update on HD. He talked about issues including audio consistency, new time code standards, and multiformat aspect ratios. He ended with a discussion about what happens to the audio signal between when it leaves a broadcast facility and when it reaches homes.

## Engineer Available

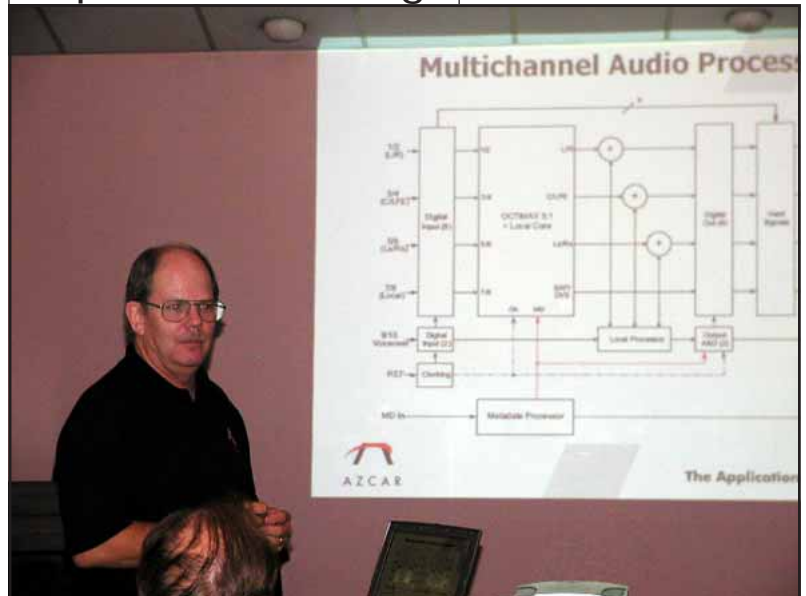
Paul Vesek recently moved to the Pittsburgh, PA area. He has over 21 years of broadcast engineering experience. He retired from the US military after 20 years and worked in Harrisburg, PA at ABC 27 for 15 months.

Paul's wife got a promotion and was transferred to Pittsburgh so Paul is currently looking for an employment opportunity.

You can contact him for a resume via e-mail at [vesekp1@connecttime.net](mailto:vesekp1@connecttime.net) or phone: 724-353-0092 (home), 410-353-0661 (cell)

Paul and his family are living in Sarver.

## September Meeting



*Karl Paulsen of AZCAR gave us an update on HD and digital audio.*



*The nominating committee selected at the November meeting. Left to right, John Luff, Bob Jordan, and Henry Lassige, Sr. They will present their nominations for next year's officers at the December meeting.*



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*We were happy to welcome three newcomers at our November meeting. Left to right, Kurt Weinschenker from WTRF-TV7, Roger Rafson of Commercial Media Sales, and Alan Jaskiewicz, a student from Waynesburg University.*

*Roger had a lot of very positive ideas regarding improving meeting attendance, attracting new members, and radio participation. He has become an SBE member via the national website.*

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Society of Broadcast Engineers  
Pittsburgh Chapter  
P.O. Box 16312  
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## Next Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, December 20

## Annual Christmas Party and Election of Officers

Spouse or Guest welcome – RSVP required

**Location:** The Willow Restaurant, 634 Camp Horne Rd. off of I-279 north.

**Time:** 6:30 PM Hors D'oeuvres, bar drinks and

a unique form of entertainment by master magician, Chuck Caputo

7:15 PM The dinner entrée will be served

**RSVP Deadline:** Dec. 18 @ [www.sbe20.org](http://www.sbe20.org) - make appetizer, entree and dessert selections

*First 25 SBE MEMBERS to RSVP receive a special SBE Coffee Mug*