Examinees hope to add CBNE to credentials

The first Certified Broadcast Networking Engineer exams are currently being administered during the June exam session. SBE CertPreview and two additional exam periods are available for those who wish to become CBNE certified in 2012.

The CBNE exam is designed for experienced broadcast professionals with significant experience in IP networks and associated storage and playout technologies employed in radio and television operations. The exam requires a minimum of five years broadcast engineering experience in order to take the exam with no additional certifications required.

The SBE National Certification Committee, with the blessing of the board of directors, undertook the job of creating test questions for the exam in 2010. The concept consisted of two rounds of beta tests and the creation of CertPreview questions for the sample test software. When the committee began the CBNE process they saw there was a need to measure a broadcast engineer’s networking skill set beyond that of the entry-level Certified Broadcast Networking Technologist. The CBNE delves much deeper than the CBNT into networking and IT issues. The exam covers areas such as Audio/Video over IP for broadcast, digital content management, video systems in an IT world, data transmission systems and practices, general PC hardware, interconnection and backup. An extensive list of areas of emphasis for the CBNE is available on the SBE website.

The CBNE CertPreview sample test software is a study tool for those taking the CBNE exam. The CertPreview contains over 50 questions similar to the actual exam. The program is available for purchase and download from the SBE website. After completion of CertPreview, the examinee is given correct answers to missed questions and the reference book the question was created from. The examinee can use these reference books during the certification exam. Three hours is allotted for the actual CBNE exam, which consists of 50 multiple choice questions and an essay. The multiple-choice portion is open book and the essay is closed book.

Be recognized as an expert in the current and most advanced broadcast engineering technology and become CBNE certified in 2012. Apply to take the exam in August or November, the two remaining exam periods open for the year. For more information visit http://www.sbe.org/sections/cert_broadcast.php.
Perfect, Low Cost STL Solution

customers already know.

the job with minimal setup and maximum performance.

price. Whether you are replacing costly satellite or telco

high quality audio over dedicated data links at a reasonable

depend on BRIC-Link Stereo IP Codecs to deliver reliable,

put our products on the line every day. But, we are.

wouldn't think we'd be surprised by how many people

WTOP / WFED, Washington, DC

This summer, when  services that did not rely on the leaky

it rained, causing dropouts in our T1 and ISDN service.

in Warrenton, VA. The telco lines degraded every time

our other transmitter sites.

AAC audio that sounds every bit as good as the circuits to

of BRIC-Links out of the box. I had my final configuration

pleasantly surprised at just how easy it is to set up a pair

the satellite stations for WTOP, with very good results. I was

"We use BRIC-Links for our main STL on 107.7 FM, one of the

satellite stations for WTOP, with very good results. I was

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BRIC-Links out of the box. I had my final configuration

within ten minutes of powering up the units. We’re running

AAC audio that sounds every bit as good as the circuits to

our other transmitter sites.

we had been struggling for about a year to find a reliable

audio STL to our transmitter site on top of a mountain in

Warrenton, VA. The telco lines degraded every time it rained,

causing dropouts in our T1 and ISDN service. This summer,

when services that did not rely on the leaky coaxes were

finally cut off at the site, we tried a pair of BRIC-Links on

our new broadband Internet service. We’ve kept our

transmitter on them ever since. We’re going to purchase

more pairs of these units to feed audio to our other sites.”

David Koelsch, Senior Broadcast Engineer

Bononeksi International Corporation

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we design our products to be dependable. So, you

wouldn’t think we’d be surprised by how many people put

our products on the line every day. But, we are.

And, honestly, we’re kind of proud, too.

No matter what the market size, Comrex customers depend on

BRIC-Link Stereo IP Codecs to deliver reliable, high-quality audio over dedicated data links at a reasonable price. Whether you are replacing costly satellite or telco transmission links, sending program audio to multiple locations or connecting to two studios, BRIC-Link will do the job with minimal setup and maximum performance.

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Society of Broadcast Engineers establishes mentoring program for broadcast engineers

On January 21, 2012 the SBE Executive Committee, meeting in Orlando, Fla., established a new ad-hoc Mentoring Subcommittee of the SBE Education Committee to implement a mentoring program for the Society. The sub-committee under the leadership of the newly appointed Mentoring Program Chairman, Paul Burnham, CPBE, will develop criteria for the program and guidelines for mentors and mentees.

One thing that has been lost over the years in broadcast engineering is taking time for mentoring. Why have most of the traditional mentors vanished? Consolidation and downsizing have taken a toll on the broadcast engineering profession. A good number of knowledgeable engineers exist but have multiple stations or clusters to look after and less personnel to accomplish assigned tasks. Broadcast engineers are asked to do more with less; this transmits into long work hours with not much time to do anything extra.

A number of established engineers have participated either as a mentor or mentor or both during the course of their careers in broadcast engineering. It is often some relatively young engineering professional who has a thirst for learning but does not have access to a veteran engineer willing to identify needs or areas for improvement. A mentor can provide personal networking opportunities and offer additional knowledge. The SBE Mentoring Program intends to fill this void.

There is a lot of established information on mentoring, from small organizations to top Fortune 500 corporations. One thing is clear, mentoring takes time. It takes time for the actual meetings between mentor and mentee, but also the time for both individuals to make the time to prepare themselves for their role as mentors. This preparation may lead to an increased self-awareness, confidence, and competency in their role.

Being a successful mentor requires several critical skills. Mentors need to be comfortable with abilities they possess, which they will need to draw upon. The more comfortable a mentor is with a skill, the more likely they will use it. Coaching: Mentors often need to raise a mentee's current performance to help increase momentum and drive to achieve professional goals.

Facilitating: Facilitating is the means by which a mentor encourages a mentee self-reflection and ownership. A mentor’s ability to identify the mentee needs or deficiencies and develop strategies for overcoming such obstacles to their success can unlock the door to increased potential for the mentee.

Listening: To be an effective mentor one must be a good listener. This is impossible to achieve without active listening skills.

Goal Setting: Well-defined goals mentors in the relationship and helps keep them on track. Setting goals and developing a work plan to achieve those goals require time, good quality dialogue and thoughtfulness.

Feedback: Mentees rely on mentors for honest and direct advice. Mentors need to give feedback in providing encouragement, nothing for translator applicants. Instead, it would be dismissed. However, in making the showing that the translator grant is possible, the translator applicant must assume that any LPFM applicant that the translator grant is possible, the translator application will be dismissed.

The order provides that in markets where the FCC has found that spectrum is limited for LPFM opportunities, translator applications will be dismissed to provide opportunities for a certain number of noncommercial stations in particular market areas. The FCC will open a settlement window where new translator applications blocked the availability of spectrum for LPFM stations in each market. The number of LPFM channels needed in a market range from eight to 12, depending on the size of the market. This floor was based on the number of translators already available in the market, but instead the average number of noncommercial stations on part 107 frequencies. That basis that for determining how many LPFMs are needed in a given market is as clear as mud. Where translator applications preclude their lack of LPFM, they are to be dismissed.

The FCC then determined that one translator applicant can continue to prosecute 50 applications on a nationwide basis.

Inovonics Inc., a new Sustaining Member of the SBE.

Ben Barber has left the University of North Carolina Center for Public Television to join Electronics Research, Inc. as the eastern region account manager for radio broadcast systems.

Carl Davis, CPBE, has left the University of North Carolina Center for Public Television to join Electronics Research, Inc. as the eastern region account manager for radio broadcast systems.

Carl Davis, CPBE, has left the University of North Carolina Center for Public Television to join Electronics Research, Inc. as the eastern region account manager for radio broadcast systems.

John Bissett is the new director of technical services and education services at Eileen.

Carl Davis, CPBE, has left the University of North Carolina Center for Public Television to join Electronics Research, Inc. as the eastern region account manager for radio broadcast systems.

Steve Tuzenma, CBT, is now the general manager and director of the new SBE chapter in various locations. If the translator application would preclude such use, the applicant can show that there is another channel available at the site for LPFM use. If it cannot show that there are multiple opportunities, the translator application should be dismissed.
Creating the perfect question

When you take an SBE certification exam, you are given 50 multiple-choice questions to assess your knowledge of the certification topic. In the case of the Certified Senior Television Engineer, Certified Senior Radio Engineer and Certified Broadcast Networking Engineer, you are also given an essay question. From an examinee’s viewpoint, you only see a small portion of the questions, because they have not been developed by the Certification Committee. We on the national committee are often asked how these questions are created.

The SBE Program of Certification maintains several question databases. There are two multiple-choice databases: One for the regular exams, and one that is created from this set to be used for CertPreview. The Committee vigorously protects the regular database to maintain its integrity and avoid it ever being compromised. That’s why we create the second database for CertPreview. The CertPreview questions are based on regular questions so we can still provide a flavor of what the questions are like and then categorized to be used on the appropriate exam. As you can see, maintaining these databases is an involved process. Creating new questions can be tedious for the volunteer committee, which is why at the Committee’s April meeting at the 2012 NAB Show it was suggested we tap a built-in resource: You, the SBE member. The SBE has a natural knowledge base in its membership, and we want to use this resource.

The last time you took an SBE certification exam, perhaps you felt a topic was not covered. Submit a question about that. As you perform your daily work, I’m sure you encounter situations you know are unique to media and broadcast engineering. Submit a question about that situation.

Questions can be multiple choice or essay suggesting the question should include the right answer and, in the case of a multiple-choice question, several detractors (incorrect answers). The Certification Committee will review all submissions and add them to the database if appropriate.

Send your submissions to Certification Director Megan Capple (mcapple@sbe.org) at the national office. They will be reviewed by the Certification Committee.

The Society of Broadcast Engineers is a volunteer organization, and it is through the efforts of its members it continues to succeed. We look forward to receiving your ideas for the SBE Program of Certification.

Society secures Sullivan, Harling as planning managers

A strategic planning conference to plot the future course of the SBE is scheduled for June 23. The SBE is enlisting the team of A. Charlene Sullivan, Ph.D. and Kenneth Harling, Ph.D., to facilitate and lead the group through the day-long strategic planning process.

Dr. Sullivan is an Associate Professor of Management at the School of Management and the Krenmant Graduate School of Management at Purdue University and has been a faculty member at Purdue since 1978. Since 2000, Dr. Sullivan has served as the Management Faculty Advisor for the Technical Assistance Program at Purdue, which offers no-cost consulting for Indiana businesses and organizations as part of the TAPS project including: Fairfield Manufacturing, Hoffco, Inc., Sperry and Rice, Defense Finance and Accounting, Passageways, Precision Metal Forming Association, Alpha Engineering, Packaging Logic Inc., AFI Manufacturing, American Container, Healthcare Tap Purdue, Noble County Economic Development, West Lafayette Industry Companies to Watch.

Her teaching career includes undergraduate and graduate courses on corporate financial management, financial institutions and markets and financial and managerial accounting. In addition, Dr. Sullivan has served as a risk management consultant for Edgar Dunn & Company since 1994 and a financial analyst for the Indiana Gaming Commission since 1995. Dr. Sullivan has served on the board of directors of several financial institutions and not-for-profit organizations and currently serves on the board of directors of the Lafayette Community Foundation and on the Purdue Employees Federal Credit Union. Dr. Sullivan holds a B.S. degree in Home Economics from the University of Kentucky and a master’s and doctorate from Purdue University.

Dr. Sullivan’s passion is strategy execution. His education includes a bachelor’s degree from the University of Guelph and a master’s and doctorate from Purdue University.

“Anyone can come up with a strategy but making it work is where the fun begins!” said Harling.

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from Hogan and other SBE national leaders. A summary of the candidates is available on the SBE Nominations Committee page on the SBE website.

JUNE 2012

THE signal

WELCOME TO THE SBE

NEW MEMBERS

Michael R. Taylor - Westlake Village, Calif.
 troublesome - Alameda, Calif.
 John S. Meadley - Menomonee Falls, Wis.
 Joseph M. Doke - Menlo Park, Calif.
 Mary L. Anderson - Norwalk, Conn.
 Matthew R. Johnson - Evanston, Ill.
 S. K. Krejci - Houston, Texas
 Michael C. Houser - Clifton, N.J.

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Ken W. Ryan - Orlando, Fla.
 John F. Smith - Gainesville, Fla.
 Jerry L. Jenks - Oklahoma City, Okla.
 David B. Langston - Cibolo, Tex.
 Christopher A. Cech - East Rutherford, N.J.
 Philip D. Blanke - Olympia, Wash.

NEW STUDENT MEMBERS

R. M. Dixon - New York, N.Y.

REINSTATED STUDENT MEMBERS

Tobin Allen - Miramar, Fla.
 T. W. Chu - Princeton, N.J.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ken Reising - Columbus, Ind.
 David J. Bollman - Middleburg Heights, Ohio

NEW YOUTH MEMBERS

Addison W. Burnside - Mesa, Ariz.
In the fall of 2011 the NAB Broadcast Engineering Conference (BEC) advisory committee decided that it was time to address the topic of broadcast engineering management in tough times at the 2012 conference; a somewhat unusual departure from the usual technical papers that the BEC is noted for. Fred Baumgartner, CPBE, CBNT, and I had the pleasure of representing the SBE and the Ennes Educational Foundation Trust at the BEC committee’s two planning meetings. The Committee carved out a one-hour slot of the conference’s Monday schedule devoted to this topic. Fred and I each presented a paper dealing with broadcast engineering personnel.

I led with a paper that drew largely from statistics gleaned from the SBE membership database and from the SBE-Ennes Scholarship Fund. The purpose was to take a look at who are today’s broadcast engineers; their backgrounds, education and areas of knowledge. I also took a look at where the new members of this profession are coming from and what tools are available to engineers to find a job and to employers to fill job openings. The full paper is posted on the SBE website on the Membership section under Industry Links. I encourage you to go there to give it a read.

A main point the paper makes will not be surprising to most of you. The average age of television and radio engineers has been increasing over the last ten years. In fact, based on SBE membership as an indicator of the field as a whole, the average age of a station engineer had increased by four years from 2001 to 2011. The statistics I cited also indicated that there are fewer broadcast engineers, fewer stations and as a result, fewer jobs than ten years ago.

In spite of those numbers, there is a shortage of qualified broadcast engineers in many markets, particularly small and medium sized markets. Even in some major markets it can be difficult to find an engineer with the right skill set. That brings me to another finding, again not surprising; that more stations today are looking for engineers with knowledge in both traditional engineering, i.e., radio and video, and also in IT; computer networks, systems design and repair. More people entering the field are coming in with an education in engineering, electronics and IT.

The lesson to come away with is, if you want to work in broadcast engineering in the future, knowledge in both engineering and IT will be required. Baumgartner’s paper illustrated the evolutionary development of the broadcast engineer since the early days of first broadcasts. How people in this field have evolved over time provides some insights to what today’s broadcast engineer needs to become a marketable engineer.

Webinars by SBE offers course on IPv6

Content consumers are turning to the Internet in their consumption of broadcast content. The increased use of the Internet also has driven expansion of the Internet. Much of the expansion is occurring in an IPv6 only environment due to the shortage of conventional IPv4 address space.

Carriers and Internet service providers utilize translation devices to provide mixed IPv4 and IPv6 interoperability. The various translation schemes are suitable for TCP based applications such as email and web surfing, but can be detrimental to UDP based real-time media used by the broadcaster. In order to provide the best Quality of Experience (QoE), broadcasters should strive to provide their media content in a native format to IPv6 only users without the need for translation in addition to providing content to the legacy IPv4 users.

This broadcast-centric webinar focuses on IPv6 background, IPv6 networking technology; a look at the current state of the industry in technology fundamentals and principles; implementing IPv6, and suggestions on where to obtain further knowledge.

"If the broadcaster is providing content to the Internet, IPv6 migration should be considered to ensure providing the best Quality of Experience to a growing IPv6 content consumer audience without use of translation schemes," said course instructor Wayne Pacena, CPBE, 8-VSB, AMD, DBT, CBNT. Pacena has over 35 years of broadcast telecommunications experience and is the Assistant Director of Educational Broadcast Services in the Office of Information Technology at Texas A&M University. In this position, he serves as the Director of Engineering of TTVN: The Enterprise Videoconference and Data Networking Network serving the Texas A&M University System and Public Broadcast stations KAMU-TV and KAMU-FM serving the Brazos Valley area. He is responsible for leading technology implementation for the enterprise network of the Texas A&M University System, supporting over 150 IP data locations and over 550 videoconference sites within Texas and internationally. In addition, Pacena is responsible for broadcast technology implementation at KAMU.

Pacena frequently presents on networking technology for the SBE. He has presented at the Ennes Workshops, Webinars by SBE, and is a member of the SBE Technical Presenters Group. The Technical Presenters Group offers SBE Chapters, State Broadcasters Associations and other groups the opportunity to bring qualified presenters to be a part of their educational events.

The cost of the webinar for members of the SBE is $49. For non-members the cost is $69. As always, completing a Webinar by SBE qualifies for one recertification credit, identified under Category I of the Maintenance of Certification for SBE re-certifications.

More information on this webinar can be found at www.sbe.org to find out how to bring Wayne Pacena to your area, visit the SBE website under Education.

The SBE Leadership Development Course spots still available

Leadership course spots still available to obtain further knowledge.

IPv6 background, IPv6 networking technology; users without the need for translation in addition to provide mixed IPv4 and IPv6 interoperability. The various utilization schemes are suitable for mixed TCP based applications such as email and web surfing, but can be detrimental to UDP based real-time media used by the broadcaster. In order to provide the best Quality of Experience (QoE), broadcasters should strive to provide their media content in a native format to IPv6 only users without the need for translation in addition to providing content to the legacy IPv4 users.

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This three-day course takes place July 31-August 2 in Atlanta, Ga. The cost of the members of the SBE is $590 and $640 for non-members. Registration includes course materials and instruction, beverages, a light breakfast each day and dinner one evening.
any remaining mutually exclusive applications will be assigned.

The limits on application processing by current translator applicants may well cut off the ready supply of additional translators to be used by AM licensees. Even though there may not be a new supply of translators to be used by AMs because of these limits on processing, the FCC did amend its rules to allow the use of new translators by AMs. Under the rules adopted almost three years ago allowing the use of FM translators by AM operators, only those translators already in existence could be used to rebroadcast AM stations. Now, any translator, whenever it is granted, can be used to rebroadcast AM stations. The impact of adopting an interpretation of the Local Community Radio Act was the desire of LPM advocates for the elimination of all third-adjacent channel protections between LPMFs and full-power stations. The FCC interpreted the LCRs to set up two different classes of LPMFs, each subject to slightly different requirements as to the interference protections they must afford to full-power stations. LPMFs

TRANSLATORS from page 6

success from page 11

adapting to numerous changes in technology, regulations and economics. Baumgartner’s success is adapted to numerous changes in technology, full-power FM stations. The FCC interpreted the LCRs to set up two different classes of LPMFs, each subject to slightly different requirements as to the interference protections they must afford to full-power stations. LPMFs can be used to rebroadcast AM stations. Now, any translator, whenever it is granted, can be used to rebroadcast AM stations. The impact of adopting an interpretation of the Local Community Radio Act was the desire of LPM advocates for the elimination of all third-adjacent channel protections between LPMFs and full-power stations. The FCC interpreted the LCRs to set up two different classes of LPMFs, each subject to slightly different requirements as to the interference protections they must afford to full-power stations. LPMFs
Alan Jurison, CSRE, AMD, DRB, CBNT of Chapter 22, Syracuse, is a senior operations engineer at Clear Channel Media and Entertainment. Member of the SBE since 1997.

A.K.A.: “Whiz” - I started hanging around the radio station at 15 and they called me “Whizkid”. We dropped “kid” when I turned 21. Spheres of Influence: My mentor was Dave Edwards. He taught me engineering, I taught him IT. We made a dangerous combination together in the 17 years we worked together!

Getting Started: I was into CB, AM-SW DXing, amateur radio and computer programming at age 12. At 15, I got involved with my favorite radio station (WNTQ Syracuse). Of course, I wanted to be on the air, but Dave thought I would be a great fit in engineering and got me started part-time right before a studio consolidation project. That was a great way to get a jump-start in this industry. I later became full-time while in high school and college. After college, Citadel Broadcasting promoted me to Regional IT Manager/Broadcast Engineer, which I did for almost 11 years.

Job Satisfaction: I started with Clear Channel in January 2012 and I’m working on some of the most exciting new platforms in the radio industry. Clear Channel has always been on the forefront of technology and it’s great to be involved in those efforts. I get to work with great engineers all across the country, and I’m learning something new from them every day. What I value most about the SBE is networking, certification, continuing educational opportunities at conventions, workshops, bookstore and the new online learning seminars.

Pictured Here: I am shown engineering a Syracuse University Men’s Basketball broadcast. When I’m not working I… enjoy watching Syracuse University Basketball any way I can. I try to go to most home games, some road games, and even follow them on the road during March Madness whenever possible.

SBE Chapter 54, Hampton Roads, formed in 1978; serves radio, television, cable, satellite, and government broadcast engineers in the entire southeastern Virginia market. The Chapter meets at the area Public Media Outlet – WHRO on the second Thursday of every month at 1 p.m. The generous support of WHRO enables a central and consistent location that engineers can generally attend after their local news obligations. The PBS affiliate and Chapter 54 have cosponsored special full day HD Engineering sessions by Gary Sgrignoli, RF Safety classes, and equipment demonstrations. We have also sponsored company representatives, SBE webinars, and special guests such as EAS, OSHA, FCC, NASA, and Dominion Power. Field trips include visits to transmitters, NOAA weather service, and the Mid-Atlantic Coast Guard transmission site.

Chapter 54 has won multiple SBE National Awards including Best Chapter Frequency Coordination Effort and Best Website. The website was started and managed by Ted Hand, CPBE, 8-VSB, AMD, DRB, former Chapter 54 member and SBE National board member, even after he moved to the Charlotte market. Ted’s support has been invaluable especially considering the Chapter no longer distributes a newsletter. The website and emailed meeting notices have replaced the newsletter.

O f great significance is our chapter’s ability to bring regional engineers together to share experiences and knowledge. This professional camaraderie enables us to help each other through difficult technological challenges. Whether through professional connections or presentations, Chapter 54 will continue to focus on helping our members stay abreast of the evolving cable, radio, television and related technologies. We also recognize and encourage accreditation through the numerous SBE Certification opportunities.