

Broadcast PIONEERS

of Philadelphia

January Meeting

Date: January 20, 1999
Time: 12:00 Noon Cocktails
12:30 p.m. Lunch
Board Meeting: 11:00 a.m.
Ratecard: \$16.00
Place: **WILLIAMSON'S**
City Avenue
Bala Cynwyd
Subject: **Don Tollefson**
Super Bowl '99

Please call 610-642-1150 ASAP or mail your reservation today.

Don't forget, we always can use news items. Please call Paul Norton at 302-645-8910, e-mail nanort@aol.com, or write to Paul at 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE 19958.

NEWSLETTER
January 1999



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

We kick off our New Year 1999, Wednesday, January 20, with a special preview of the Super

Bowl with Don Tollefson, Sports Director of Fox 29 in Philadelphia, with a program of speculations, prognostications, insights and looks in the crystal (foot) ball. Former KYW Newsradio Sports maven (and AFTRA President) Bill Bransome will host the program. This should be a good one so make reservations now.

Cocktails at noon, lunch at 12:30. As usual, please call your reservations to Jo Oristaglio at 610-642-1150. We have to have a count for the set up, so call and be sure you have a seat.



SPECIAL NOTE: This program will be held at **WILLIAMSON'S** in the GSB Building on City Line Avenue. Don't go to Bala Golf Club...they're closed. **WILLIAMSON'S, WILLIAMSON'S**



Attention Board Members: President Shelly Gross is asking all Board Members to gather at 11:00 a.m. prior to the luncheon for a Board meeting.

We will soon be publishing a new member directory and by now you have received a form to indicate any changes you might like in your listing for the directory. Additionally, we will print, as available, e-mail addresses of members. This is not on the form that was sent, but yours may be listed by e-mailing the information to gloriad@101-fm.com. She is collecting the material and will include it in the directory.



Buffalo, NY is setting up its own Broadcast PIONEERS group. There are many in Philadelphia who have worked in Buffalo. If this describes you and you'd like to be on their mailing list you may call Buffalo PIONEERS President, Don Angelo (WGRZ - Channel 2) at 716-836-2105, or Al Wallack (PBS-Buffalo), Vice President at 716-836-8579.

The Buffalo group honored "Buffalo Bob" Smith as their Person of the Year, shortly before his death last year, and Foster Brooks the year before. Don, incidentally, is working with Gordon Hastings of the Broadcasters Foundation to establish meetings among the various groups of PIONEERS nationally.

Felicitations and condolences to the Gordon Gray's. Condolences on the loss of their son, David Gordon Gray, on May 20, 1998. A month later they lost their sister Beatrice Utley. Beatrice had said of David, "He had the dazzle of a fallen star and the despair of a fallen angel." Jonathan Gray had said of Beatrice, "But she was the best one." Felicitations to the Clubs' former Vice President (and Temple University Communications School Professor) and his wife on their move to "the old neighborhood" because of "orthopedic challenges." They can be reached at 215-517-8930 (517 Bride Road, Glenside, PA 19038-2001).

Alan Tripp, who is in charge of the Billy Penn Awards, has announced that our quest to receive the award for Pioneering Positive Television News will be Robert MacNeil, who for many years co-hosted the MacNeil-Leherer Report on PBS. Now retired, Mr. MacNeil has just completed a book titled "Breaking News" published by Doubleday. There are three other categories to be honored at the March luncheon. They include:

- Best Overall Positive News
- Best Positive News Report of a Single Story
- Best Positive News Feature Series

More later...



Member Marc Howard notes that Irv Homer's new station is at 860 on the AM band, but complains the signal is mediocre, so that he finds it hard to listen to while jogging in Center City. He says that Irv tells him that they are working on improving the signal, getting more power, and going full time instead of daylight only. Marc did a lot of work during the holidays, so he and Susie are off on a cruise in the western Caribbean this month.

A note from Dick Mendenhall says that after last month's mention in our newsletter of the loss of his wife, Carolyn, he received two copies of the newsletter and several other people were in touch. Dick is now in the "brave new world" of the Internet and can be found at dickmend@g-net.net.

Past President Herb Clarke notes that the meeting of the WCAU Radio and TV Oldtimers in December had upwards of 130 in attendance, some of whom worked at the station more than 50 years ago. They're planning on having another get together in May. Herb says he also stays in close touch with old friends from KYW, Vince Leonard and Mort Crim.



Ed Harvey and wife Marj Weiting are off to Florida to warm their January (among other things). Those of you who left the December meeting early missed a premier performance of impromptu ragtime

by Marj on a piano in the corner of the meeting room.

Thanks to Bill Halpern, who watches such things for us, for the obit that he sent noting the death of William H. Von Hacht, Jr., better known to PIONEERS as Bill Hart, who died on December 4. Bill was with WCAU in Philadelphia from 1945 until his retirement in 1985. He hosted "Cinderella Weekend", "Ten Around Town" and "Beat the Clock", among many other shows. He was 77.



WPEN is sponsoring a series of personality cruises and PIONEERS members will be leading them. Ed Hurst will be leaving January 24 for the Caribbean, Bill Webber on June 13 for Alaska, Dean Tyler will enjoy a Riverboat on the Mississippi on July 28 and John Carleton has a twofer, Bermuda, May 30 and Panama Canal in November. How do you get work like that?

Frank and Mary Jelinek are back from Ireland. They have a family tradition of taking the adult children of their family on a trip.

