

CableViews

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association

Issue 4 2015

Look Both Ways



*Jonathon McGee,
OCTA Executive Director*

As we bid farewell to 2015, we recall an eventful and successful year for the OCTA.

In the legislative arena, the Ohio cable industry once again staved off a discriminatory sales tax on our video service product. As reported in an earlier issue of *CableViews*, the tax could have created a huge discrepancy between the taxes paid by cable customers and customers using other multichannel video services, including the direct broadcast satellite (DBS) industry. With great support from

members who met with their legislators in their districts and in Columbus, the tax that had been proposed in the state biennial budget was omitted in the version passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Kasich. Likewise, our work during a very active year at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has been productive in protecting our industry's interests.

From the 20th Annual Legislative Luncheon held last March, through the May Legislative Reception and our

October Annual Meeting, we also enjoyed numerous occasions that brought together our system and associate members. Whether working to educate legislators about issues important to cable, as members did during Lobby Day in Columbus, or hitting the links as we did in June at the annual OCTA Golf Outing, our members showed their support for the association by attending and sponsoring those events. In this issue we recognize the companies whose contribution throughout the year made those events possible; their names are listed in the "OCTA Sponsor Honor Roll" on page 6.

Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted was the featured speaker at the 2016 Annual Meeting. His comments on anticipated redistricting reforms, which became reality with the passage in November of State Issue One, served as an insightful lead-in to a "politics and policy" session with Karen Kasler of Ohio Public Radio's Statehouse News Ohio Public Radio's Statehouse News Bureau, Neil Clark of Grant Street Consultants, and David Leland of Carpenter, Lipps and Leland.

A general session on what's ahead for the cable industry was moderated by Angie Britt of CTAM, with panelists Rob Stoddard of the NCTA, Chuck Thompson of the Video Advertising Bureau, and Kathy Baker of Comcast Business Services' Keystone Region offering insightful comments.

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KT McFarland Slated for 2016 OCTA Legislative Luncheon



Kathleen Troia "KT" McFarland, FOX News' National Security analyst, will be the featured speaker at the OCTA's 21st annual Legislative Luncheon on February 24th in Columbus.

With more than four decades on the forefront of global politics and national security, KT is an expert on critical national security issues facing the U.S. A distinguished former presidential adviser, McFarland held national security posts in the administrations of presidents

Nixon, Ford and Reagan. She served as an aide to Dr. Henry Kissinger and as senior speechwriter to Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. In 1985, she received the

Defense Department's highest civilian award for her work in the Reagan Administration. As FOX News' National Security Analyst, she now appears regularly on FOX News and FOX Business News and also writes a regular column for FOXnews.com.

A recipient of graduate fellowships from the Ford Foundation, Institute for the Study of World Politics, and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, McFarland is also a board member of The Jamestown Foundation, a Distinguished Advisor to the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Her presentation, *Around the World with KT McFarland: Today's and Tomorrow's Flashpoints*, addresses critical issues of U.S. national security, including cyber war and nuclear proliferation.

with House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn

House Democratic Leader Fred Strahorn returned to the Ohio House in 2013, after serving as State Senator for the 5th district from 2009 to 2011 and Senior Political Advisor to the Ohio Democratic Party from 2011 to 2013. He previously served citizens of the greater Dayton area as state representative from 2001 to 2008, including two years as House Minority Whip, before term limits prevented him from seeking reelection. Leader Strahorn has served as vice president of government affairs for the Ohio United Way, in addition to managing residential properties and selling real estate. He has served on the boards of Wright State University, Wesley Community Center, Mary Scott Nursing Home and Childcare Works and he is a former member of the Southwest

Dayton Business Association and the Dayton Area Board of Realtors. Strahorn graduated from The Ohio State University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Aviation Management.

Fast Facts:

Favorite Cable Channel: HGTV

Last Book Read: *Founding Brothers* by Joseph Ellis

Teams You Follow: Cincinnati Bengals and OSU Football

Favorite Wright Brother: Orville. He's the youngest; I'm the youngest.



Jonathon McGee: What is the role of House Minority Leader?

Fred Strahorn: I guess you would get different answers depending on which minority leader you talk to. It's nuanced in that everyone is a little different. My take on it is that I am here to organize the Democratic caucus around what our focus needs to be and how we participate in the process with the majority – whether that's helping to find compromise on bills that we want to make better, or if we can't do that, sharing our perspective with the electorate.

JM: What are your priorities in this role?

FS: I tend to want to focus on Roosevelt-type issues. Quality of life issues: education, employment, health care and taxes – the things that I actually believe are the role of government – and otherwise stay out of people's lives. It's funny how there's a Republican mantra and a Democratic mantra. What I just said sounded like a Republican mantra of limited government. Sometimes we differ on what that means. I think it should be limited to building a framework for success for folks and staying out of their personal lives. I don't think that's the role of government. Whether I agree with you on a specific issue, I try to focus on whether that is my job or not. I may not like it, but just because I don't like it doesn't mean I should be involved in it.

JM: You use the term 'Roosevelt issues'. What do you mean?

FS: I think that Roosevelt focused on creating a framework for economic success for folks in America. It was about putting people back to work, it was about building infrastructure. Even looking at the policies of Dwight Eisenhower – policies



were created then that allowed workers to enjoy a greater share of the value they create for their companies or their organizations. When you do that, you grow the middle class; put money in people's pockets, they'll be able to buy stuff. And that creates demand. That's actually what I believe drives an economy. If you get that right, the rest of it takes care of itself; even wealthy people and corporations make more money. For decades after Roosevelt, people followed that pattern.

JM: What challenges does leading the minority present?

FS: The challenge is that I have a little tiny stick and no carrot. What I mean is that the speaker has the final decision of who gets what and who's on what committee and what makes it to the floor. Those are all in the hands of the speaker and the majority, so largely what you're doing for the minority is managing relationships and using the power of persuasion. That's harder; nobody is worried about what I am going to take away from them and very few people are worried about what I can directly deliver in terms of having the final say. You have to do a lot more gymnastics to be relevant. I think we've done that, it's just harder to do when you're in the minority.

JM: When you were elected Minority Leader, you said that you would work on trying to make clear the Democrats' message to voters. What is that message, and do you think it is being heard by voters?

FS: It's kind of a reiteration of what I've said before. We want to focus on policy that creates a framework that moves people from poverty into the middle class, and helps people

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Legislative Update

The Ohio General Assembly wrapped up several pieces of legislation before breaking for the holidays. HB 151 (Anielski), which concerns cyberstalking, had four hearings in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, and was favorably reported by that committee. This bill would expand the offense of “menacing by stalking” by additionally prohibiting a person from engaging in a pattern of conduct to knowingly cause another to believe that the offender will cause physical harm or mental distress to a family or household member of the other person; it also prohibits a person through the use of a telecommunications device from posting a message or using any intentionally written or verbal graphic gesture to violate or to urge or incite another person to violate the prior described prohibition. The bill also makes several modifications to the offense of “telecommunications harassment,” including applying it to communications made for the purpose of intimidation.

This is the third General Assembly in which Rep. Anielski (R – Walton Hills) has introduced this legislation only to see it die at the end of the General Assembly after being reported favorably by a Senate committee. It is expected that HB 151 will see a Senate floor vote early in 2016. The OCTA has worked with Rep. Anielski on this legislation over the past few years and we have no concerns with it as currently drafted.

PUCO Update

Retail Rules: The PUCO opened a docket to review its Retail Telephone Rules contained in Ohio Administrative Code 4901:1-6. This review is mandated by Ohio law, which requires agencies to review their rules at least once every five years; these rules were due to be reviewed by November 15, 2015. All comments were filed by February 6th.

The PUCO decided to use this open docket to effect rule changes mandated by HB 64 (the state biennial budget bill) enacted last June. These changes concern the ILECs’ (Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier) IP transition and the ILECs’ ability to escape their COLR (Carrier of Last Resort) requirements. These proposed rules were issued in September; the OCTA timely filed Initial Comments on the proposed rules and filed Reply Comments on November 9th. Several other interested parties also filed comments in this docket. We await a decision from the PUCO on the rules.

Pole Attachment Proceedings: We await the PUCO’s decision whether to take our arguments in reply into consideration,

or issue a decision based on the filings currently on file. For further, up-to-date information on specific cases, please see “2015 Pole Cases” in the “Members Only” area of the OCTA web site at www.octa.org.

Collaborative Process: As part of the ILEC deregulation provisions of HB 64, a collaborative process was created to study the IP transition and to assist the PUCO when an ILEC is preparing to abandon BLES (Basic Local Exchange Service) service. The OCTA worked with the legislature to have a representative of cable operators added as a participant in the process. On December 3rd, the initial meeting of the cooperative was held. OCTA Executive Director Jonathon McGee participated as the cable industry representative.

The initial meeting was very high-level, with the discussion focused primarily on what data the collaborative would need to fulfill its work. The consumer groups in attendance wanted very granular data about BLES customers in each exchange and thought that data should be provided now. The ILECs pushed back, indicating that while they do not disagree that detailed data would need to be provided, they did not think it need to be provided up front, but only once an ILEC identified an exchange as one to be abandoned. The PUCO is working on a survey for ILECs and CLECs (Competitive Local Exchange Service) for BLES information which will be out soon.

The PUCO plans four more meetings of the collaborative from January through April. They have identified tentative dates and topics for discussion:

- January 19 Consumer protection, consumer education, public safety
- February 18 Affordability, competition, consumer education
- March 24 Universal connectivity, consumer education
- April 28 FCC progress, consumer education

For more information on the collaborative, please visit the PUCO’s website (link below). If you have any thoughts or input that you wish to be relayed to the collaborative, please let the OCTA know. You may also sign up for updates from the PUCO on the collaborative process at this web page:

<http://www.puco.ohio.gov/puco/index.cfm/be-informed/consumer-topics/telephone-network-transition/#sthash.xOiBaUEQ.DL5CMEAJ.dpbs>

2015 Event Highlights



Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted was the featured speaker during the Annual Meeting's Government Affairs Breakfast.



Kelly Rehm of MCTV, with Gordon Waters and Dan Tacik of Armstrong, at the 2015 Annual Meeting.



Brad Mefferd of Buckeye Cablesystem chats with LaTanya Butler of TV One during an Annual Meeting networking session.



OCTA's newest Honorary Member Maryann Kafer, the OCTA's retiring Director of Communications, with Executive Director Jonathon McGee



OCTA Board President Ed Kozelek presents the 2015 Associate Member award to Holly Long



Rob Stoddard, SVP of Communications & Public Affairs for the NCTA, caught up with friend Eric Claytor of Entertainment Studios Network.

Honors were conferred during the OCTA's 2015 Annual Meeting on October 9th in Columbus. Holly Long accepted the Associate Member of the Year Award on behalf of Fox Networks and Johnny Nelis, who was unable to attend. Maryann Kafer, who is retiring from the OCTA after 27-plus years in December, was named an Honorary Member of the association. She is the second recipient of this honor in 2015; the OCTA recognized board president Ed Kozelek as an Honorary Member during the Legislative Luncheon in March to mark his 25 years of service to the industry and the association.



Mark Dunford, AVP of Operations for Time Warner Cable's Midwest Region, with Jeff Arthur of INSP at the Annual Meeting.



John Heilemann, co-host with Mark Halperin of Bloomberg TV's "With All Due Respect", delivered the 20th annual OCTA Legislative Luncheon address in March.



Senator Joe Uecker, left, and Rep. Bob Hackett, center, learn about the latest broadband technology for the home at the Legislative Reception in May.



Time Warner Cable pals Bobbie Gilbert, Brian Young and Rick Carfagna posed for a pic after participating in the shotgun scramble at the 2015 Golf Outing in June.



The OCTA extends congratulations and best wishes to Benita Kahn upon the occasion of her retirement. A partner with the law firm of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, Benita has long provided counsel to the OCTA on legislative and regulatory matters and participated as a presenter in numerous OCTA events. She is pictured here giving a legislation and regulatory update at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

For the first time, the 2015 Annual Meeting featured a networking session, in which system members and associate members met in roundtable settings for an exchange of key information. Our thanks to all the company representatives who participated and made this an informative, productive session.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for a big year in 2016. It is an important election year in Ohio, as all Ohio House seats and half of the Senate seats are up for election next year. OCTA staff will be meeting with candidates throughout the election cycle, familiarizing new candidates with our issues and working to maintain strong relationships with incumbents seeking reelection.

Dates have been set for all the OCTA's events in 2016. In January, the OCTA in conjunction with Time Warner Cable, will present cable's biennial ad sales seminar for managers of political and ballot-issue campaigns. February brings the 21st Annual Legislative Luncheon with KT McFarland of FOX Networks (see article p. 1). Be sure to check the Cable Calendar on page 8 and plan to join us for these OCTA events.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support. And best wishes for a very happy 2016!

OCTA 2015 Sponsor Honor Roll

Thanks to the members and friends who supported the OCTA through contributions in 2015!

Time Warner Cable	Turner Network Sales
Precision Broadband Installations	Byers Minton & Associates
Comcast	Disney/ESPN Media Networks
Buckeye CableSystem	Grant Street Consultants
Cox Communications	Davis Wright & Tremaine LLP
The Outdoor Channel	A&E Networks
FOX Networks	Broadband Express
MAVTV Motorsports	Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLC
Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease	Ohio Utilities Protection Service
Crown Media Family Networks	pivot
MCTV	Roetzel & Andress
Sheppard Mullin	GLW Broadband Inc.
Strategic Impact Consultants	American Cable Association
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants	Armstrong
Van Meter, Ashbrook & Associates	INSP

Ohio Cable★PAC

Ohio Cable Political Action Committee

Company Participation

(January 1 – December 2, 2015)

Company	Amount Raised	Goal
Armstrong Cable	\$100	\$2,496
Buckeye CableSystem	\$2,498	\$10,972
Comcast	\$5,450	\$1,430
Cox Communications	\$789	\$3,068
G.L.W. Broadband	\$500	\$400
MCTV	\$19,149	\$3,270
Suddenlink	\$0	\$1,400
Total	\$28,486	\$23,036

Individual Contributions

(September 16 – December 2, 2015)

Buckeye CableSystem

Jeffrey Abbas
Mike Bilik
Laurie Cichy
Bonita Ehrhardt
Pamela Koontz
Brad Mefferd
Steve Piller
Jessica Pitzen
Sarah Riedeman
Charles Riley
James Wolsiffer

Cox Communications

Steve Heuser
Dan Jakubowski
Alex Petrofski
Allan Shockey
Craig Smith

Erie County CableVision Inc.

Nicholas Vitou

MCTV

Katherine Gessner
Kelly Rehm

Comcast

Jim D'Innocenzo
Elizabeth Murray
Frank Polito

OCTA

Jonathon McGee



stay in the middle class and flourish. We believe in the kind of policy that helps put money in people's pockets, makes sure they're employed, make sure that the framework for opportunity is accessible. If 120 people are showing up for every job posting, it's kind of hard to be personally responsible even if you have the necessary skill set. I think many of those goals are shared by Republicans and Democrats; it's a matter of finding common ground. We want to stay out of the culture wars and personal life choices and focus on making sure kids get a good education – that's the biggest predictor of how successful they are and their earning potential. We want to make sure that they don't have a lot of college debt. From World War II to the mid-eighties, the state picked up 67 percent of the cost of state education before you ever saw a bill. The amount of debt I came out of college with was miniscule compared to today. It impairs the ability to start out on the right foot. Likewise, you shouldn't have to worry about filing for bankruptcy if you become catastrophically ill; it's better for the system financially if you get people coverage. If you do those things well, you don't have to overtax people. We want taxation to be progressive. If you wanted to kill the debt in America today, you would have to take all of the wealth of 75 percent of people in the country. You could make a philosophical argument for doing it, but would that be a smart thing to do? I would argue that it would create a much bigger economic problem to correct. Wealthy people benefit disproportionately from the stability of the system. The notion that they should pay more for the maintenance of that shouldn't freak people out. As long as it's working, chances are they're going to make more money in the long run anyway, because they're set up to profit from a demand-driven economy. It's hard to articulate, and we spend so much time arguing at each other ideologically that problem-solving is hard to get to.

JM: Tell us about your district.

FS: My district is the city of Dayton proper, which is very urban, and Jefferson Township to the west, which is a mix of urban and rural. It's rebounding. I think this year is the first year in many that Dayton showed an increase in population, the greatest migration into the city since the Sixties. A lot of empty-nesters who no longer worry about the school system are starting to move back into the downtown; they're buying into the walkable space concept. But it still has a high level of poverty and the highest level of infant mortality in the state. Education is a very complicated, contentious issue; we were sort of the epicenter for the charter school experiment, so there are a lot of charter schools. We are still grappling with that. We're starting to see quite a few immigrants, particularly of Turkish descent. Both the current and previous mayor have worked to create an identity around being an international city open to people from all over the world. For years I said Dayton was in search of a new identity, moving from that old industrial automotive town to a more sophisticated identity. I think we're starting to grow into that.

JM: How do the concerns of your constituents fit in with your larger view of the good for Ohio?

FS: I think they fit in perfectly in terms of the level of poverty and people's concerns about jobs and people who want to

stay in Dayton but don't feel like opportunities are there. If we can't create those opportunities we run the risk of losing talented people. We've got a great foundation for success with the University of Dayton, Wright State University, and Sinclair Community College – one of the best community colleges in the country because it's focused on what companies need from employees in terms of skill sets, and it designs programs that address those needs.

JM: Do you have a particular political hero or mentor?

FS: Tom Roberts is a big political hero to me and certainly a mentor. I did not like politics when I was in college; that was not the path I was on. I can honestly say Tom Roberts changed my opinion about what this job is and that you can be a certain kind of person and still do it.

JM: What did lead you to politics then? You were an aviation manager major in college.

FS: It was happenstance. The path I had laid out was to apply to officer candidate school in the Air Force and try to fly medical evacuation helicopters. That was the only plan I had because I didn't want anything to distract me from it. My brother, who is a lawyer in Dayton, talked me into moving to Dayton to work on a real estate renovation project. I did a lot of the physical work with my dad. He was very involved in volunteering for Congressman Tony Hall, and because of that I also got involved as a volunteer.

JM: What are your thoughts on redistricting now that Issue One has passed?

FS: I think it provides more clarity for the courts. It ranks the different characteristics that we're supposed to look at and gives them priorities, and that has been lacking. But the fact remains that we'll have to rely on the courts to get it right, given the system that we'll be creating. How the courts interpret that will be really important for there to be fair and competitive districts. We spend a lot of time worrying if it's fair to Republicans or fair to Democrats, but the truth is that when we work together we do really good work. And to the Speaker's credit, we've been able to work with him and make compromises and make bills better. I think that's what the public wants and deserves. The sentiment ought to be that we listen more to the general public. In the election before last, Democrats in the House got 150,000 more votes across the state than Republicans but ended up in a super-minority. That's not really reflective of the general public. With passage of Issue One, the court has to be firmly rooted in judicial principles and not be a political court.

JM: Any advice for the cable industry in Ohio?

FS: No, you're doing a perfect job. Don't change anything.

**Read more Face to Face interviews online.
Click on CableViews at www.octa.org**



Cable Calendar

OCTA Ad Sales Seminar

www.octa.org

When: January 13, 2016

Where: Capital Club
Columbus, OH

NARUC Winter Committee Meeting

www.narucmeetings.org

When: February 14-17, 2016

Where: Washington DC

NCTC Winter Educational Conference

www.nctconline.org

When: February 15 & 16, 2016

Where: J.W. Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort
Phoenix, AZ

OCTA Legislative Luncheon

www.octa.org

When: February 24, 2016

Where: Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel
Columbus, OH

ACA Summit

www.acasummit.org

When: March 1-3, 2016

Where: Grant Hyatt
Washington, DC

OCTA Legislative Reception & Technology Demo

www.octa.org

When: May 3, 2016

Where: Capital Theatre Lobby, Vern Riffe Center
Columbus, OH

INTX – The Internet and Television Expo

www.intx16.ncta.com

When: May 16-18, 2016

Where: Boston Convention Center
Boston, MA

OCTA 2016 Golf Outing

www.octa.org

When: June 13, 2016

Where: Pinnacle Golf Club
Grove City, OH

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