



Chapter 42

Orlando, Florida

The Society of Broadcast Engineers

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chairman - Steve Fluker / Cox Media
Vice Chairman - Mike Flynn / WTGL-TV
Secretary / Newsletter - Bruce Doerle / WUCF-FM
Treasurer - Randy Woods / WPOZ

Meetings

The SBE Chapter 42 meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of the month at the WPOZ Conference Center. Food and refreshments are available beginning at 6:00 p.m. The main meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Check your email or the website for program details.

CHAPTER 42 Meeting Minutes - February 5th, 2013

Chairman Fluker called the February meeting to order on Tuesday February 5th about 11AM at the WKMG studios. The meeting was a special meeting to discuss Area 7 EAS issues. Thanks was given to Frank Torbert for arranging use of the WKMG studios and thanks was expressed for all the effort made by Mike Spryenski on developing a cohesive EAS plan.

Newsletter - January newsletter approved

Treasurer Report - the treasurer provided the following:

Beginning Balance:	\$5395.06
Disbursements:	\$114.27
Income:	\$250.00
Ending Balance:	\$5530.79

Certification - no report

Membership - Sustaining member invoices sent out

Frequency Report - Reported on several proposals for several local events

EAS - Main meeting discussion.

Old Business - none

New Business - Elections coming up and the Chairman position is open.

FEBRUARY EAS MEETING

Mike Spry led the EAS portion of the meeting. Mike announced what had happened that led up to the meeting with Pat Roberts, chairman of the SECC (State Emergency Communications Committee) pulling the plug on the Area 7 EAS Local Plan. The issues cited were complaints from broadcasters and the FCC, however he has not been able to confirm any of these. Issues cited:

- The way EAS is done, having WPOZ receive messages from NOAA, then retransmit them with a live voice. It was thought that this was not acceptable, however after conversations with local NOAA and National NOAA in DC, it was determined that this is acceptable, and under the circumstances in Area 7 with no one NOAA weather channel covering the entire Area 7, that this was a very good method to relay weather messages.
- Polk and Marion Counties should not be included in Area 7.
 - ▶ This was discussed and explained. Brighthouse Cable has troubles receiving the Tampa LP 1 and 2 as their cable systems are fed from Orlando. Most of Polk County airs the Orlando Television stations. As a result, the public was missing critical weather messages on non-local cable channels. They had requested a waiver from the SECC so that they could monitor Area 7 stations. The state granted this request and asked Area 7 to include Polk county.
 - ▶ Currently the LECC (Local Emergency Communications Committee) is working on getting Brighthouse the ability to receive Area 8 (Tampa) EAS messages and ultimately we will drop Polk County, but not until all issues are resolved so that the public is not in danger.
 - ▶ We will do the same for Marion County, however more discussions are necessary for that still.

The new plan is now posted on the state website:

http://www.fab.org/Docs/2013EAS/OperationalArea7_2.4.pdf

LP1 - WPOZ 88.3 / WMYZ 88.7 / WHYZ 91.1 / WDOZ 91.7
 LP2 - WFLF 540 AM / WWKA 92.3 FM
 PEP - WFLF 540 AM

Q&A followed. Mainly concerns were raised that Polk County residents be protected at all times and that no changes be made until solutions were found.

Brighthouse said that they are installing fiber links to receive the EAS messages. A concern was brought up about this because in emergencies and storms, digital and circuits are the first to go down.

The meeting notes are credited to Steve Fluker.

Sustaining Members

SBE Chapter 42 would like to thank all of our Sustaining Members for their continued support!

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