SBE Chapter Engineer of the Year Nomination -- 2016

SBE Chapter 17 is pleased to nominate Mike Hendrickson, CPBE, CBNT, (member number 5761) as our Chapter Engineer of the Year because of his long-standing dedication to the engineering profession and SBE.

Mike began his broadcast engineering career here in Minnesota; in 1979 he was the Chief Engineer of WJON/WJJO in St Cloud, where he built new studios.

He moved to Blue Earth Minnesota to become Director of Engineering for Hedberg Broadcasting, where he managed the technical operations for stations in Minnesota and Iowa. Hedberg also operated a subsidiary business called Market Quoters, Inc. They distributed farm commodities information across the upper Midwest that came to many area radio stations via satellite and then got retransmitted via the FM subcarriers of those stations to farmers and commodities brokers. Mike added many successful 'homebrew' innovations to that SCA transmission equipment.

During his time in Minnesota he held several offices in our local SBE Chapter 17. Mike wrote an early version of a database that contained entries for most of the 950 MHz aural studio/transmitter link assignments in the area---on an Apple II computer that took several 5" floppy disk swaps and a fair amount of time to sort and display the results. He is remembered by some SBE members for the demonstration of this database at an SBE meeting in the early 1980's when a static discharge from bad carpet to computer ended the database demo.

The next stop for Mike was a move to Omaha, NE to work as Director of Engineering for Waite Radio, who at the time had stations in Nebraska and Kansas.

His last stop was returning to Minnesota to become the Director of Engineering for American Public Media, and was responsible for the upgrade of Minnesota Public Radio stations here in Minnesota and several stations in Florida to HD (digital) radio broadcasting. He retired from full time broadcast engineering earlier this year (2016) and is now serving on the Board of Directors for the National SBE organization and is writing technical articles for several of the broadcast engineering trade magazines.

Mike is currently wintering in Green Valley AZ and will return to the Twin Cities after he attends the NAB convention in Las Vegas, or whenever Spring comes to Minnesota.

This nomination is supported by the following SBE Chapter 17 Executive Committee members:

Nathan Hart - Chair

Jon Blomstrand, CPBE - Vice-Chair & Past Chair

Michael Ostlund, CBT, CBNT - Treasurer & Past Chair

Joe Conlon, CSTE – Secretary & Past Chair

Michael Simonds, CBNT – Certification Coordinator

Bruce Browning, Program Coordinator