

Ericsson, Intelsat, Volkswagen, Dejero, and Full Frame Technology left little resolved but much to be considered going forward. For example, will connected cars that are capable of communicating with each other be so effective at avoiding crashes as to render the airbag an obsolete accessory? More ominously, is the brave new “world of connectivity” also a “world of surveillance,” where artificial intelligence will know so much about us through our devices as to perhaps alter what it means to be human? And more generally, how do we ensure that the solutions to technical problems we perceive today are actually relevant for future generations?



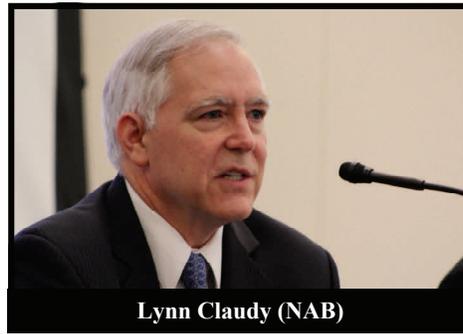
WBU-IMCG’s Executive — John Ball (Turner/NABA), Akira Ogawa (NHK/ABU), and Kazimir Bacic (HRT/EBU).

Along with my Vice-Chairs John Ball (Turner/NABA) and Kazimir Bacic (HRT/EBU), I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our hosts at PBS. Their gorgeous facilities were surpassed only by their amazing team of people who contributed greatly to making this a truly memorable WBU-IMCG Forum. I would like to express my appreciation to Tom Gibbon for organizing the opening reception on behalf of NHK and to AsiaSat, Intelsat, and SES for hosting the welcome reception on the second night. I would also like to thank Anh Ngo from the NABA Secretariat, who continues to tirelessly shepherd WBU-IMCG through a period of remark-

able evolution. I am pleased to announce as well that the next WBU-IMCG Forum will take place November 17-18, 2016 in Dubrovnik, Croatia hosted by HRT. Hope to see you there. ■



Bogdan Frusina (Dejero)



Lynn Claudy (NAB)



PBS President Paula Kerger’s Opening Remarks

Director-General’s Report

Michael McEwen, NABA



Since our last issue, we in NABA have been busy with a number of committee working groups and sub-committees. It is not the most glamorous thing we do,

but it is where the work of the association gets done, resulting in recommendations to our standing committees and to the Board of Directors.

The Technical Committee (TC) has a number of sub-committees in play right now. The Media over IP group has been getting briefings from various industry stakeholders on IP production and distribution, and in a few months this will lead to a survey of broadcaster requirements that will tell the vendors what we need to make this new technology work in our production centres.

Another TC working group collaborates with the UK’s Digital Production Partnership in defining requirements and standards for a common metadata protocol for multiple file formats. They have completed much of their work, and by this fall we will begin a series of education seminars that will focus on the benefits of this work for broadcasters, the production community, and the manufacturers. Exciting times, and all part of what the Next Generation of Television will be; so much more than just a new broadcast standard with Ultra High Definition and High Dynamic Range (which we are working on too). There are a lot of pieces to the Next Generation puzzle.

The TC and the Risk Awareness Continuity Committee (RACC) are working together to have a one-day Cyber Security Symposium on December 1st in New York. As we increasingly move to a full IP world, securing our content, production and distribution facilities has become a number one priority, and we need the help of all the industry stakeholders to employ the best practices and mitigation strategies.

There is interest in our work in Europe and Asia and we hope we will have global input for our North American discussion.

RACC also has a number of sub-groups which are sharing best practices on securing our facilities, remotes, and crews in the field. It’s all important work, particularly in coverage of both man-made and natural disasters. In order to do this coverage well broadcasters must make sure that they are well prepared with the right protocols and plans so they can serve the public interest in difficult circumstances.

The Radio Committee (RC) has two working groups. One group is focused on getting FM chips enabled in smart phones, virtually turning your smart phone into a “Walkman.” Once the chip is enabled then an App, like NextRadio, gives the listener more information and services. NABA has partnered with our member the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) in the US in a survey of enabled (and the potential enabling of) FM Chips in the US, Mexico, and Canada. There has been a lot of work done in the US by Paul Brenner of

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Emmis (and NextRadio) and that is reflected in increasing numbers of mobile operators enabling the chips in the US. It is interesting that the number of chip-enabled phones in Mexico are up around 60%. Sadly in Canada those numbers are below 5% as the Canadian operators have not perceived the opportunity in enabling the FM Chip as others do in North America. This work is important to helping radio thrive in the mobile and IP environment and will continue.

The RC also has a Digital Radio group that is working on the roll-out of Digital "HD" Radio in North America. This is important work since this group acts as a platform group for this new technology, and looks at best transition practices, simulcasting analogue and digital, and working with the industry to monitor the uptake of this new technology. The full RC meets on June 29th in Washington, DC at NPR and will consider reports from the above noted Working Groups, as well as a third Future of Radio & Audio Symposium next year, also at NPR in Washington.

The Legal Committee (LC) continues to focus on the goal of getting a diplomatic conference on a new global Broadcaster Treaty, which would provide relevant protections for broadcaster signals in a digital age. This work has been a long and sometimes frustrating effort, but we have hope that we may reach a consensus at the

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and that this event would take place in 2017. It would be most satisfying to all those who have devoted so much of their professional life to this effort. The LC also meets on June 30th via teleconference.

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In fact June has been, and continues to be, a very busy month for us in NABA and the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU). The NABA-TC met in Washington on June 1st, and PBS hosted the WBU International Media Connectivity Group (WBU-IMCG) for a two-day Forum across the river in Arlington, VA on June 2-3. It focused on the collection and delivery of content around the world utilizing IP technology as our industry transitions from linear to IP operations. A most interesting two days that also form the cover story of this issue.

The WBU-TC met in Geneva June 7th and then the WBU Secretary/Director Generals met on June 14th in Montenegro at the

General Assembly of our sister union, the European Broadcast Union. At the WBU we strive to find a global consensus on the issues facing broadcasters whether they be technical, operational, production or regulatory. NABA is the Secretariat for the WBU and we work with the other broadcast unions around the world to find the right agenda and develop a consensus going forward. The bottom line for all of us is not to duplicate efforts and, where we find a consensus, move the agenda forward to the benefit of our members.

Finally, on June 21st our Board of Directors will meet in New York at NBCU followed by two days of HDR testing and evaluations at the CBS Lab in NYC. This truly is a very full month of activity for us all.

As I close, I wanted to note for our Canadian members that *Broadcast Dialogue* will sign off at the end of June, Howard and Ingrid Christianson having decided that it's time for greener pastures. They will be missed by the Canadian broadcast community since they have been the source of industry information, issues, events and, even from time to time, some good gossip for longer than I can remember. I have been privileged to know them for more than 20 years and they have been good friends to me and to NABA. They are good people and I wish them well as they embrace their future. ■

NABA's Support for Next Generation Audio for ATSC 3.0

Jim Starzynski, NBCU

In the early spring of this year, NABA was contacted by the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC), via a liaison document, informing its members of progress with the standardization of new audio technologies planned to be included in ATSC 3.0 (the organization's forthcoming third generation technical standard for digital TV). This ATSC action impacts NABA membership in Canada, Mexico, and the US, and potentially all other parts of the world that may also adopt ATSC 3.0.

Upon receipt of the liaison document, the NABA Technical Committee (TC) placed an item on the agenda for its forthcoming



meeting in Mexico City, during their Annual General meeting event. As Vice-Chair of the NABA-TC and Chair of ATSC's S34-2 ad-hoc group on audio for ATSC 3.0, I explained the ATSC audio group's recommendation to establish a common audio framework, and their recommendation that two proposed and tested next generation

audio (NGA) systems (Dolby AC-4 and MPEG-H-AA) be elevated to ATSC 3.0 Candidate Standard. The AC-4 system was developed by Dolby Laboratories of San Francisco and the MPEG-H AA System is a version of the MPEG-H Audio system, developed by Fraunhofer Institute IIS, Erlangen, Germany; Technicolor, Hanover, Germany; and Qualcomm, San Diego, California.

I further noted the ATSC audio group's recommendation that only one single system be selected by any country or region, and that AC-4 be identified as the recom-

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