

The Broadcast PIONEER

Official Publication of the Philadelphia Chapter of Broadcast Pioneers

P.O. Box 21534
Philadelphia, PA 19131

September 1988

The first meeting of the year 1988 - 1989 will be held at the Bala Golf Club on Thursday, September 29th, 1988. The luncheon will begin at 12:30 P.M. with cocktails beginning at noon. Please R.S.V.P. to Kathy Rihl at WPVI-TV. Her number is (215) 878-9700, ext. 541.

DUES ARE DUE NOW!!!! If you haven't already done so and you're not a Life Member, please send in your dues for this year. You have all received a notice to that effect. If you have misplaced the notice simply send in your check \$25.00 for regular members and \$10.00 if you are currently retired to our post office box. Remember to include your name and address. This year, the directory will be printed a lot earlier in our membership year and if you want to be included we must have your dues as soon as possible.

President Herb Clarke presided over a small group planning for the 1988-1989 activities of the Philadelphia Chapter of Broadcast Pioneers. Attending were Art Moore, Wyatt Higginbotham, Alan Maslin, Dori Lenz, Gene McCurdy, George Pleasants, Harold Pannepacker, Marguerite Farley, Gordon Gray and Paul Norton. The first meeting will key the whole year and we hope to have as many as possible attend. WE NEED YOU at this meeting to talk about the focus of the organization for the year and to discuss programs, membership and special events. Information on the Annenberg-Pioneers Scholarship will be available as will information about the Pioneers Hall of Fame at the Atwater Kent Museum. Please come out for the meeting to greet new President Herb Clarke and the other officers for the year.

Vice President Dori Lenz has accepted appointment as the Chair of the Program Committee. Gordon Gray, Gene McCurdy, Marguerite Farley and Art Moore are also on the committee, but they want suggestions from anyone in the club. So please help and make program suggestions.

A Membership Committee will be created and if you would like to serve we would be happy to have you. Please don't wait to be drafted (although you may be).

For your calendar...Please hold the following dates for future Broadcast Pioneer meetings:

October 26 at 12:00 noon
November 30 at 12:00 noon
January 11 at 5 P.M. (our holiday party)
February 15 at 12:00 noon
March 15 at 12:00 noon
May 17 at 12:00 noon

As usual our April meeting will be the Person of the Year Award dinner. All of the above meetings will be held at Williamson's in the GSB building on City Line Ave.

The program for our October 26th meeting is set. Action News Senior Correspondent Marc Howard will speak on the elections. Luncheon will be at Williamson's in the GSB building on City Line Ave. So make plans now to join us.

Bring a prospective new member to lunch. We're making efforts to have a Pioneer who is on staff at each station to encourage participation. The more the merrier, of course, and we all benefit from the increased fellowship and help with the scholarship, Hall of Fame, Person of the Year, and other Pioneer activities. Should you know a perspective member, we have included a membership application on the back of this newsletter.

Consideration is being given to holding an evening out for the Broadcast Pioneers like the Lily Langtree evening of several years ago. It was very popular, but getting people to work to arrange this evening event has been difficult. Should you be willing to give a few hours of time to help make it work let Dorie Lenz or Herb Clarke know.

Penny has once again graciously agreed to arrange and run the Pioneers Holiday Party. It has long been one of the highlights of the year. He also notes that he is scheduled for surgery to remove an aneurysm. Get well quick, Penny.

Enclosed is a pamphlet on drugs from Blue Cross which was provided to us by Dick Mendenhall. Should you want more or wish further information contact Dick or Jack Hyland.

One of the founders of the Philadelphia Chapter of Broadcast Pioneers died in July at Saunders House in Lower Merion. Sara M. Burns was 78 and for twenty years was Secretary of our club. Members will remember her as a very out-going person, very literate, a voracious reader, and very interested in art and history. Petite and well coiffed, with an eye for sophisticated dress, Ms. Burns worked for 15 year at CBS Radio in New York. Bob Dome and Edna Whittington represented the club at her funeral. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Continuing our sad news for the moment, we've had a note from Patricia Curcillo, who is the daughter of Charles Sheridan a/k/a Sherry O'Brien. She advises that her dad had a stroke on February 5th from which he never fully recovered. He is presently a resident at the Hopkins House Convalescent Home. You may contact him through:

Patricia Sheridan Curcillo
12 Moredon Place
Philadelphia, PA 19115

Patricia included a September 28, 1944 clipping from the "Sporting News" headlined "Sherry O'Brien Starts Something". It details his activities as the new announcer at Shibe Park, home of the Phillies and Athletics, making the game more understandable to the fans at the stadium over the public address system.

Past President George Pleasants had a big get together at WBUX earlier in September celebrating his station's 40th anniversary. Among the luminaries in attendance were author James Michener and commentator Don Meredith. Congratulations are in order.

Edna Whittington advises that she is a member of a seniors group called Springhouse and they had Jack and Florence Steck do a delightful "slides and chat" for their July 4th meeting. She also had a note from Marty Oebbecke, who is retired from Radio Free Europe, and long ago worked at WIP. At the time of the note he was in Korea to visit his son, Lt. Col. Joe Oebbecke, and to also visit the Olympic games sites.

Edna also passed along a note from one of our scholarship recipients, Irene Hiemer. She says that she made straight A's last year (again!). Also that she co-produced a video for international students orientation and co-produced R-T-F Day - a day of activities and information about the Radio, TV and Film industries. She says the scholarship has been a great help in a challenging year.

Grace Kenny has dropped about 10 strokes off her golf handicap since her retirement from WPVI. Her busy retirement includes a lot of golf, volunteer work and a part time job. She and Al will be in Florida for the first three months of '89. Grace also reports that Frank Mack and Walt Beaulieu, also recently retired from WPVI, have had illnesses.

Our congratulations to Gene McCurdy. He is now a consultant to WHY-FM.

If you have any news about our members or any news that our members might like to know about, please send your item to Paul Norton at WPVI-TV, 4100 City Line Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19131 or you can call Paul at (215) 878-9700.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN

Broadcast PIONEERS

A Society of Broadcast Professionals
Contributing to the past, present and future of broadcasting

PHILADELPHIA CH¹ JR
P.O. Box 21334
Philadelphia, PA 19131

Having served in, or been associated with the radio, television and/or cable industry for twenty years or more, I hereby apply for membership in the BROADCAST PIONEERS.

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ADDRESS (business): _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: (_____) _____ - _____

ADDRESS (home): _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: (_____) _____ - _____

Please indicate which of the above is your mailing address:

Business () Home ()

DATE STARTED IN BROADCASTING: _____

My check for () \$35.00 annual dues, or () \$250.00 Life Membership, made out to BROADCAST PIONEERS, is enclosed.

Date of Application: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

Proposed by _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____, 19____ by the Executive Committee

Optional: Type or print chronological broadcast autobiography; use additional sheet if necessary.

