

February Newsletter



February 2006

Issue 6

February Meeting
Holiday Inn
February 15, 2006
Reservations 856-365-5600 or rsvp@broadcastpioneers.com

Reception 11:45 a.m.
Lunch 12:15 p.m.
Ratecard \$25.00

There's something about the depth of winter...February...that makes you need to get away. Do that this month by joining your Pioneer friends for lunch on Wednesday, February 15, at the Holiday Inn on City Line Avenue, near the expressway, 4100 Presidential Boulevard. There is no parking fee. Again, we feature an outstanding speaker, one of the market's most outstanding investigative reporters, **Walt Hunter** of CBS 3. Walt was named best TV Reporter by Philadelphia Magazine in 2004 in its "Best

of Philly" issue. He has won more than 20 awards including 8 Philadelphia Emmy Awards. He's covered the MOVE shoot-out, major safety hazards at JFK Stadium, and more than 40 reports on the cities' child welfare system.

We will meet and greet at 11:45 am, sit for lunch at 12:15, and the rate card is the usual \$25. It is on the 15th of February, and we must have your reservation which you can accomplish by calling 856-365-5600, or email rsvp@broadcastpioneers.com



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Happenings

Glenn Macnow, Ray Didinger's WIP talk show co-host, was our speaker for the luncheon in January as a quick substitute for Ray. Unfortunately, Ray's father became ill and he caught a flight to Florida at the last minute. He was a great choice for substitute and the members enjoyed his efforts immensely. We will schedule Ray as soon as we can, and we'll all hope that Ray's dad is feeling fine soon.

Please note: Next month **Bill Webber** has arranged for **Larry Kane** to join us again. He'll tell us about his new

book. Stay tuned for that one.

There was an interesting board meeting right before the scheduled luncheon. You'll find in the envelope with this newsletter a reprise written by President **Frank Hogan**, of the findings of **Larry Litwin's** survey of members concerning the state of Broadcast Pioneers.

Gerry Wilkinson would like members to lend him photos, audio and video tapes for possible use on the BP website. Go to www.broadcastpioneers.com and get a look at what we al-

ready have, and if you could add something Gerry would love to get it.

There will be a major effort to get station managers to boost the image of present broadcasting and its heritage in Philadelphia. Their involvement should encourage others on their staffs to come in also.

Treasurer Pat Delsi reports that the Hall of Fame dinner was a financial success. The Pioneer's netted \$6,666, and, in part, because of that we will be able to expand our scholarship awards to 5 \$1,500 grants.

"In America the President reigns for four years, and journalism governs for ever and ever."
Oscar Wilde



Happy Valentine's Day

More Happenings

Welcome new member **David Yadgaroff** who is VP and GM of KYW Newsradio and The Big Talker 1210 AM WPHT. David has been in broadcasting since 1989 and is active in many civic organizations including the National Organization for Celiac Awareness, and Police Athletic League and is guest lecturer at area colleges.

Our thanks to **Les Waas** for his Certificate of Appreciation (suitable for framing). He commends **Paul Norton** and **Gloria Dreon** for their efforts in writing what Les calls the "Mother of all Newsletters" for the

And More

Member Brother Gerry Molyneaux regrets that he was unable to attend the luncheon in January because of his schedule teaching classes. One of his former students, **Bob Lyons**, co-authored the "Eagles Encyclopedia" with Ray, and Br. Gerry says he recently tried to buy a copy at Barnes & Noble and it was unavailable.

LaSalle's communications department has had 12 of its students recruited by NBC TV to intern at the Winter Olympic Games at Turin. Two of those selected were also selected for Pioneers Scholarships.

And.....

Dave Klahr wrote to assure us that his wife's name is not Dolores, but is Joyce. Dave says he works for Disney Cruise Lines and if any Pioneer is going out on one let him know and he will personally escort them on the vessel and make sure everything is o.k.

A call from **Bill Wright, Sr.**, recent inductee to the Hall of Fame and former stalwart at WIBG, finds him in the University of Alabama Hospital following successful surgery for 4 vertebrae that were injured

Pioneers of Philadelphia. He says we are the oldest of such organizations (in terms of age of its constituency).

Marilyn Phister continues her labors (?) at Channel 6 on special projects. As the station partners with the Philadelphia Zoo, Marilyn was detailed to go to Kenya with a reporter and crew to check radio-collared Lions in the shadow of snow-topped Mt. Kenya, then tracking Jaguars in the rain forests of Belize. She vacationed in Belize, Barcelona, San Francisco and Niagara on the Lake, Ontario. Meantime, she is fixing up her home. One of these days, Marilyn's

Some of the old timers will remember a colorful guy named **Gene Vassall** who was in sales at WFIL and used to bring 'Boss Chicks', on a flat bed truck, to area shopping malls promoting clients and the 'Boss Jocks' who were on the station in the late 60's and 70's. Gene later had his own advertising agency and vanished in an alleged scam involving an Atlantic City Casino. When he disappeared and in spite of rumors that he was wearing cement overshoes, he has recently turned up. 3rd Circuit Court Judge Thomas A O'Neill dismissed all federal charges against him in 2001. Later, his lawyers got for Gene an

when he and 3 others were struck by a trash truck, of all things. He is now learning to walk, and had just completed his daily amble when we talked to him. Bill has moved from The Villages at Lady Lake to Leesburg, FL and is looking for a rich widow. Last fall he met **Ken Boone**, descendant of **Daniel**, who is a TV producer in Ocala, FL. Bill auditioned successfully for a new show that Boone is producing: It will be about hunting, sponsored by the National Archery Association. Bill, 77, will be narrator for the taping in late February for the show which will be aired on Cox TV.

got to write a book.

Congratulations to **Herb Clarke** who always gives super representation as a pioneer at civic events. Perhaps you saw him during the Ben Franklin Celebration around Independence Mall spots.

President Frank Hogan has sent out word to area colleges of the annual selection of 5 scholarships of \$1,500 that will be presented by the Broadcast Pioneers. Applications may be downloaded from our website www.broadcastpioneers.com

undisclosed amount from the Federal Government for his being er ahh inconvenienced for 20 months. In spite of his 'colorful' life, Gene, a WWII South Pacific Marine Veteran, still looks good at 81.

"It must be admitted that we English have sex on the brain, which is very unfortunate place to have it."

Malcolm Muggerige



HELP! With the newsletter!

Send items to **Paul Norton**,
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