



NABET NEWS

NABET Local 53 Newsletter

June 2016

Welcome back to the June edition of the NABET 53 newsletter brothers and sisters!

As usual, it's been a busy month at the local, and we have been understaffed in regards to our newsletter contributions, so my apologies to you for the publishing delay.

Our local President Steve Ross and I have been working hard to represent our members, and to enforce the numerous contracts that we administrate here at Local 53.

Mobilization is still the number one concern for me, and I encourage anyone who has an interest in becoming more active in union, political, or civic activism to please contact me either by phone (818)846-0490 or email (joe.ayala@nabet53.org) for more information on how you can get involved.

Keep reading Brothers and Sisters! I'm sure you'll find something of interest to you in this month's newsletter!

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FOX NE&O NEWS



The Air Conditioning and Building Services Unit, representing members at FOX is gearing up for negotiations. The current contract expires June 30, 2016.

A final draft of the new Collective Bargaining Agreement was received by the Local. It was reviewed by the negotiating committee where some typos were corrected and will be sent the printer shortly .

You may have heard in the media recently that FOX is offering early retirement to all Non-Union employees who have worked for the Company at least fifteen years. They have earmarked 250 million dollars to fund this. When the dust settles, a considerable amount of Non-Union employees will be leaving and the Company's management team will probably look different.

FOX LAS VEGAS HUB

New bargaining dates have been scheduled for August 17th & 18th. Members are encouraged to attend the bargaining session. Please contact a shop steward if you are interested. This one of our strongest groups and they are determined to get a fair contract.

NBC NEWS



Four grievances were recently escalated to arbitration. Since NBCUniversal was purchased by Comcast over five years ago, we have seen a growing number of grievances and reluctance on the part of the Company to resolve them. The only way to get resolution to the grievances is to arbitrate them. Luckily, most of them are settled prior to arbitration at very little cost to the Union. As an example, last week a grievance that had been referred to arbitration, was quickly settled to the Unions satisfaction.

Ongoing negotiations for the four Avid editors in the promo department are scheduled to continue on June 10th.

Written By: Steve Ross



KVEA UPDATES

Last week, we finalized the review process of the ratified contract by having the signature pages signed by the Company and the Union. We received the fully executed signature page from Sector President Charles Braico and the contract is being sent to printer.



KWHY NEWS

As you may recall, last year our members at KWHY were all laid off when the Company decided to cease news operations at the station. Additionally the Company was required to bargain over the effects of this closure. They did not do this and we filed a grievance and Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) with the NLRB. The NLRB deferred the matter to arbitration. An arbitration was held on June 3, 2016 here at the Local. The Company made a cash settlement offer and an agreement that if they go back to producing local programming that all daily hire and staff employees would be offered employment first.

KMEX UPDATES

We have three arbitrations currently ongoing at KMEX. On August 11, 2014, the Company violated the collective bargaining agreement by moving exclusive bargaining unit work in the KMEX commercial traffic department to Vineland, NJ. Then on September 21, 2014, it was violated again when the Company transferred exclusive bargaining unit work in Master Control to non-bargaining unit personnel in Texas. The arbitration involving the Traffic Department has been completed and we are now waiting on a decision from the arbitrator. The third arbitration involves the PDE (Producer, Director, and Editor) upgrade. We just received good news that the arbitrator has ruled in the Union's favor on the first part. We are hopeful that we will be successful on the second part. Negotiations have begun. The current collective bargaining agreement was set to expire on March 31, 2016, but was extended by mutual agreement.



KTTV/ KCOP
NEWS

KTTV/KCOP NEWS

I am delighted to report that NABET-CWA Local 53 and Cheryl Bacon have reached an amicable non-National Relations Board (NLRB) settlement with KTTV that has resolved all disputes concerning Bacon's discharge from employment by KTTV on August 12, 2015. The terms of the settlement are confidential. In return for certain confidential considerations, the Union has withdrawn the grievance and NLRB Charge.



The KTTV News Negotiating Committee and the Company are in the process of finalizing a tentative agreement on a new three year contract. Membership meetings and a ratification vote could be scheduled soon. Details of the agreement will be made when the deal is finalized. The current contract expired in January 2012.

The new KTTV Engineering Negotiating Committee has met a few times at the Local and is scheduled to meet again on June 28th & 29th.



Tom Wheeler FCC Chairman NAB 2016

(April 20, 2016) Mr. Wheeler, Chairman of the FCC has served in an extremely busy era mainly due to the much discussed spectrum auction. In a meeting with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of BROADCASTERS at NAB 2016, Mr. Wheeler quoted Pope Francis "common good" as what helps guide him with the monumental task of heading the FCC. Next on the agenda for Mr. Wheeler is the first round of the spectrum auction. In May the auction's goal will be to set the dollar mark of what the spectrum might be worth. Mr. Wheeler said he did not know what the sale price for the spectrum could be but added "if the bid is not enough we will re-do the auction over until a fair market price is reached". Currently the law does not allow publication of the list of broadcasters that have signed up for the spectrum auction but Mr. Wheeler added words of support for those broadcasters who choose to continue to operate that they should be able to transition smoothly with the repacking of the channels. Mr. Wheeler added that whether more money may be needed to fully complete the post-auction 39 month repacking deadline depended on the revenue gained through the auction. Mr. Wheeler said that the one place the Internet has not succeed Broadcasters in Ultra-Local coverage of news.



NAB 2016

A Must-Attend Event



Lights!

Camera!

By Louis Gabriele
Action!



NAB announced over 103,000 patrons were registered and attended. 1874 Exhibitors were featured. NAB proves to be the place to be seen, to launch innovative products from creative companies and distributors. Year after year it never fails. This year event organizers found that these beefed up measures were important to ensure that NAB Show exhibitors and attendees could conduct business in a safe and secure environment which included above and beyond standard security procedures which also included multiple badge check points, search dogs, random bag searches, and perimeter security posts.



Security did not stop the crowds from covering 1,063,380 net square-feet of exhibits.



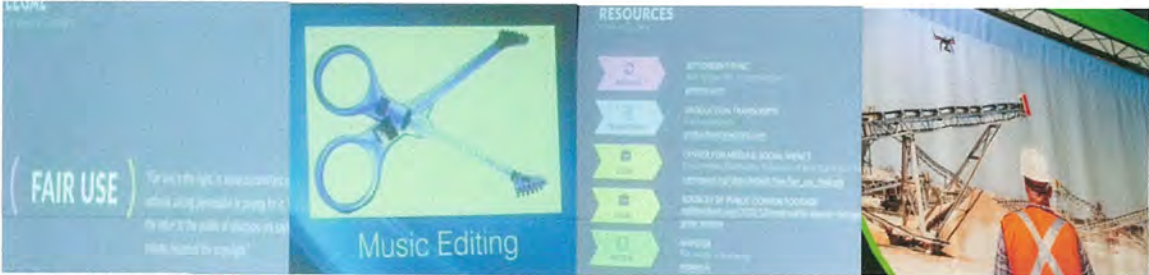
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NAB 2016 On Day Three:

featured an interview with FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler:

Wheeler discussed issues facing the FCC and the broadcasting industry, including the broadcast spectrum incentive auction, retransmission consent rules, AM & FM radio revitalization and the future of video delivery. Wheeler told the NAB Show attendees that he's a big fan of radio. Former NAB TV Board Chairman, **Marci Burdick** asked him about the state of AM/FM in these changing technological times, "The question is whether those managing technology will change with it." The FCC has worked quickly to process FM applications. Wheeler said, "Since we opened the window, we have processed over 500 'new stations.'" That smile telegraphs some positive thoughts.

If Television does not have any future, why all the fuss over ATSC 3.0, that is, the Advanced Television Systems Committee 3.0? "The technology for ATSC 3.0 is in place, said FCC chairman Tom Wheeler. Now the question is how it will impact the marketplace." according to Streaming Media's Troy Dreier. Wheeler said, "Hooray for the new technology." ATSC 3.0 standard will bring 4K resolution to over-the-air broadcasts. It's expected to go public within the decade. "Broadcasting knits us together."

On another subject that is on Wheeler's mind: Charter made a \$56.7 billion bid to buy Time Warner Cable in May of 2015. Charter also struck a related deal to buy Bright House Networks, a smaller cable company, for \$10.4 billion.

If and when Charter's acquisitions of TWC and Bright House are approved, Charter would become the nation's second largest Internet service provider after Comcast, with the two companies controlling the majority of high-speed Internet subscriptions.

Investors Business Daily's Ed Carson reported on April 25th that the Justice Department approved the Charter Communications (CHTR) takeover of Time Warner Cable (TWC) and Bright House Networks after the cable giants agreed to concessions that should benefit NETFLIX (NFLX) and other streaming media. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler also backed the deal. The FCC will likely approve the combination soon. After that, California regulators would pose the final hurdle for the merger.

The Deed is done: May 18, 2016, a merger transaction of Charter, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House Networks was completed. *Bye! Bye! Time Warner, Hello Spectrum!*

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What's Next?



By Louis Gabriele