

## **2014 INDIVIDUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS**

### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (also inducted into the Hall of Fame)**

Jerry Hinrikus, Salina

He has been a broadcaster in the Midwest for 47 years beginning in Falls City, Nebraska as an announcer. During that time he has managed and co-owned several stations in Kansas and surrounding states, and is currently general manager of Eagle Radio in Salina. Jerry served on the board of KAB and as President in 1993. He also was elected in 2002 to the National Association of Broadcasters board representing Kansas and Missouri. Jerry has been very active in his community serving on many boards and committees including the Salina Chamber, United Way, Boy Scouts, and Kansas Wesleyan.

### **KAB HALL OF FAME**

Mike "Kennedy" Law, Kansas City

He started his career 37 years ago at KVOE Radio in Emporia while attending school. He was an announcer and later did the play by play of Emporia State football and basketball. In 1988 Mike moved to Kansas City and joined the on air team at one of the nation's first Rock 40 stations. Since 1991 he has been at KBEQ in Kansas City and currently is program director and a mainstay on country radio in the mornings. Mike was the first to play bands like Rascal Flatts, Lady Antebellum, Big and Rich, Kenny Chesney, Toby Keith, and Eli Young Band, and has been nationally recognized several times by Billboard Magazine as Program Director of the Year.

### **MIKE OATMAN SALES AWARD**

Brian McDonough, Springfield, MO

Much of Brian's professional career has been in Wichita beginning in 1989 working for Mike Oatman. Within a few years he was named a sales manager and that was the start of his career mentoring sales professionals. Along the way he worked in both radio and television helping build the careers of numerous salespeople, and even launched a local sports newspaper. Brian is currently general manager of KY3 television in Springfield, MO.

### **SONNY SLATER AWARD FOR SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND STATION**

Vernon Napier (posthumously)

He dedicated more than 30 years of his life in radio, most of those as Station Manager for KLEY/KWME in Wellington. Many knew him by his radio alias, "Travis Turner." He spent ten years as operations manager at KSOK in Arkansas City before returning to Wellington 12 years ago and where his voice could be heard each day on the morning show until his death earlier this year. Napier was active with the Wellington Chamber of Commerce and other area organizations.

## **FRIEND OF KANSAS BROADCASTING AWARD**

Ron Keefover, Topeka

The KAB on occasion selects an individual who is not a broadcaster, but has played an important role in forwarding the industry. Ron retired last year after 31 years as the public information officer for the Kansas Court System and he currently serves as president of the Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government. When broadcasters needed an advocate for allowing cameras in the courtroom, Ron stepped up to the plate by writing the rules for when and under what circumstances they are allowed. Over the years, he served as a liaison between many local courts and the media throughout Kansas.