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**December 11, 2007**

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## **ADERHOLT SIGNS ON TO THE LOCAL RADIO FREE ACT**

Representative Robert Aderholt became the fifth House member from the Alabama delegation to sign on as a cosponsor of HR 244. The "Local Radio Free Act" is essentially a policy statement supporting free local broadcast radio and opposing any new performance fees, taxes or royalties for the public performance of sound recordings over the airways.

As of today, Representatives Spencer Bachus and Artur Davis have not given their support to the Resolution. If you live and/or work in their districts, please send an e-mail or make a phone call to ask them to join the other five members of our delegation in support of local radio!

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## **Sgt Dennis Crowe Deploying to Afghanistan**

Our Alabama Army National Guard contact and friend, Sgt Dennis Crowe is headed to Afghanistan early next year. He will spend three weeks at Fort Sam Houston between now and January 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, he will report to Fort Riley, Kansas – his last stop before deployment overseas. He expects to be in Afghanistan for a year.

I asked Sgt Crowe if he and his group have all the equipment and supplies they need because we hear occasionally that soldiers have to purchase some of their own gear. He reported that the Alabama National Guard has made sure they have more than they need, including some special requests.

Sgt Crowe said he will send us notes as often as possible during his deployment.

Alabama has had the largest per capita number of National Guard members deployed since 9/11 and one of the largest percentages of men and women in all branches of the military, including veterans.

**If you would like to help our deployed soldiers this Christmas, send prepaid domestic calling cards (60 to 120 minutes) to the following address on or before December 17<sup>th</sup> (5pm deadline):**



**Secretary of State Beth Chapman  
Military Calling Card Program  
Alabama State Capitol  
600 Dexter Avenue, Suite S-105  
Montgomery, AL 36130**



# PEOPLE ON THE MOVE!

## **Kym Thurman joins Greg Peterson as NBC 15 News Evening Co-Ancor and Varion Walton joins Pat Greenwood as NBC 15 News Today Co-Ancor**

**MOBILE, AL – November 28, 2007 – WPMI-TV NBC 15**, a Clear Channel Television station serving the Mobile, AL – Pensacola, FL market, previously announced on October 29, 2007 that Kym Thurman has taken the position as Greg Peterson's co-anchor for the station's local news programs, airing weekdays at 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., all times central.



**WPMI-TV NBC 15** announced today that Varion Walton will fill the morning co-anchor position left open after the promotion of Kym Thurman. Varion will co-anchor NBC 15 News Today with Pat Greenwood.

Kym joined NBC15 in April 2007. With 15 years of experience as a broadcast journalist, Kym comes to Mobile from Huntsville, Alabama, home of the Space and Rocket

Center and the famous Space Camp. Kym was an Anchor and Medical Reporter at WHNT for 11 years. She also worked in Anniston, Alabama.



Kym is a second generation graduate of Oakwood College, in Huntsville, Alabama. Growing up her family traveled a lot; her mom used to refer to her dad as a nomad. But it was those days in the family R.V. that lead Kym into the world of broadcast journalism. She would watch Walter Cronkite and his reports from around the world, and was fascinated by his reports and wanted to be like him!

Kym may be new to the Mobile area, but she's familiar with it. Her husband Kyle is a Mobile native, a graduate of Vigor high school. Now his home, has become hers! Kym has three beautiful, active children, Kyle(Mack), Konnor and Kirklyn.

Varion Walton is no stranger to our area. Mobile is her home. She began her career in Mobile while still a student at the University of South Alabama. Her history includes working at several other television and radio stations in the market. In the early years, Varion worked behind the scenes as dedicated producer, assignment editor and researcher at WBLX-FM, WALA-TV, and WKRK-AM, respectively.

Varion Walton proudly joined WPMI from WAFF-TV in Huntsville, AL where she was the Weekend Anchor. While in Huntsville, she was instrumental in helping to produce and develop "Restaurant Scorecard," one of the most successful franchises in the station's 50-year history. After an extended absence that has taken her all over the world, including Europe, Mobile's native daughter is finally home and ready to enjoy more sunsets on the Bay and quite walks on the beach with her family, nieces and nephews.

## **New DOS for WALA/WBPG**

**Mobile, December 6, 2007-** WALA/WBPG (FOX10/The Gulf Coast CW) welcomes Jerry Hogan as the new Director of Sales. Hogan comes to the LIN Television-owned stations from WNCT TV, the CBS affiliate in Greenville, North Carolina.

“Jerry is a great addition to our management team here at FOX10 and The Gulf Coast CW,” said President/General Manager Matt Pumo. “He has a track record of sales success as well as a tremendous amount of creativity and experience.”

Hogan has also had General Sales Manager responsibilities in Evansville, Indiana and Richmond, Virginia. Hogan began his broadcasting career in the Roanoke-Lynchburg, Virginia market.

“I am excited to be relocating my family to the Gulf Coast; this seems like a wonderful environment to raise a family,” said Mr. Hogan. “I am thrilled about working for a FOX television station again and look forward to working with a great group of people.”

Hogan replaces Mike Kelly as Director of Sales and begins his career with FOX10 and The Gulf Coast CW on December 10, 2007.

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## **Lin takes down the "For Sale" sign**

(from TVBR)

After being hit by a credit crunch as it was trying to find a buyer or merger partner for its TV station group, LIN Television announced that its board of directors has concluded its review of strategic alternatives for the company. So, LIN will remain as it is, a pure-play publicly traded television company. "The LIN TV Board and management team have confidence in our employees, high quality assets and operating plan. The strength of our core business and new digital initiatives position us well for future growth," said CEO Vincent Sadusky.



## **LEGAL CALENDAR DEADLINES**

Jan 10, 2008 Quarterly Issues/Programs List (“Quarterly List”) must be placed in stations’ local public inspection files by this date. It should reflect information for the months of October, November, and December. The FCC’s recent action adopting a new program report form, which is intended to replace the Quarterly Issues/Programs Lists, will not have any effect on this fourth quarter public file requirement.

Jan 10, 2008 Children's Television Programming Report must be filed with the FCC and placed in stations' local Public Inspection Files by this date. It should reflect programming aired during the months of October, November, and December.

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## **ABA Office Closed for the Holidays**

The ABA office will be closed from Monday, December 24 through Tuesday, January 1. We will return on Wednesday, January 2. If you need assistance during this time, please call Sharon Tinsley's mobile phone at 205-901-7992.

## **A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT ALSO BENEFITS THE ABA EDUCATION FOUNDATION!**



Alabama's First Radio Stations, 1920-1960 -- The History of Radio Broadcasting in Alabama -- an ideal Christmas gift at just \$30 each. Author Harry Butler will be happy to sign your copy and 50% of the cost is a tax deductible donation to the ABA Educational Foundation. Contact the ABA office today to order your copy -- 800-211-5189.

## **2008 Radio-Mercury Awards call for entry**

(from RBR)

The 2008 Radio-Mercury Awards Call for Entry officially began accepting online entries last Friday at [RadioMercuryAwards.com](http://RadioMercuryAwards.com). Radio-Mercury Award winning agency, Goodby, Silverstein & Partners, inspired the concept for the design of this year's call for entry and website. Radio's premier creative competition will give away 160,000 in cash prizes, including the coveted 100,000 grand prize, in recognition of excellence in Radio advertising creative. Six general prize winners each will be awarded 5,000; one winner from each of three new categories - Radio Innovations, Entertainment, and Political - will receive 5,000; and one winner each from the Radio-Station Produced, Spanish-Language, and Urban Categories also will be awarded 5,000. The Student Category Award winner's school will receive 2,500, and the PSA Category winner will have 2,500 donated to their charity of choice. The entry deadline is 2/22. Winners will be announced on 5/21 in LA.



## **Troy University's 2008 Spring Career Fair**

**Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2008**

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Trojan Center Ballrooms

Troy University has generously reduced their normal \$100 Career Fair registration fee to just \$25 for all ABA members. Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The \$25 fee covers two representatives from your station(s). You may send additional staffers at \$15 each. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. There will be a twenty-five dollar (\$25) late fee if you register after Monday, **March 7, 2008**. The absolute last day to cancel your registration is Friday, **March 21, 2008**.

Contact either the Troy University Career Services or Sharon Tinsley (stinsley@al-ba.com) at ABA for the registration form. We'll have it posted on the ABA website tomorrow (12/11).

To conduct campus interviews before or after the Career Fair please contact the Career Services office to make arrangements. Or, for any other questions, please contact Career Services at (334) 670-3217.

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## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS IN THE MAIL!**

You may have already received your ABA membership renewal statement in the mail. If not, it's on the way! I was just reading through some of the "thank you" notes we've received from members over the last couple of years. Folks have expressed appreciation for the fall Sales Seminars, the ABA E News, the annual conventions, the career fairs, the ABBYs, the Traffic Seminar, the Political Advertising Seminars, the Alternate Broadcast Inspection Program and the help we offer over the phone and via e-mail every day. Check out some of the nice things people have said at:

<http://al-ba.com/testimonial.html>

When you open that envelope from the ABA this week, we hope you'll decide to renew your membership and send it back ASAP. Remember, the ABA Board voted to keep dues at the SAME level again! There hasn't been an increase in YEARS!



## *On the Road Again*

Friday night, I attended the WTTO/WABM TV Holiday Party here in Birmingham. It was a great event with music and food and fun folks. I finally got to meet the (relatively) new GM, JC Lowe. It's nice to have him here in the "Ham." I also saw some folks I know, including Tim Costley and Eddie Applegate. Thanks for letting me join you.

Saturday evening, I cooked dinner for friends and used some Paula Deen recipes I saw on a show early in the week. In the process of preparing dinner, I ruined the almond bark for the truffles (which I planned to send home with them), the food processor wouldn't work and we had sink and dishwasher plumbing problems. Dinner was far from finished when guests arrived but we managed to have a GREAT evening. Next time, I'm just making spaghetti, though!

I don't have a copy of the winning recipe yet but yesterday's Cookie Swap in Nashville was won by pumpkin cookies with cream cheese icing. I didn't attend for the first time since the swap started and I miss having dozens of great cookies to share with friends and family for the next week. As I mentioned, I tried to make the Oreo Truffles I wrote about last week but the almond bark began to caramelize. I have the cookies and cream cheese blended and sitting in the fridge. If I don't get to the store for more chocolate, I might just be eating that stuff by the spoonfuls!

Tomorrow evening, I'm headed up to Arab to see my Mom. Archie Anderson of WRAB-AM tells me all is well up there and basketball season is underway.

Wednesday morning, I'm meeting with the Executive Director of the Community Action Association of Alabama. They coordinate efforts between 22 agencies which work to reduce poverty by focusing available local, state, private, and federal resources to assist low-income individuals and families. We've asked for their assistance in reaching out to families across the state that will need information and help in regard to the DTV transition. They seem willing to disseminate information and allow us to make presentations in their centers across Alabama.

Thursday, Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel leader Lee Sentell is speaking to the Hoover Chamber of Commerce. The Bureau has been a long time supporter of the NCSA/PEP program. I plan to attend to hear what they have planned for 2008.

Friday, Tina and I will be at the Wynfrey Hotel for the Alabama Council of Association Executives' winter meeting. We get great ideas for our convention and seminars at the ACAE meetings. We're especially happy that this one is practically in our back yard!

Next weekend, some of my best friends are coming in from Nashville and Kentucky to celebrate Christmas and birthdays. We're going to see the Nutcracker Sunday. And, I've bought tickets to see a Christmas feature at the Alabama Theater if we can fit it in!

It will be a busy week around here as the year comes to a close. I hope you're having fun with your holiday plans. In the meantime, call on us here at the ABA office if we can help in any way!

Have a great week!

*Sharon*