

2012 INDIVIDUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Marty Melia, Goodland

He started his career in Goodland while still in high school and owned/operated stations for 38 years before selling the stations in 2008. Through the years he could be heard doing high school play by play, covering severe weather and serving on numerous community boards. Marty is currently regional sales manager for Eagle Communications Broadband in Goodland. As a recipient of the DSA, Marty also becomes a member of the KAB Hall of Fame.

KAB HALL OF FAME

Gary Bender, Kansas City

He began his broadcast career in 1962 doing Wichita University (now Wichita State) football games after a shoulder injury forced him to end his playing days. His first full time job was with KWBW in Hutchinson. That launched his more than 40 years of sports broadcasting which took him around the world. After Hutchinson he became the voice of KU sports, moved on to do Green Bay Packers games and Milwaukee Brewers baseball games in the 70's and began a network career with CBS ABC, and TNT Sports. Last year he retired as the voice of the Phoenix Suns NBA team after 20 years and returned to Kansas City where lives now.

MIKE OATMAN SALES AWARD

Wayne Walker, Kansas City

Wayne's career in broadcast sales began in Wichita 28 years ago following his football playing days at Washburn. During that time, he has operated stations and held a variety of sales management positions while mentoring scores of account executives. Wayne is currently sales manager of KCSP in Kansas City where he has been the past 13 years.

SONNY SLATER AWARD FOR SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND STATION

Joe Miller, Wichita

He has worked in the Wichita market for several stations including general manager with KSAS TV and controller at both KAKE TV and KWCH TV – his current position. Joe, like many great broadcasters, is deeply involved in the community. He founded the Wichita Kennel Club Dog Show, is a trustee of the Botanical Gardens and Wichita Arts Council, served on the board of the YWCA and is on the finance committee (go figure) of his church.