

April Newsletter

Broadcast  PIONEERS

April 2002

Issue 8

April Meeting

Bala Golf Club
April 17, 2002

Reception 12:00 noon
Lunch 12:30 pm
Ratecard \$18 Members / \$20 Non-members
Phone 610-436-4217

It's what we're all about! April is the month this year for the distribution of our scholarships. Three young people from area colleges will be selected to receive \$2,000 each to help pay for tuition at school leading to a degree in communications. This is where the money goes from our fund raisers during the year. Annually at this luncheon outstanding young people, their parents and their mentors from school, join us to accept their awards.

Neil Harvey, Ph.D., John Roberts, and **Bill Seibel** from the Scholarship Committee have done an outstanding job again. Mark your calendar for the third Wednesday, April 17 at Bala Golf Club, and enjoy the scholarship, and the fellowship with your fellow broadcasters.

In addition to the awards, we will be entertained by a Barber-shop Quartet from the Orpheus Club.



We have to have a count of how many will be there for set-up so PLEASE call for reservations 610-436-4217. It's necessary that you call...Please do it at least 48 hours in advance so we may notify Bala.

Happenings

Sally Starr, who says she'll be 80 next January, looks wonderful. So do **Capt. Noah and Pat (Carter and Pat Merbreier)**, but they didn't say how old they'll be, and so do **Joe Earley (Mr. Rivets)** and **Bill Webber**. It was a great program and a lot of fun for those present. **Kathy Taras**, Joe's wife, joined her husband for the lunch and the former commercial spokesperson looked as though she could still sell a TV product or two.

At the board meeting before the lunch, it was announced that our membership is the biggest it has ever been, well over 200 members, thanks to the ongoing

efforts of membership chairperson **Dorie Lenz**, and President **Ed Papazian**. Ed says it really started under **Shelly Gross**, and then in his presidential years **Pat Delsi** continued the search for new members. This year we celebrate forty years of Broadcast Pioneers in Philadelphia. Congratulations to all who have worked so hard.

And congratulations to **Ed and Cissie Hurst**. Their granddaughter **Kathryn Leigh Kyle** of Absegami High School attended the first Presidential Law and Justice in a Democracy program in Washington in March. Kate, incidentally, was the only student in Atlantic

County chosen to attend. A presidential scholar Kate attended briefings by each branch of government. Meantime, **Ed and Cissie** will leave on a 12-day cruise of the Caribbean on the QE II with 106 WPEN listeners and when they return in May they take off for Branson, Missouri.

The nominating committee has done its duty and the nominations are: **Ed Papazian**, for President, **Bill Webber**, **Marie Pantarelli** and **Dorie Lenz**, Vice Presidents, and **Frank Hogan** and **George Finkel** added to the Board. A complete list will be read at the meeting.

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"I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence or insanity to anyone, but they've always worked for me."

Hunter S. Thompson

Don't forget to send items for the newsletter to Paul Norton at 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE. 19958 Call 302-645-8910, or e-mail Paul at nanort@aol.com. We need your help to do the letter.

New Members / Happenings

And how about those new members!! There are some very familiar names among them. One, **Pat Ciarrocchi**, news anchor at KYW-TV is in our Hall of Fame, has joined us, as has **Vince Leonard**, long time KYW anchor who retired from there in 1980 and moved to Phoenix where he worked at KPNX-TV. He retired from there in 1990 and now is living in Las Vegas. **Glenn 'Hurricane' Schwartz**, Meteorologist, and weatherman at WCAU-TV, is among those in our new membership. **Michael Nise**, President/Executive Producer/Director of Omni 2000, Inc. we hope

More Happenings

Al Meltzer says he's on the broadcasting Senior Tour. He keeps busy doing shows on Comcast Sports (All Sports, All the Time), and is seen 4:30 to 5:00 pm with an interview show, and once a month does a sports classic game from history. He sometimes does the post game show for the Phillies. He says he knows all the technicians at Comcast, and every now and then reflects on the fact that he is "Older than all of them." Al says his daughter is now a sophomore at Colgate. (Not bad for an old guy.) The former 'CAU stalwart hopes to join us for lunch soon.

Please make it a point to check our website...www.broadcastpioneers.com... **Gerry Wilkinson** has put together a wonderful

And More

Former Pioneer's Treasurer **Fred Bell**, now retired from WPVI-TV, fell two steps off a ladder to the ground and fractured his skull. Unconscious at first, he was in a coma for 2 or 3 weeks. We understand he has not the power to speak (having had a tracheotomy) and has been transferred from Cooper Hospital in Camden to a long term care facility. Fred was treasurer of the Pioneers in 1988-89. Please send cards to Fred at 30 Red Leaf Rd., Moorestown, NJ 08057. Fred is gravely ill.

New member **Bob Perkins** has been in-

will soon be able to attend some of our meetings. Long time Philadelphia broadcaster **Bob Perkins**, newsman-editorialist-DJ-and talk show host at various stations is among our new members. **Larry Mendte**, WCAU-TV anchor, is now a member. He began his career in 1980 with WFIL Radio. Also a member is **Dick Covington**, one of the great Philadelphia voices who was for many years with KYW, and is now a Pioneer. **Ron Michael** is President of WRDV-FM in Warminster where he also serves as board member and disc jockey. **John Ryan** was director of PR for IVB, and con-

spot there to browse the old Philly scene. Old Radio shows; i.e., did you know that the original Philadelphia Kid's host was Christopher Graham as Uncle WIP in 1922? WIP started broadcasting March 18, 1922. It's fun and interesting. There is also there a long letter from **Jarrett Spotswood Lickle** who started broadcasting kids shows on CAU in 1953. Gerry is interested in getting old items for inclusion in the website. If you have old photos, news clippings, TV Guides, etc. contact Gerry at pioneers@broadcastpioneers.com. Old video, or audio tapes appreciated.

Dick Carr, formerly of WIP, recently vis-

formed that he has been chosen as this year's Mellon Jazz Festival Honoree. He joins a list of previous distinguished Philadelphia Jazz musicians who have been honoree's. Bob has hosted jazz programs for 30 years in Philadelphia, and while doing that he has also worked as a newsman and editorial writer for WDAS and the Philadelphia "New Observer" newspaper. For the last 5 years he has hosted jazz programs for Philadelphia's WRTI. A South Philly native he has been in radio for 37 years, including 6 in Detroit where he began his radio career.

sultant for the 76er's in a long career. Congratulations to all of our new members. We're delighted to have you aboard.

Bob Backman, former VP/GM of PAX TV in Philly, and member from 1995 to 2001 wants his friends to know he is now Local Sales Manager for PAX TV in Memphis, TN. Also Bob's weekly 3-hour syndicated radio show "Cool Bobby B's Doo Wop Shop" is now on the air in 30 major markets plus it is heard 3 times a week on XM Satellite Radio 50's Channel. Reach Bob at 901-729-3277.

ited the website and sends thanks for the many WIP artifacts he found. Dick was a disc jockey there, 60-63, then program director, and later GM til 1970. He then spent time at WNEW and ABC New York. He is now in Syracuse doing a jazz disc jockey show on WAER, the Syracuse University station, and selling outdoor advertising in the area.

Condolences to the family of **Dorothy L Crumbaker**, Pioneers member, who died Saturday, February 23, 2002. There were no other details on this. Thanks to Secretary-Treasurer **Shirley Morris** for passing on the information.

John Roberts noted an item that said former WFIL disc jockey, Pioneer's Person of the Year, and good guy, **Dick Clark** has sold his business, though he still remains on the board, and continues to be featured on all of the shows he is doing. They'll not be doing benefits for the original ABC American Bandstand host as the selling price for his conglomerate was many millions of dollars.

"When an eel bites your leg,
And the pain makes you beg,
That's a moray."

Chris Esposito