

# Organizational History Factoids

by Dr. Stan Tickton

As historian of NBS–AERho I was asked to provide weekly "factoids" on the history of the society. In 2002-2003, the society had its 50th anniversary. Here are those weekly factoids which appeared online between August 2002 and March 2003, and were updated to March, 2012 (which includes information on the location of the 2012 convention and 2011 change in structure of NBS-AERho).

## Factoid #1

Our society was founded by a faculty member, Dr. Sherman Lawton, at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri in May 1941. It was an honorary radio fraternity called Beta Epsilon Phi. Susie McRae was the Beta Epsilon Phi President from 1941-1943. After Dr. Lawton formed Beta Epsilon Phi he contacted student radio groups at other colleges and universities. This led to a meeting of some of those groups in Columbus, Ohio in May 1943. To find out more about that 1943 meeting – read factoid #2.

## Factoid #2

In May 1943 in Columbus, Ohio, AERho became officially organized. Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri along with a second chapter at Syracuse University became the first two chartered campus chapters. By the end of 1943 there were three other chartered chapters all from Big Ten schools: University of Minnesota, Michigan State University and Ohio State University. How did the name of Alpha Epsilon Rho originate? Read factoid #3.

## Factoid #3

How did the name Alpha Epsilon Rho originate? When students met in 1943 at Ohio State University's Institute for Education by Radio and officially founded the fraternity (society), they decided to change the name from that of the Stephens College chapter, Beta Epsilon Phi to Alpha Epsilon Rho as an acknowledgment to an organization of professional radio educators many of whom helped establish those early chapters at their academic institutions. The organization was called Association for Education by Radio, known then as "AER." Hence the name Alpha Epsilon Rho (AER). Want to know more? Read factoid #4.

## Factoid #4

For 18 years, from 1943 through 1961, Alpha Epsilon Rho held its annual national convention in Columbus, Ohio at the Deshler – Wallick Hotel with Ohio State University's Institute for Education by Radio. Since 1962, the national convention has been held in several other cities. What other cities have hosted more than one convention? Read factoid #5.

## Factoid #5

With the exception of the first 18 Alpha Epsilon Rho conventions that were held in Columbus, Ohio, the city that has been host to the most NBS – AERho conventions has been Los Angeles with a total of 8 (1964, 1976, 1984, 1991, 2001, 2005, 2008 in Anaheim at Disneyland, and 2011). There is one city that has hosted 6 conventions, there are 3 cities that have hosted 5 conventions and two which have hosted 4 conventions. To find out which ones – read factoid #6.

#### Factoid #6

The New York metro area has hosted 6 conventions (1982, 1988, 1994, 1989, 2009 and 2012). Four cities have hosted 5 NBS – AERho national conventions.. They are Chicago (1971, 1972, 1976, 1997 and 2007), the Washington, D.C. metro area (1973, 1977, 1992, 1991, 2002 and 2006.) The two cities which have hosted 4 conventions are St. Louis (1967, 1987, 1993, and 2003) and Las Vegas (1975, 1978, 1980 and 1989). Which cities have hosted 3 conventions each and which geographic area of the country has hosted the most conventions from 1962 to the present? Read factoid #7.

#### Factoid #7

Two cities have hosted 3 NBS – AERho national conventions: Nashville (1981, 1985, and 1998), and Atlanta (1983, 1995, and 2000). Which geographic area of the country has hosted the most NBS – AERho conventions? It is the South with 16 conventions held in Nashville, Atlanta (as noted above), Miami, Orlando, Houston and Dallas. Next is the Midwest/ Plains hosting 12 conventions in Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit, Tulsa and Kansas City. The geographic areas of both the East (New York, Boston, and Washington, D.C.) and West (Los Angeles and Las Vegas) have hosted 13 conventions each. Do you know who in NBS – AERho looked like the actor Charlie Ruggles? If not, read factoid #8.

#### Factoid #8

Since Dr. Sherman Lawton founded Beta Epsilon Phi at Stephens College in 1941 and was the instrumental force in bringing other interested radio clubs and fraternities together to form AERho in 1943, it was only natural that he would become the society's first Executive Secretary from 1943 – 1948. Later in his academic career Dr. Lawton became Director of Broadcasting Instruction at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Lawton was also very active in the early years of the Association for Professional Broadcasting Education (APBE) which is now known as the Broadcast Education Association (BEA). To those that knew him well such as myself, we would not only call him "Sherm" but also call him "Ruggles" because he looked exactly like the actor Charlie Ruggles. How many Executive Secretaries has NBS – AERho had? Read factoid #9.

#### Factoid #9

The position of National Executive Secretary of NBS – AERho existed from 1943 to 1992. During those 49 years the society had 10 Executive Secretaries. They were: Dr. Sherman Lawton who was the focus of factoid number 8, Betty Girling, Lowell Johnson, Jack Summerfield, Allen Miller, Cal Watson, Donel Price, Val Limburg, Dr. Richard Uray and Dr. John Lopiccolo. Who was the longest serving Executive Secretary? Read factoid #10.

#### Factoid #10

The longest serving NBS – AERho Executive Secretary was Dr. Richard Uray who held the position for 15 years from 1972 - 1987. It was nearly impossible to fool or "put one over," as it were, on Rick Uray. However, during the 1979 Dallas convention some of us did just that. We arranged a surprise/thank you dinner party for him – all of us paying for our dinner as well as

Rick's dinner at the Sheraton Dallas convention hotel. When Rick Uray walked into the room he saw a number of us seated around the dinner table with bald heads (bought from a local costume shop) and cigars in our mouths. After he walked in the room a few of us said one of his trade mark sayings "No Sweat" and lit up our cigars. Rick was absolutely astonished and all he could say was "Ya got me!" Who were other long – term NBS – AERho Executive Secretaries? Read factoid #11.

#### Factoid #11

In addition to Dr. Richard Uray, other long – time NBS – AERho Executive Secretaries were Cal Watson, Washington State University serving 9 years, and Donel Price, California State University – Los Angeles and Dr. John Lopiccicolo, University of South Carolina serving 5 years each. Do you know how the position and responsibilities of the Executive Secretary has changed over the past 12 years? Read factoid #12.

#### Factoid #12

In 1992 the position of NBS – AERho Executive Secretary was split into two separate positions – National Treasurer and National Secretary. Dr. John Lopiccicolo from the University of South Carolina became National Treasurer and G. Richard Gainey of Ohio Northern University became National Secretary. The two held these positions until 1994 when the positions were once again redefined and thus retitled being called Vice President for Operations and Vice President for Services. In 1996 former NBS – AERho President Dr. Joe Misiewicz of Ball State University became Vice President for Operations. In 1998 the two positions changed once again. To find out how, read factoid # 13.

#### Factoid #13

In 1997 Jim Wilson of Lindenwood University became Vice President for Services and Dianna Clark of KCFV – FM/ St. Louis Community College became Vice President for Operations. In 1998 these two positions were once again combined with Jim Wilson becoming the Vice President for Operations and Services. In 2001, Jim Wilson's position changed for a final time to that of Executive Director the society's FIRST full – time paid position. He still holds that position. Do you know the names of all of the

NBS – AERho National presidents? If not, read factoids # 14 – 17.

#### Factoid #14

Alpha Epsilon Rho's first National President was Judith Waller of NBC from 1943 – 1948. From 1948 to 1971 AERho National Presidents were students from various campus chapters. Who were these students and from which colleges and universities did they come? Read factoid #15.

#### Factoid #15

From 1948 to 1965 the following students were the National Presidents of NBS – AERho. If you know any of the, let them know about our March conventions. Mort Granas, University of Alabama 1948 – 49, Don Lyons, Syracuse University 1949 – 50, Jack Summerfield, University of Texas 1950 – 51, Bill Allen, University of Alabama 1951 – 52, Rod Rightmire, Boston University 1952 – 53, Bill Hinson, University of Miami 1953 – 54, John Hackworth, University of Texas 1954 – 55, Kay Hutchinson, Kansas State University 1955 – 56, Gordon Jump, Kansas State University 1956 – 57, Ray Normand, Boston

University 1957 – 58, Jim Shumaker, Ohio State University 1958 -59, Thom Leider, University of Miami, 1959 – 60, Father James Brown, University of Southern California 1960, David Randolph, San Francisco State University 1960 – 61, Donel Price, California State College – LA 1961 – 63, Father John O'Brien, University of Southern California 1962 – 63, Mell Harris, Kansas State University 1963 -64, Bob Pincus, University of California – Los Angeles 1964 – 65, Wallace Smith, University of Southern California 1965 – 66, Al Criado, University of Houston 1966 -67, Howard Liberman, Emerson College 1967 – 68, Vickie Lowe, Lindenwood University 1968 – 69, Bill Freeh, University of Detroit 1969 – 70, Donna Walcovy, Emerson College 1970 – 71, and Louis Miller, Jr., University of South Carolina 1971 -72. From 1971 to 1980 some NBS – AERho National Presidents were students who graduated and continued to be the National President during the first years of their professional life. Who were they? Read factoid #16.

#### Factoid #16

From 1971 to 1980 there were 4 NBS – AERho National Presidents who served as both students while undergraduates and continued to serve as the society's National President after graduation during their first years of professional employment. They were: Louis Miller, Jr., University of South Carolina/ WLVA – TV, 1973 – 74, Andrew Orgel, Ithaca College/ CBS Radio, 1979 – 80. During 1978 – 79 and from 1980 to the present our NBS – AERho National Presidents have been faculty members at educational institutions and/or industry professionals. Who were they and who has been our longest serving National President? Read factoid # 17.

#### Factoid #17

NBS – AERho National Presidents from 1978 to the present have been educational institution faculty members and/or industry professionals. They have been: Gary Lico, TVS TV Network 1978 – 79, Dr. John Kurtz, then at Ball State University 1980 – 81, Dr. Joe Misiewicz then at Central Michigan University 1981 – 85, Dr. Al Albarran, then at Sam Houston State University 1985 – 87, Dr. David Guerra, University of Arkansas – Little Rock 1987 – 89, Donna Williams, St. Thomas Aquinas College 1989 -93, Dr. Jamie Byrne then at Millersville State University 1993 – 2001 – our longest serving National President Mark Niethamer, KTSM – TV in El Paso, Texas 2001 -03. Dr. Pat Reighand, Appalachian State University 2003 – 05, Dr. William Dorman, Millersville University 2005 – 2009. Dr. Bruce Mims of Southeast Missouri State University was the President through the 2011 convention. To find out about additional faculty involvement beyond the role of chapter advisor read factoid #18.

#### Factoid #18

Although NBS – AERho has been primarily a student – oriented professional organization, usually the first professional/ industry organization to which students belong, an effort was started by National Executive Secretary Dr. Richard Uray to involve more faculty members in addition to campus chapter faculty advisors. Faculty academic paper presentations became part of the NBS – AERho National Convention program in 1982. Your current Historian (Dr. Stan Tickton) was asked to put this program together and did so for 9 years through the 1990 convention when anew national office was established, Vice – President for Faculty Development. Who were NBS – AERho Vice President for Faculty Development and how did the position change over the years? Read factoid # 19.

#### Factoid #19

The first Vice – President for Faculty Development was Donna Walcovy, Framingham State University from 1990 to 1994. In 1994 the position was then combined with the Vice President for Professional Development and called Vice – President for Faculty and Professional Development. Dr. Ann Jabro of Penn State University became the Vice – President for Faculty and Professional Development in 1994 and served in that position until 1996. In 1995 the word "Faculty" was dropped from the title and the position became known as Vice – President for Professional Development Professor Billy Oliver of Barry University served as Vice – President for Professional Development from 1996 to 1998. In 1998 G. Richard Gainey became Vice – President for Professional Development serving until 2001. The position duties and title were once again modified to that of Vice – President of Alumni and Professional Services. Dr. Al Greule of Stephen F. Austin State University served in that position from 2001 – 04 and Terry Adams University of Miami from 2004 to 2006. From 2006 to 2011 Marilee Morro from Marietta College served in that position. How have faculty sessions changed at national conventions? Read factoid #20.

#### Factoid # 20

How have faculty program sessions evolved over the years at NBS – AERho national conventions? Faculty sessions have grown from not only just academic paper presentations but now also include a regular audio and video program/production competition similar to the student audio and video program/production awards. The faculty winners are announced at the Saturday NBS – AERho Awards Banquet. To learn about the NBS – AERho regional structure and its history read factoid #21.

#### Factoid # 21

The concept of developing regions for NBS – AERO had its start in the early 1970's. Until 1971 chapters were identified by both their Greek name and institution such as the Alpha Pi Chapter at Wayne State University. In 1971, seven regions were developed along with various institutional faculty/staff members in each region serving as regional advisors. These regions reported to both the National President and National Executive Secretary. The position of Vice – President for Regional Development was established in 1975 and Paul Boscarenno of Central Michigan University was the first Vice – President of Regional Development. What were the original seven regions and who were the first regional advisors? Read factoid #22.

#### Factoid # 22

The original 7 NBS – AERho Regions were comprised of the society's 44 active chapters at that time (1971). The Northeast Region had 5 chapters, the Southeast Region had 4 chapters, the state of Florida had its own region of 3 chapters, the North Region had 6 chapters, the Midwest Region had 9 chapters, the West – Northwest Region had 10 chapters and the Southwest Region had 7 chapters. Who were the first regional advisors? Read factoid #23.

#### Factoid # 23

With the establishment of 7 NBS – AERho regions came 8 regional advisors. The original 8 regional advisors were: Vin De Boni of Emerson College for the Northeast, Dr. Richard Uray of the University of South Carolina for the Southeast, Paul Nagel Jr. of the University of Miami for Florida, Len Bart of the University of Minnesota for the North, Ken Mrozenske of Kansas State University for the Midwest, John Gipson of Texas Tech for the Southwest and Dan Baker of California State College – Long Beach and Bob Gese of Washington State University for the combined West/Northwest. Today NBS – AERho has 6 regions although configured differently than in the past. Please read the most recent communication from our Vice –

President for Chapter Development, Ron Means about the new 6 regional lineups. In addition to Regional Directors there are also several district Directors within many of the regions. Want to know about past NBS – AERho publications? Read factoid #24.

#### Factoid # 24

The original NBS –AERho publication organ which was published on and off, depending upon available funds, until the mid – 1970's was called MONITOR. MONITOR not only included information about the society but it also contained other articles authored by student and faculty member of the society. To encourage student participation during the early 1970's a "reward" of \$25 was given for the best student article submitted and printed. After MONITOR came our familiar SIGNALS which was published and mailed until a few years ago. Now, as you all know, SIGNALS is completely an on – line publication. Want to know about NBS – AERho's involvement with other professional organizations? Read factoid #25.

#### Factoid # 25

In December 1998 NBS – AERho developed a formal joint operating agreement with the International Radio and Television Society (IRTS) and our society's name became IRTS – AERho. IRTS provided staffing assistance such as billing, dues collection, and convention registration. Although the joint operating agreement was dissolved in 2000 IRTS still plays a major role in providing assistance to NBS – AERho in terms of convention programming and internships. In 2000 our society's name once again became NBS – AERho. Do you know what other organization NBS –AERho seriously thought about affiliating with prior to IRTS?

#### Factoid # 26

In 1970 the society seriously considered affiliation with an organization of broadcast educators then called the Association for Professional Broadcasting Education (APBE) now know as the Broadcast Education Association (BEA). APBE declined as its parent organization the National Association of Broadcaster (NABO did not have the extra personnel available given that APBE was then a one – man organization with Dr. Harold Niven serving as APEBE's Executive Director in addition to working for the NAB as its convention coordinator.

#### Factoid #27

In 2011 the structure of NBS-AERho changed again at the national convention. NBS-AERho now is run by a National Board of Governors with Jim Wilson still the organization's Executive Director. The current Board of Governors are:

Scott Alboum, Rider University serving a two-year term to 2013. Carolyn Cefalo-Horich, University of Miami (retired) serving a one-year term as Governor of Honor Societies, Marilee Morrow, Marietta College, serving a one-year term, Ryan Hazelwood, West Texas A & M University, serving a two-year term, Dr. Joseph Chuck, Kutztown University, serving a one-year term, Dr. Pat Reighard, Appalachian State University (retired) serving a two-year term and Lauren Morgan (student), University of North Alabama, serving a one-year term.