



VALLEY BROADCAST LEGENDS

Issue #143 “Honoring the Past, Sharing the Present, Embracing the Future in Media”

February 2025

Feb. 11 • Aviator’s Restaurant at Executive Airport • Doors open 11 a.m. • Lunch service at 11:30

What’s Really Going on at CapRadio?

Capital Public Radio—better known as CapRadio—has been much in the news lately as allegations continue to swirl as to financial mismanagement. What’s really going on behind the doors at our public radio stations? Our guest at the February 11 meeting of Valley Broadcast Legends will be **Ishani Desai**, the reporter who has been covering the story for the *Sacramento Bee*. In her presentation for us, she plans to focus on the problems facing CapRadio and how it got to this point.

Ishani Desai has worked as a breaking news reporter at the *Bee* since September of 2023. She caught the journalism bug after joining the UCLA college newspaper, *The Daily Bruin*, as a copy editor



and reporter. She began working at *The Bakersfield Californian* as a crime and courts reporter, where she tracked down every homicide and covered high-profile trials riveting the county.

In a story that broke in the *Bee* on January 21, Ms. Desai interviewed several CapRadio DJs who were laid off back in 2023, when CapRadio cancelled all of its local music programs, citing lack of funds. They finally broke their silence over the latest scandal to hit CapRadio, accusations that former General Manager

Jun Reina used station money to support a lavish lifestyle.

Mick Martin had hosted a popular blues program going back to 1991, and often raised the most money of any host during pledge drives. “I cannot tell you how depressing it was,” Martin said, referring to the allegations of station money being used for golf memberships and tropical vacations. “There’s no words for it.”

Dennis Newhall, who hosted a jazz program, said Reina was likeable and seemed trustworthy. “To see this downfall is quite a shock.”

CapRadio is, indeed, a hot topic in the local broadcast community and beyond. This promises to be an intriguing program that you won’t want to miss. That’s Tuesday, February 11, at noon at Aviator’s at Executive Airport. RSVPs must be made one week in advance, no later than Tuesday, February 4.

RSVP for the February 11 Meeting:

Allen Chamberlin: 916/456-7654

secretary@valleybroadcastlegends.org

Cost: \$30 payable at the door.

Cash or check only.

Reservations required by Feb. 4!

An Uncertain Forecast

by VBL Board Member **Ward Koppel**

A storm is brewing in the Weather Departments at TV stations across the country as station owners shift from having a live, local meteorologist or weatherperson on set during newscasts. Weather reports are being produced at a central hub and recorded in advance. The extended forecast is unclear.

The move that is gaining the most public attention comes from Allen Media Group. Social media sites in recent weeks have shown videos of laid off weather staff saying their goodbyes. Published reports say Allen Media Group made a deal with the Weather Channel to produce recorded weather reports for the company's stations that have newscasts. Up to two dozen of the group's 36 stations are impacted, costing an estimated 100 people their jobs. KHSL in the Chico-Redding market is one of those stations. But as I write this, the *New York Post* is reporting that an "atmospheric river" of public outcry has Allen Media Group reconsidering the decision.

Locally, in January ABC10 began using weather reports recorded and fed in from other stations on their weekend newscasts. I contacted ABC10 management for comment, but did not receive a response before my deadline. Sources within ABC10 say one weatherperson has been told their job is being eliminated. Social media posts show photos of ABC10's Marketing Department, which was eliminated in January, to be replaced by a centralized Marketing Department. Sources also tell me that directors will be eliminated and laid off later this year. How newscasts will be directed without directors I could not determine. So, big changes at ABC10.

Many of our members in their careers have dealt with some sort of recorded weather segment, but those were done by a member of the station's weather staff. Many also may have had to produce or present the weather in an emergency when a member of the weather staff was not available.

I am not certain that the outside-the-area recorded weather is in the best interest of viewers. In the case of ABC10, currently it leaves a single anchor in the set for the entire show in some cases. As a producer, it takes away the ability to have a weatherperson deal with a breaking news situation, of to "cut 30 seconds" or "add 30 seconds" as conditions merit.



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**VALLEY BROADCAST
LEGENDS**

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Sacramento, CA 95860-1861



President's Message: Program Ideas Always Welcome

by VBL President **Bill George**



So ... What would you like to see???

Perhaps our most important Board duty is to identify and present compelling programs for our luncheons. Interesting presentations keep our group active and interested and allows us to promote VBL to prospective new members and keeps us involved with the community. Over time VBL has enjoyed presentations from a variety of speakers. The most popular programs have dealt with broadcast history, issues involving broadcasting, politics and issues concerning senior citizens. We even had a very nice presentation from the FBI about protecting yourself from fraudsters. We have also showcased our members' activities and work such as books and films they have produced.

We welcome any program ideas you may have. Be creative, as nothing legal is "off-limits," so don't be shy. Send your ideas to us via email to secretary@valleybroadcastlegends.org.

Have a wonderful and prosperous 2025.

Please Pay Your Dues!

If you've not already paid your VBL dues for 2025, please do so now. Just \$20 keeps your membership active until December 31, 2025, and helps us keep our club alive and well.

The easy way: Come to the February 11 luncheon and bring a check or cash, \$50, to cover lunch and your dues. Checks should be payable to Valley Broadcast Legends.

The not-so-easy way: Find an envelope and stamp, and put a check in the mail. \$20, payable to Valley Broadcast Legends and sent to:

Post Office Box 601861

Sacramento, CA 95860-1861

Thank you to the approximately 40 members who have already paid their dues for 2025!

The Legends

Membership as of Jan. 26, 2025

John Archer • Julie Archer
Jay "DJ Jay" Arnold • Stan Atkinson
Mark Baggs • Vic Biondi • Bill Bishofberger
Thomas Blazowski • Matias Bombal
Tom Buck • Allen Chamberlin
Mark Chiolis • Tim Church
Tony Cox • Judi Decker
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Cindy Koppel • Ward Koppel • Bud Kress
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Keith Moon • Ray Nelson
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Greg Popejoy • Mary Jane Popp
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Barbara Souza • Roy Stearns
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Gregory VanAcker • Gregory Virtue
Hilary Vos • Tom Wagner • Dave Walker
Marla Wells • Dave Williams
Dennis Yoder • Steve Zraggen



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Merry Memories: December 10, 2024

