

SBE Chapter Engineer of the Year Nomination - 2020

SBE Chapter 17 is pleased to nominate Harold J. Schardin, (member 9770, CPBE, CBNT) as our Chapter Engineer of the Year, posthumously, in recognition of his long-standing dedication to the engineering profession and SBE.

Hal Schardin was born October 3, 1950 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Harold and Emelia Schardin. Hal was their only son and his dad passed away after a long fight with lung cancer when Hal was 12.

Hal graduated from De LaSalle High School and attended Brown College, and technical college while working at Radio Shack. Hal married Patty Guisinger December 3, 1977; they have two sons, Timothy and David.

Hal's broadcasting career began with a short stint as disk jockey at KANO-AM and KTWIN-FM and later became the stations' Engineer.

WCCO-AM, 1973 to 1998 -- hired as a staff engineer, becoming Chief Engineer in 1995 upon retirement of Jerry Miller.

During his time at WCCO-AM, he also volunteered at WLKX, a small radio station in Forest Lake owned by Ed and Joanne Cary, helping them with their sound and transmitter sites.

KSTP-AM/FM 1998 to 2000 -- as staff Engineer.

Minnesota State Services for the Blind 2000 to 2015 -- as Chief Engineer.

During that time he was a crucial member of the team that:

- Improved the statewide Radio Talking Book reception by migrating from analog to digital FM SCA service by utilizing FMeXtra technology.
- Modernized the SSB audio book production process from the reel-to-reel tape to a proprietary DAW, adhering to Daisy Audio Book standards, and providing automated record keeping to assist in tracking volunteer book assignments, progress and completion.
- Added access to the Radio Talking Book service via streaming and on-demand for Internet users.
- Created a process for Minnesota out-state newspaper reading volunteers giving them ability to switch from RTB satellite feed to local FM SCA service remotely. The process prevents switching over if volunteer is not present, or switching outside of the allotted schedule.

Hal retired December 2015. He passed away on Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

Everyone who worked with Hal has nothing but praise for his work ethic, being a fine man and true gentleman.

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

Joe Niffen - Chair & Past Vice-Chair
Nathan Hart, CSTE - Vice Chair & Past Chair
Joe Conlon, CSTE - Secretary & Past Chair
Jon Blomstrand, CPBE - Secretary & Past Chair
George Werl, CPBE – Certification
Taylor Robert Barker, CRO - Program Chair

Article in which he proposed a solution to prevent bees nesting in the feed horn using Tyvek brand house wrap:

<https://www.radioworld.com/columns-and-views/the-runaround-can-be-a-good-thing>