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NABAcaster

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It's Time for an AGM!

Michael McEwen, NABA

As I write this cover report of an abbreviated *NABAcaster*, we, in the NABA Secretariat, are in the throes of putting the finishing touches on our AGM Event. It has been ten years since the NABA AGM last came to Canada and we'll be hosted once again by the good people of CBC/Radio-Canada in the Toronto Broadcast Centre's Glenn Gould Studio.

On Tuesday, February 17th three of our four standing committees: Technical, Legal, and Risk Awareness & Continuity will meet, followed by a Board of Directors meeting later that day. Please refer to page three of this *NABAcaster* for a full run down. These are all face-to-face meetings and are used to reflect on 2014's accomplishments and to set the agendas for the year ahead. We have considerably expanded our Association's work with the addition of the Radio Committee (more about that later) and a renewed Risk Awareness & Continuity Committee, that includes several "SubTeams" focusing on cyber security, venue security, safety of our journalists and personnel both domestically and internationally, to name just a few. Interesting and important work!

On Wednesday, February 18th, we will have our Annual General Meeting Event in the Glenn Gould Studio. Although we do discuss the "business" of

the Association for an hour at the end of the day, most of the time is spent on content that addresses the current issues our industry faces. Kevin Crull, President of Bell Media, will give the keynote address and focus specifically on the challenges faced by Canadian broadcasters. This is particularly interesting given the CRTC's "Let's Talk TV" hearings last fall, and their recent decision concerning local television. Bell Media is perhaps one of the best examples of how our industry is changing with the cross-platform factor now so prevalent with many of our members. It's also an example of how the business plan and the nature of traditional over-the-air broadcasting are changing in a radical way. There's likely more of that to come. Kevin's keynote will be an insight into this changed world.

The Executive Vice-President of the National Association of Broadcasters, Rick Kaplan, will give a keynote on the broadcast spectrum struggles in the US. With a planned spectrum incentive auction in 2016 and a repack of remaining broadcast-transmitted services, the challenge for US broadcasters to implement the Next Generation of Television services over-the-air will be huge. While initiatives to share broadcast spectrum with mobile services is a test for NABA members in all three North American

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countries, it's probably fair to say that our US colleagues are at the pointy end of the spectrum stick right now, and that makes Rick's address both timely and significant.

Throughout the day, we'll have panels and presentations on signal piracy, protecting OTT services, media interoperability, and the business case surrounding the Next Generation of Television. We'll also focus on what it is like being a reporter in a multi-platform world, with all the platforms demanding to be fed with fewer resources to do it. David Common, the host of CBC Radio's *World Report*, will give us insight into his world.

Finally, we'll turn our attention to the World Radio Conference (better known to many as "WRC-15") to be held in November of this year at the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva. This is where the global community comes together to assess the needs of all services for spectrum and sets some global frameworks for what is allowed and what is not. NABA and other international broadcast associations have done a lot of work in explaining our concerns about potential interference in the broadcast UHF band and the satellite C-band if these areas are opened up to mobile services. A panel will explain our position and explore likely outcomes.

It's a big day for broadcast content and if you're a NABA member, I hope that

you'll come, but time is limited for registering so I encourage you to do that by going to our Eventbrite link (below). If you require the password, just contact the

keynotes by FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai, Jeff Smulyan, the CEO of Emmis Communications, and Tom Pentefountas, Vice-Chair of the CRTC. Panels include the future of delivery, digital radio, radio as a first responder, local radio, the future of the AM band, and the future of the in-car dashboard. All the topics are clearly hot buttons for our radio colleagues. The experts on our panels from the US, Canada, Mexico and the UK will speak to the range and depth of their varied experience.

The response of the industry has been overwhelming with 200 attendees registered, which has just about maxed out our capacity. Committee Chair, Julie McCambley, and Vice-Chair, Paul Brenner, have brought great leadership to

this work as has their planning committee and panel moderators. After the Symposium, the Radio Committee will follow up on the discussions with project work, future initiatives and education as part of their work plan. It's a great way to set an agenda and an even better way to give radio the spotlight.

So the third week of February will be a busy and productive time for NABA and all our members. What we will take away from those three days is a renewed agenda, some definable deliverables, some shared goals and a better sense of where our energy should be spent. Not a bad investment in terms of time and effort. ■



Secretariat. An agenda for the event is also included on page four of this issue. I promised I would come back to the work of the Radio Committee. As many of you know, the committee has spent the last year working on their agenda. Something pretty creative happened though by taking their evolving agenda and turning it into a day-long Symposium on the *Future of Radio and Audio*. This event will also be held at the Glenn Gould Studio of the CBC Broadcast Centre, starting at 8:30 (in the morning) on Thursday, February 19th. A full updated program for this day is available on page five of this issue.

And what a full day it will be, including

If you have not done so, please register for the AGM Event and Committee Meetings today!

Eventbrite™

www.eventbrite.ca/e/naba-committee-meetings-2015-agm-event-february-17-18-2015-tickets-14349546881

The FAQ Section includes details about local accommodations and other Toronto tidbits. Feel free to write the Secretariat if in need of any information or advice.