2011 Golden Mike Recipient

Alan Frank
The Taishoff Family Foundation was established by the late Lawrence B. Taishoff and his son Rob in honor of their legendary father and grandfather Sol Taishoff, the founder and editor-in-chief of Broadcasting magazine.

As journalists and publishers, Sol and Larry Taishoff played a seminal role in the development of the radio and television industry in America. As champions of a free and unfettered broadcasting profession, Broadcasting magazine was created as the instrument and manifestation of their devotion to resemble a “sentinel on the Potomac” to warn against government intrusion into the creative processes and activities of radio and television broadcasters.

The Taishoffs devoted their entire lives to extending the values and protections of the First Amendment to “The Fifth Estate” which was the designation bestowed upon the broadcasting fraternity by Sol Taishoff so many years ago.

The vision and foresight of both Taishoffs often caused them to be allied on many of the great issues of the day with the work and example of one of our own founding chairman Ward L. Quaal. In 2009, the Taishoff family was honored with a Ward L. Quaal Pioneer Award.

In addition to their commitment to journalistic causes and a free press, the Taishoff Family Foundation is also active in improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. The Foundation has developed resources to help educate society about the special skills and talents of people with Down syndrome, autism and traumatic brain injury, to name a few. Toward this goal, the Taishoff Family Foundation has established the Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education at Syracuse University.

The Taishoffs also provided critical initial funding for the Library of American Broadcasting, now located at the University of Maryland. Sol Taishoff himself was one of the founders of the Broadcast Pioneers organization which, as you know, has now become the national charitable endeavor known as the Broadcasters Foundation of America which you and so many of our colleagues support.

Today, the Taishoff Family Foundation is administered by the third generation of family members who support, among their many worthwhile endeavors, the National Press Foundation which annually presents the Sol Taishoff Award for Excellence in Electronic Journalism.

Retired Captain Robert Taishoff USN, is the chairman of the Taishoff Family Foundation.

The Broadcasters Foundation of America extends its deep gratitude to the Taishoff family for carrying on the legacy of their illustrious forebears by underwriting On The Air magazine, which is distributed widely throughout the broadcast industry.
The mission of the Broadcasters Foundation of America is to improve the quality of life and maintain the personal dignity of men and women in the radio and television broadcast profession who find themselves in acute need. The foundation reaches out across the country to identify and provide an anonymous safety net in cases of critical illness, advanced age, death of a spouse, accident and other serious misfortune. The Broadcasters Foundation of America is a 501(c)3 Public Charity.
chairman’s message

Last December, we said goodbye to a dear friend, an admired colleague, and a generous humanitarian when Stu Olds passed away from Myelodysplastic syndrome, a type of leukemia. As vice chairman of our Foundation, Stu worked tirelessly to raise awareness and funds on behalf of our charitable mission.

Upon his untimely death, his wife and family continued Stu’s steadfast dedication to our cause. With their help we launched the Stu Olds Memorial Fund which has generated close to half a million dollars to help broadcasters in need. The initiative was inaugurated with a $250,000 contribution in his name from Clear Channel Communications, the parent company of Katz Media where Stu worked for thirty-three years, the last ten as its Chief Executive Officer. So many of us were honored to know and work with Stu and we are all sadder without him. You can read more about Stu Olds in the Statesmen section of this edition of On the Air, and please consider making a donation to the Stu Olds Memorial Fund.

Respectfully,

Philip J. Lombardo
Chairman

president’s message

As we moved into 2011, we celebrated the accomplishments of broadcaster Alan Frank, President and Chief Executive Officer, Post-Newsweek Stations and the recipient the 2011 Golden Mike Award. Three-hundred broadcasting executives gathered at the Plaza Hotel in New York City on February 28 to honor Alan, raising $300,000 to help the mission of the Broadcasters Foundation.

Deborah Norville, host of Inside Edition and a member of our Board of Directors, hosted the fundraiser, delivering glamour and sophistication and reminding us about our responsibility to give back. The Award presenters were Roger Ailes, Brian Williams, David Barrett, and Don Graham.

We held the annual Philip J. Lombardo Charity Golf Tournament during the recent National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Show in Las Vegas. The fundraiser took place Sunday, April 10, at the Bali Hai Golf Club.

The annual Broadcasters Foundation Breakfast also was held in conjunction with the NAB Show. This year, the Breakfast took place on Wednesday, April 14th at the Wynn where the Ward L. Quaal Pioneer Awards were presented to John Dille, Dick Ferguson, Andrew Fisher, Erwin Krasnow, Robert Sillerman, and Dennis Swanson, and the Lowry Mays Excellence in Broadcasting Award was given posthumously to Stu Olds, the former head of Katz Media who passed away this past December. We’ll have more details and photographs from both NAB events in our next issue of On the Air.

This year, the Foundation is on track to grant more than $600,000 in aid to broadcasters in desperate need. That’s a 20 percent increase over last year and the requests continue to come in. Our goal is to provide assistance to as many eligible broadcasters as possible. With your support, we can accomplish that.

Thank you,

President
Broadcasters Foundation of America
Your Help Literally Saves Lives

Indomitable Spirit
Following a gratifying career in the Carolinas for forty years, this television broadcast engineer was ready to enjoy his retirement. He got a part-time job in a local supermarket and was doing okay.

But he developed spinal stenosis and was unable to work. He sold his home and bought a smaller, one-story house that was simpler to maintain and made it easier to get around.

Progressing age brought more debilitating health. He was diagnosed with stage-four chronic kidney disease. Still, he remained active and positive. Even though he was in his late 70s, he went to the senior center with his girlfriend every weekend.

As his condition worsened, the medical bills and special-care costs piled up. The Broadcasters Foundation of America began providing a monthly grant to help with the expenses.

He is now in his 80s, and his 77-year-old girlfriend, who is fighting lung cancer, visits him every day to help with the household chores. Their indomitable spirit carries on.

He recently told us:
“As you know by now, I could not make it...or still be alive...without your help. God bless you all.”

This message made possible by the McCormick Foundation Journalism Program.
For more information and to reserve your spot, please visit www.broadcastersfoundation.org or contact the Broadcasters Foundation of America at 212-373-8250 or info@thebfoa.org. The Broadcasters Foundation of America is a 501(c)3 Public Charity.
Let’s Demonstrate the Unity of Our Community

The Guardian Fund Ensures Support for Years to Come

Most of us save for a rainy day, but for many broadcasters that rainy day may include enormous unexpected costs. Catastrophic events, such as a stroke, a sports or auto related accident, or an insidious disease can rapidly eat up those savings we put aside. Hurricanes, tornados, natural and man-made disasters can sweep away homes and entire lives—and these tragedies are often compounded by preventing efforts to continue working.

We broadcasters cannot afford to forget that the news reports of natural disasters that we see on television and hear on the radio are prepared and performed by people like us. And often their homes disappear while they are performing their duties on the air.

As I reflect on my 40 year career, I know how hard we radio and television people work for our communities. And the Broadcaster’s Foundation of America works just as hard for our community, helping to close the financial gap for many of us whose careers have ended in catastrophe through no fault of our own. Monthly stipends paid by the Broadcaster’s Foundation of America are desperately needed to pay for healthcare coverage, rent, mortgages, food and medicine.

These basic necessitates are frequently out of reach when disaster strikes.

Please consider contributing to the Guardian Fund of the Broadcaster’s Foundation of America today—we need support from everyone in our community to help our colleagues in their time of need. Our industry community will be stronger for it. Tell a friend, start a drive at your station or develop your own creative ways to provide annual contributions.

Let’s demonstrate the unity in our community through service to our own because if not you then who? Thank you.

Skip Finley
Broadcasters Honor 2011 Golden Mike Recipient

Alan Frank

$300,000 Raised to Help Broadcasters in Need
Some of the most prominent names in media joined the Broadcasters Foundation of America to pay tribute to Alan Frank, President and Chief Executive Officer of Post-Newsweek Stations and recipient of this year’s Golden Mike Award.

The gala was held at the Plaza Hotel on Monday, February 28 and raised $300,000 to help broadcasters in need. Deborah Norville, host of Inside Edition and a member of the Foundation’s Board of Directors, hosted the evening’s festivities.

Presenters of the 2011 Award were: Roger Ailes, Fox News; David Barrett, Hearst Television, who regaled the crowd with a spectacular red-sequined jacket that will remain permanently stamped in the memories of attendees; Brian Williams, NBC News, who ducked out of another black-tie event in New York that same evening so that he could join the Foundation and pay tribute to Alan; and Don Graham, Washington Post.

Event photographer: Wendy Moger-Bross
“As a member of the Board, I am delighted to see this terrific turnout for Alan and the Golden Mike Award, and proud that we have raised $300,000 to help our colleagues in need.”

-Jeff Smulyan, Emmis Communications

1. Beth and Roger Ailes; Erica and Geraldo Rivera; Deborah Norville and Karl Wellner
2. Nick Gardner and Lou Leone
3. Whitney Kennedy, Don Bouloukos, Madison Olds, Morgan Gawrosnks, Kim Olds, and Carl Butrum
4. Nick Verbitsky, Scott Herman, and TJ Lambert
5. Stephanie and Larry Rickel, Laura and Dan Greenberg, Deborah Collura Bartkowiak, and Mark Bartkowiak
1. Jeff Wolf, Paul Karpowicz, and Jim Monahan
2. Alan Frank and Cindy Thompson
3. Peter Doyle, Phil Lombardo, Connie Buckley, and Jeff Smulyan
5. Buzz Knight, Heidi Raphael, and Rick Feinblatt
6. Pierre Bouvard and Skip Finley
7. Don Graham
“A great evening at the Plaza with friends and colleagues while simultaneously supporting the charitable cause of Broadcasters Foundation…it doesn’t get much better than that!”

– Ron Ruth, RAB

1. Mike Malone, Abby Auerbach, Jeff Wolf, Steven Lanzano, and Gary Bellis
2. Brian Williams
3. Phil and Kim Lombardo with Ann and Alan Frank
4. Gary Bellis, Marcellus Alexander, and Michael Spiesman
5. Colleen Gally, Ernest Liebre, Gordon Smith, Susan and Ray Cole
1. Jay Isabella, Alex Corteselli, and Steve Mulderrig
2. Alan Frank and Marcus Williams
3. Randy Bomgarten, David Barrett, Gordon Smith, Wade Hargrove, and Jim Yager
4. Paul Karpowicz, Jim Beloyianis, and Dennis Wharton
5. Carl Schweinler, Jean Dietze, and Mark Lund
6. Bob O’Neil and Leo McCourtney
7. Scott Knight and Ron Ruth
“It’s a privilege to attend an event that delivers so much good to so many broadcasters. This is a tribute to Alan’s accomplishments in broadcasting and recognition of his contributions to the Foundation’s mission.”

— Marcellus Alexander, NAB

1. Janice Garjian, Renee Cassis (standing); Amanda Kis, Kelley Canavan, Pam Lynott, and Connie McKiernan
2. Brian and Denise Cobb with Jim Thompson
3. Alan Frank, Phil Lombardo, and Deborah Norville
4. David Palmer, Alan Frank, and Jim Hughes
5. Gary Gannaway with his daughter Samantha, Preston Farr, Diana Wilkin, and Chris Cornelius
1. Rick Buckley, Spencer Brown, Scott Herman, and Joe Bilotta
2. Mike and Marcy Etienne with Richard Lowe
3. Robert Schachter, Glen Tacinelli, Michael Blauner, Bob Damon, and Tony Miraglia
4. Mason Hunter, Mike Steinberg, and Bill McGorry
5. Carl Butrum, Dick Bodorff, and Jim Thompson
6. Joe Bilotta, Dick Ferguson, Phil Lombardo, and Jeff Haley
1. Bob Cooke, Anton Gutiano, Marty Franks, and Peter Dunn
2. Marcellus Alexander, Janet McGregor, and Jerry Lee
3. Jeff Haley, Jeff Smulyan, Carl Butrum, and John Rosso
4. Deborah Norville, Dennis Swanson, and Harris Faulkner
5. Michael Fiorile, Alan Frank, David Barrett, and Andy Fisher
6. David B. Samadi, MD and his wife Sahar with Beth and Roger Ailes
7. Alan Frank with Kandy and John Ronayne
The Ward L. Quaal Pioneer Awards and The Lowry Mays Excellence in Broadcasting Award

The Broadcasters Foundation of America presented The 2011 Ward L. Quaal Pioneer Awards and The Lowry Mays Excellence in Broadcasting Award during its annual breakfast at the Wynn in Las Vegas on April 13th, in conjunction with the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Show.

Ward L. Quaal, the Pioneer Awards are named in honor of the iconic broadcaster. They are presented each year to six broadcasters whose careers have impacted the industry and whose lives have made a difference in the community at large. The Awards are underwritten by the Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation and the McCormick Foundation Journalism Program.

The Lowry Mays Excellence in Broadcasting Award annually honors an individual in broadcasting whose work exemplifies innovation, community service, advocacy and entrepreneurship. The Award salutes its namesake, who is a legend in the broadcasting industry, and is underwritten by The Clear Channel Foundation and Wiley Rein, LLP.

The 2011 Ward L. Quaal Pioneer Awards Recipients are:
John Dille, President, Federated Media;
Richard Ferguson, Founder, New City Communications and Executive Vice President, Cox Radio, Retired;
Andrew Fisher, President, Cox Television, Retired;
Erwin Krasnow, Esq., Partner, Garvey Schubert Barer;
Robert F.X. Sillerman, the largest shareholder of CKX, Inc. (owner and producer of American Idol and So You Think You Can Dance), who just launched his newest venture, Function (X);
Dennis Swanson, President, Station Operations, Fox Television Stations, Inc.

The 2011 Lowry Mays Excellence in Broadcasting Award posthumously honored:
Stu Olds, former Chief Executive Office and President, Katz Media Group

Look for pictures from this widely attended event in the next issue of On the Air.
Your Help Literally Saves Lives

Scared and Alone

It's hard to imagine the one/two punch the family of this broadcaster was dealt. An announcer and program director in radio for more than 15 years, he was diagnosed with cancer. The treatment left him unable to work. Even with his wife’s income, the couple was desperate to support themselves and their four children. The Broadcasters Foundation awarded them a monthly grant to help make ends meet.

Unfortunately, fate had more in store for this family. Unable to win the battle with cancer, this broadcaster passed away at only 37 years old. The funeral costs wiped out what little the family had left. When two family emergencies arose in one month, the now single-mother faced an unimaginable dilemma. She felt alone and really scared.

In desperation, she wrote to the Broadcasters Foundation which immediately gave her a one-time emergency grant to cover the unexpected costs.

She wrote back: “I can't tell you the relief that I feel. My heart skipped a beat when I opened your email. I was worried sick trying to figure out ways to come up with the money. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.”

With your help, this broadcaster’s wife and their children can continue to receive a monthly grant from the Broadcasters Foundation of America.

This message made possible by the McCormick Foundation Journalism Program.
Supporting Our Broadcast Community

Bud Walters | President | The Cromwell Group

“To be a good citizen in the community” -- That’s the first line of The Cromwell Group’s mission statement. To us, that statement is a guiding principal for how we conduct our business.

Our employees are active, engaged, and committed members of the communities where they live and work.

Likewise, it is imperative for us to be good members of our broadcasting community. We share so much of our lives together that we have a duty to look out for one another. That’s one reason my company is committed to supporting the Broadcasters Foundation of America through the Corporate Angel Initiative.

The Broadcasters Foundation was established more than 60 years ago by like-minded broadcasters who wanted to help their fellow colleagues in need. Many of those in need were once in positions similar to yours and mine. They had successful careers and full lives, but after a devastating diagnosis or loss they find themselves with no where to turn. Many are without health insurance or government assistance of any kind. The grants the Broadcasters Foundation supplies help with basic necessities, such as doctors’ visits, prescriptions, and physical therapy. Over the years, the Broadcasters Foundation has donated millions of dollars in aid.

The Corporate Angel Initiative was created as an easy way for companies like mine to support the Broadcasters Foundation on an annual basis. The Initiative ensures the Broadcasters Foundation can provide financial assistance for the future without drawing down the bulk of the fund. Companies that make an annual gift to the Corporate Angel Initiative provide the bedrock for the Foundation’s future planning and service. With this support, and combined with future Guardian Fund income and successful events, the Broadcasters Foundation can confidently make grants that recipients can count on for the remainder of their lives.

I invite you to be a good citizen of our broadcasting community and help us support the Broadcasters Foundation. Let’s live our mission statements by joining the Corporate Angel Initiative to help save lives.

Bud Walters
Recording artists mingled with radio and television executives at the BMI Board of Directors dinner, held annually in conjunction with the NAB Show in Las Vegas. This year’s dinner featured the legendary Paul Simon, who also gave a rousing performance.

Kix Brooks, Kenneth “Babyface” Edmonds and Kara Dioguardi were in attendance also, adding even more star-power to the evening.
Deborah Parenti, Vice President, General Manager of Radio Ink, presents Carl Butrum with a check for the Stu Olds Memorial Fund.

Radio Ink Contributes to the Stu Olds Memorial Fund

Deborah Parenti, Vice President, General Manager of Radio Ink, presents Carl Butrum with a check for the Stu Olds Memorial Fund.
The Broadcasters of America Salute Stu Olds

As you know, we recently inaugurated this Statesman feature in *On The Air* to salute those pioneers who have done so much for our profession over the years.

Many of them made their contributions way in the past and we had to reach back through the mist of time to recall their accomplishments and milestones. Who knew or ever imagined when we began, however, that this space would one day speak of Stu Olds in the past tense as a profound sadness descended on our profession with the passing of our dear, incomparable Vice Chairman on December 4, 2010.

All the industry newsletters, blogs and websites were filled that sad morning with encomiums, reminiscences and tributes to our graceful colleague and friend.

How remarkable – and how absolutely wonderful - they all observed - that an ineffably nice guy – and a real gentleman - sat astride a huge, tough, no-nonsense commercial enterprise which deals in persuasion and numbers and hard-fought ratings. In a highly competitive world, Stu advocated for his stations. But never for himself. Perhaps that’s what endeared him to so many. That and his relentlessly upbeat and positive demeanor.

In addition to his family, his golf game, a glass of wine and a good cigar … we’re also fortunate that one of his great passions was the Broadcasters Foundation of America which he served as Vice Chairman and head of our “Angels” Campaign which has raised millions for the less fortunate in our tribe.

At our meetings and high councils, Stu’s wisdom, foresight, judgment – and good nature - always steered us to the lee of a safe harbor. So one can only observe that we’ve lost a graceful guy … who was loved and respected by many.

As President Jim Thompson and Chairman Phil Lombardo will confirm elsewhere in this issue, our Foundation has received a stunning half-million dollars in memorial tributes and contributions in Stu’s name. Unheard of and unprecedented, to be sure. But as we all know, Stu Olds was a very special – and altogether unique – individual.

The Chairman has also recently announced plans for an annual golf event for Stu’s friends at his beloved Knollwood Club in June.

And just a few weeks ago at the NAB in Las Vegas, your Foundation presented the Lowry Mays Excellence in Broadcasting Award posthumously to Stu which was accepted with grace and articulation and warmth by Kim Olds. There wasn’t a dry eye in the place.

And at our last Board Meeting which was hosted by Chairman Lombardo at the Columbus Club in New York City, the following Motion closed our last business meeting for 2010.

“Mr. Chairman Lombardo … our work done for this day … may we request that we adjourn this final Meeting of the Board for 2010 … in tribute to … and in memory of … our beloved Vice Chairman Stu Olds.

As everyone here assembled at this high council at year’s end is aware, Stu loved this organization and was devoted to its noble mission in every season.

His leadership, vision and dedication to our work enabled us to assist so many colleagues fallen on hard times all across the country.

His passing is felt very deeply by everyone on this festive, but sad occasion and by all those who loved him and feel the pain of his passing.

And so we would ask, Mr. Chairman, that we set aside any and all other business which may come before us this day in his honor.

*We so move, Mr. Chairman and request that it be spread upon the Minutes and that a copy be sent forthwith to Kim Olds and his Family.*

The Motion was adopted unanimously on December 15, 2010. But the sadness remains. Our work, however, which meant so much to Stu Olds, continues.

To assist. To assist. To assist …

William O’Shaughnessy
Chairman, Guardian Fund
Broadcasters Foundation of America
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Join or Renew Your Membership Today and Receive ON THE AIR magazine!

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The Broadcasters Foundation of America
125 West 55th Street
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New York, NY 10019-5366

You May Renew or Join at www.broadcastersfoundation.org

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Improving the quality of life of the men and women in the radio and television broadcast industry

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