

Director-General's Report

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What a year it's been! It started with a bang at our AGM in Toronto hosted by CBC/Radio-

Canada in what was one of the coldest weeks in the history of our city. Nonetheless the Committee meetings were focused, the AGM full of great content and the first *Future of Radio & Audio Symposium* took place with more than 150 attendees. In other words, the content was hot!

This year NABA and the UK's Digital Production Partnership (DPP) formed an alliance to tackle the development of a common metadata chip for file formats based on work already done by the DPP. For the past many months a Working Group under the leadership of Clyde Smith (FOX Networks) has been "beavering away" at specifying the broadcaster's technical requirements. I'm delighted to note this first phase is almost complete and in January the standardization process will begin with education seminars being held in tandem for broadcasters, production companies, and equipment suppliers in order to get everyone on the same page for the adoption. In a multiple file format world a common metadata standard will make our broadcast operations and workflow so much easier.

This was also the year of the 2015 World Radio Conference (WRC-15), where nations gather at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland to decide on who gets what spectrum. With the growth of mobile phones much of the spectrum television broadcasters use in the UHF band has come under pressure from the mobile industry. For the last few years NABA and its members have been doing interference studies on IMT in both UHF broadcast bands and in the satellite C-band. Keep in mind that broadcasters use C-band to deliver to satellite and cable head ends and internationally, this band

is also under pressure from the IMT industry. Our conclusions were that there was an interference problem in sharing this spectrum with mobile and we argued for No Change in both UHF and C-band.

We were present at the ITU for all of WRC-15 in the month of November. Our spectrum subcommittee has been led by Winston Caldwell (FOX Networks), and with participation by all our members it was a great effort, not just for WRC, but in the years leading up to the actual diplomatic meetings. More importantly, from our view it was mostly successful too. Please read Winston's article for further details in this issue of *NABAcaster* (pg. 4). Our thanks to Winston, his subcommittee and our TC Chair John Lee.

Things tend to move slowly at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as we continue to work towards a Diplomatic Conference (DipCon) for a Broadcaster Treaty, but nonetheless there seems to be some movement towards that goal as you will read in Erica Redler's report in this issue (pg. 6). The reason we spend the effort and treasure on this is because a new treaty, which protects broadcaster signals in a digital world, would provide a more effective legal framework to stop piracy everywhere. For obvious reasons this is a good thing, but the world is made up of countries in many different stages of development, and not all nations share the same priorities at the same time. Our goal is to find a consensus that a new treaty is the right and responsible thing to do and we hope that over the next 18 months a DipCon will be realized.

Akira Ogawa (NHK/ABU) is Chair of the International Media Connectivity Group (IMCG). He and the Forum he chairs have made a successful transition from the former International Satellite Operations Group (ISOG) to IMCG which looks at international collection and distribution of content on any platform, including IP. As much as the production world is changing so is distribu-

tion and collection and this WBU Committee is reflecting these changes exceptionally. Akira's report in this issue focuses on a most successful Forum hosted by the BBC in London just a few weeks ago. Akira and his Vice-Chairs, John Ball (Turner) and Kazimir Bacic (HRT/EBU), have brought terrific change-centric leadership and have reinvented a venerable institution for years to come. The next IMCG Forum will be hosted in June of next year by PBS in the Washington, DC area. I look forward to another couple of days with great content and ideas.

Cyber Security continues to grow in importance for our members. The Risk Awareness & Continuity Committee (Chaired by ABC's Michael Miller) has a Cyber Security SubTeam that was charged with defining broadcaster requirements for equipment utilized by broadcast operations. This is an important piece of work that was completed this fall. The results of the work are now being discussed with vendors. Stay tuned for much more here in 2016.

We ended the year with an OTT Symposium (Chaired by ABC's Michael Chiarulli) and hosted by HBO in New York. It was a wonderful day of sharing information, challenges, issues and solutions. We took a holistic approach to the subject and looked at everything from content rights to workflow. We had 100 people attend and there were some great moments. Jason Paris, our *NABAcaster* Editor has a summary for you on page 7.

I could go on, but I hope you get the picture of a year that was busy, productive and useful for our members. In the months to come... the Next Generation of Television, IP production and delivery, HD Radio, cyber security, and file formats will all dominate much of our dialogue and agenda.

Thanks to our NABA members for your passion for the business, your commitment of time, and the many efforts on everyone's part to work with their colleagues to find solutions to common issues and challenges. All the best for the holidays and I'm looking forward to continuing our great progress in 2016. ■