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The 98th Annual Awards Banquet was a SELL OUT

The Banquet was a star-studded event and a wonderful success, with



Keynote Speaker Andy Rooney and Walter Cronkite talking about their history in television. John S. Belrose and Walter Cronkite received the Armstrong Medals, while Dennis Bodson received the Sarnoff Citation and Louis Meyer received The Alfred H. Grebe Memorial Award. RCA President Phil Casciano advised the audience that,

this year, Harry Mills turned 100 years old and received the Centenarian Award at his home on his birthday.

Nine of the members elevated to Fellow were there for the event: John A. Armstrong Jr., Frederick M. Baumgartner, Sandra L. Black, Russell H. Fox, James W. Harris, Morgan E. O'Brien, Donald W. Pfohl, William F. Roselle Jr. and Elizabeth R. Sachs. William F. Baker, James W. Hart, George W. Hoeltje and Joseph J. Schroeder Jr. were elevated but unable to attend.

One of the RCA Scholarship recipients, Ericka Emmich, was at the banquet representing Montclair State University.

More comprehensive coverage of the dinner plus photos will be

presented in the Spring 2008 Proceedings.

The DeMello Award Presented to John Powell at the RCA Banquet

NPSTC's Governing Board is pleased to award the 2007 Richard DeMello award to John Powell. Chief Harlin McEwen, last year's award winner, presented the DeMello Award to Powell at the 98th Anniversary Annual Awards Banquet of the Radio Club of America in New York City, New York, on Nov.



16, 2007, saying, "I cannot think of any person who has worked harder and longer on behalf of the public safety community than John Powell. I have worked with John for many years and believe he is extremely worthy of the honor this award conveys."

Mr. Powell was in good company, joined by keynote speaker, Andy Rooney of CBS's *60 Minutes*; Walter Cronkite, former anchor of 'CBS Evening News;' and John S. Belrose, Ph.D., emeritus researcher at the Communications Research Center Canada. Belrose and Cronkite received the Club's foremost achievement award, the Armstrong Medal.

"I am deeply appreciative that my many colleagues and friends within NPSTC, and indeed from the international public safety community with whom I've had the great enjoyment and privilege to work for so many years, have chosen to recognize me with this year's DeMello Award," Powell said. "I had the honor of knowing and working with Richard DeMello for over a decade as we built strong partnerships among first responders, eventually resulting in the formation of NPSTC ten years ago. This award is a wonderful and deserving tribute to Richard's tireless effort to build bridges between organizations, and I am humbled to be its second recipient."

A past president and Life Member of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO), Powell is one of six recipients of APCO's Art McDole Award for long-term technical contributions to the art and practice of public safety telecommunications; he was named "Most Influential Person in Public Safety Spectrum Management" by *Radio Resource* magazine in 1998. "There are a number of individuals dedicated to improving public safety communications interoperability for first responders. John is at the top of the list. I have yet to find anyone as committed to their cause as John is," says Don Root, assistant communications manager, San Diego County Sheriff.

Powell has more than 29 years of law-enforcement experience at both the municipal and state levels as a police officer and supervisor for two San Francisco area agencies. He has authored numerous articles for communications-sector publications on operational and technical issues related to advanced wireless communications, interoperability and software defined radio. He has consulted extensively on issues and projects related to advanced telecommunications technologies, including interoperability and software defined radio. "John's combination of technical and operational experience is a tremendous asset to public safety. He can work with an advanced technology organization like the Software Defined Radio Forum with the knowledge and authority of someone who has been on the front lines of public safety for many years," says Fred Frantz, chair of the SDR Forum's Public Safety Special Interest Group.

He currently chairs California's FCC-chartered Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), the Interoperability Committee and Software Defined Radio Working Group within NPSTC, and the Board of Directors of the SDR Forum. He is a member of the Executive Committee of Project SAFECOM within the Department of Homeland Security, and of the Project 25 Steering Committee. Professional associations include membership on the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Law Enforcement Information Management Section, the IACP Communications and Technology Committee, the Radio Club of America (Fellow), and a membership in International Association of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Powell had an interest in serving public safety from a young age, when he participated as a public safety volunteer through high school and college. In accepting the award, Powell said, "I note that, sitting here among the icons of our industry in its many flavors, are a number of young people, including my own two children. I'd like to end my comments by offering all of them these words of encouragement: At some time in your life, you are going to be challenged and inspired by a cause or an idea that will be a benefit to your fellow man, perhaps for generations to come. It will grab you and say 'get involved.' When you meet that challenge, grasp it with both arms and devote as much energy and time as you possibly can to finding the best solutions possible. If you are indeed successful, you will be rewarded by your colleagues, family and friends as I have been tonight."



Award Named to Honor DeMello's Achievements

Thanks to Greg Ballentine of GeoComm, Stu Overby of Motorola and the Radio Club of America (RCA) for sponsoring this year's DeMello award. Each year, NPSTC presents an annual award at the RCA awards dinner, to one public safety communications person who has demonstrated the highest levels of personal and professional conduct and performance in the local, state, and national public

safety communications arena. The award was named to honor the achievements of Richard DeMello, one of the founding fathers of NPSTC. Visit www.npstc.org to learn more about DeMello.

Scholarship Fund Drive Held At The RCA Annual Banquet

Thank you to all who contributed to the Scholarship Fund Drive at the Annual Banquet. We collected \$665 in cash that night and have received one envelope in the mail from Alfred Grebe. We also received \$5,000 from EWA. Let's continue this excitement! Please send your contribution now! The recent scholarships went to:

University of Texas at Austin - \$2,000
University of California at Los Angeles - \$3,000
Montclair State University - \$2,000
Fairleigh Dickinson University - \$1,000
Virginia Tech - \$2,000
Capitol College - \$2,000
Polytechnic University - \$2,000
University of Cincinnati (2) - \$500
Foundation of Amateur Radio (3) - \$1,000 each
Stevens Institute of Technology - \$1,500

2007 Radio Club Board Election

The 2007 election results were revealed at the Board Meeting on Friday, Nov. 16. The results are: Vice-President/Counsel - David E. Weisman; Vice-President/Co-Counsel – Roger H. Schwaninger Jr.; Secretary – Raymond Minichiello; Treasurer – Roger D. Madden; Director – Vivian A. Carr, Don Bishop, John S. Belrose, Carole J. Perry Parker, Robert P. Walsh, Ronald J. Jakubowski and Craig Jorgensen. Andy Singer will fill the open Director position vacated by Ray Minichiello for his remaining year.

Thank you to all who voted and submitted ballots by Nov. 1. Thank you to all the candidates for their time and effort in this election.

Karen Clark, Executive Secretary

Upcoming Events

[Click here to view the list on the website](#)

[IWCE](#), Feb. 27-29, 2008, at the Las Vegas Convention Center

RCA Breakfast at IWCE, Feb. 28 (more information to follow)

Spring Event,

[CTIA](#), April 1-3, Las Vegas Convention Center

Texas Event, April 28-30, 2008, at the Galveston Convention Center

Spring RCA QSO Party, May 3, 2008

Do you know someone that would like to sponsor this newsletter? Or any RCA event? Please call 303-948-4921.

Do you know someone who isn't yet a member of the RCA? Be sure to direct him or her to our Web site for a downloadable application. Click [here](#) for more information.

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