

## Ohio April 2017

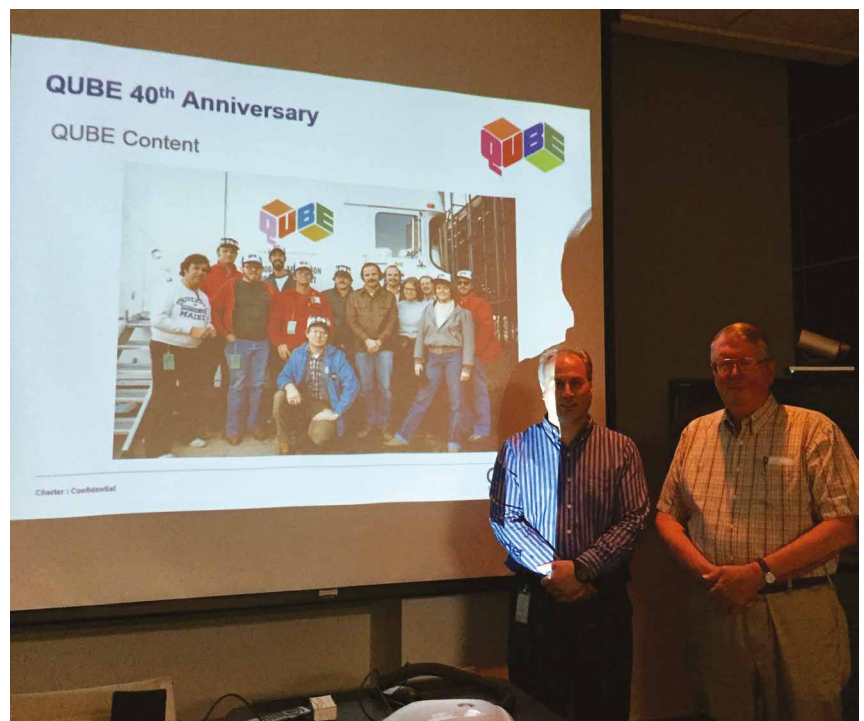
**T**he Section meeting on 20 April was combined with the local SBE Chapter 52 and took place at the Spectrum (formerly Time-Warner) Cable TV headend operations center, in Columbus, Ohio. The guest presenter was Mike Bertolino, director of video operations for the merged Charter Communications (formerly Time Warner Cable) in the Midwest, who oversees the centralized market center headend in Columbus. This state-of-the-art IP headend operations center also provides signals to customers in nine midwestern states.

In his presentation, Bertolino outlined the history of the original CATV programming format, from its very beginnings to the present. He stated that early CATV systems from the late 1940s onward serviced customers who lived primarily in rural, hilly, and distant locations, from a local TV station's transmitter. In addition to passing through local TV stations' signals on the subscriber's channels 2–13 TV set tuner band, many companies also passed through local UHF TV stations, FM radio stations, and, where necessary, the local Channel 6 TV station signals, which were often difficult to receive on some TV sets. They also passed through remote network affiliated TV station signals on some occasions when their local TV network affiliated stations had elected not to clear all their shows in some time periods, to supply those shows to their cable TV subscribers. As some of the

small- and medium-sized early cable TV companies expanded and enlarged their service territories, they acquired some of the local trailer park owned CATV systems that were supplied to their tenants, which sprung up in various rural hilly geographical areas of the country. It was commonplace for a local cable TV company to just buy out the trailer park owner's original system, and then offer additional programming to their tenants, etc. The first milestone for the successful launching of out-of-town original Cable TV programming was reached in 1972 with the premiere of HBO.

In addition to offering the traditional local community access channel at most CATV companies, subscribers were now offered an extra cost premium channel in which to view recently released,

commercial free, and uncut movies and variety shows, etc. Five years later, another milestone was achieved in the Cable TV industry with the successful launching of Warner Cable's QUBE service on 1 December 1977 in Columbus. The QUBE service was an experimental laboratory offering entirely new concepts in cable TV variety programming never-before-seen in the television industry. It featured a unique black box, separate from the subscriber's TV set tuner, which contained three rows of buttons. QUBE also introduced the concept of two-way interactive polling, OnDemand and Pay per view individual subscriber billed access for movie and variety show programming, the launching of additional dedicated feature networks such as for cartoons, news, public affairs, and other movie



Ohio Section's April meeting. L–R: Mike Bertolino, Spectrum Communications, and Ralph Hoffman, SBE Chapter 52 Treasurer/Editor, in front of the QUBE 40th Anniversary slide.

channels, just to name a few. Most of today's Cable companies' operations have transitioned from the former analog platforms to modern all-streaming operational platforms, like the one in Columbus, which has resulted in a multitude of new and expanding services for their subscribers.

A Q&A group discussion and a guided tour of the Spectrum operation center followed the presentation.

—Gene Batey,  
Secretary/Treasurer

## Ohio May 2017

**T**he Ohio Section meeting, held on 18 May, at the new WBNS Digital Television "Newsroom of the Future" in Columbus was combined with the local SBE Chapter. The guest presenter was Don Archiabile, vice president of Osborn Engineering, based in Cleveland. Archiabile's presentation included an overview of the many steps involved in completing this very advanced and complex achievement, from the very first virtual visual conceptions on the drawing board to the final ribbon cutting, which took place over a period of nearly two years.

This WBNS Digital newsroom is one of the most advanced facilities of its kind located in any local TV station in the U.S. This is due in large part to full involvement of planning, execution, and providing valuable feedback/input from all parties in the engineering circle, which helped ensure that the construction met the needs of those who would be using the facility on a daily basis. The staff was also thoroughly trained on how to use their new tools. The responsibility of this new digital newsroom is to provide daily news reports/feeds to both WBNS HD TV broadcasts and HD streaming feeds on their Web page. This newsroom is also unique in that Osborne Engineering was successful in trimming back many of the higher costs



New WBNS Digital Television "Newsroom of the Future" in Columbus, Ohio.



City desk at the new WBNS Digital Television "Newsroom of the Future."

often associated with a more advanced newsroom of this type, which could have potentially cost millions more. This type of synergistic engineering involvement as the various phases of construction took place, helped ensure that the finished project would meet the needs of all parties concerned.

The presentation was followed by a very informative Q&A session involving the 40 members/guests in attendance. This was followed by a general tour of the spacious new WBNS digital newsroom.

—Gene Batey,  
Secretary/Treasurer



Streaming desk at the new WBNS Digital “Newsroom of the Future” at the Ohio Section meeting in May.



Don Archibale, guest speaker at the Ohio Section’s May meeting, discusses the various construction phases of the project.

**Philadelphia**  
**April 2017**

**T**he Section meeting on 11 April, was held at the Comcast Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with 27

attendees. Pete Putman, a 37-year veteran of the industry, provided a presentation, “Speaking of Consumption Devices: Bringing Home the Bits.” Putman is president of ROAM Consulting

LLC in Doylestown, Pa., which provides consulting, training, and product testing/development services to manufacturers, dealers, distributors, and end users. He has written extensively on digital video and display technology for numerous consumer and trade magazines, and is a frequent speaker at major trade shows and technical conferences, including the SMPTE Annual Technical Conference, the NAB Show, the Hollywood Post Alliance Technology Retreat, and the InfoComm International trade show.

Putman discussed the three-letter acronyms (TLAs): Ultrahigh-definition (UHD), high dynamic range (HDR), and wide color gamut (WCG) to 4K. He explained what the TLAs mean and the technologies and standards behind these acronyms. A pre-meeting get-together and buffet in the Comcast Center’s 42nd floor lounge provided a stunning view of Philadelphia’s city center. The presentation held in the television studio was recorded for upload to the Philadelphia Section’s YouTube channel.

—Steven Tadzynski,  
Section Manager

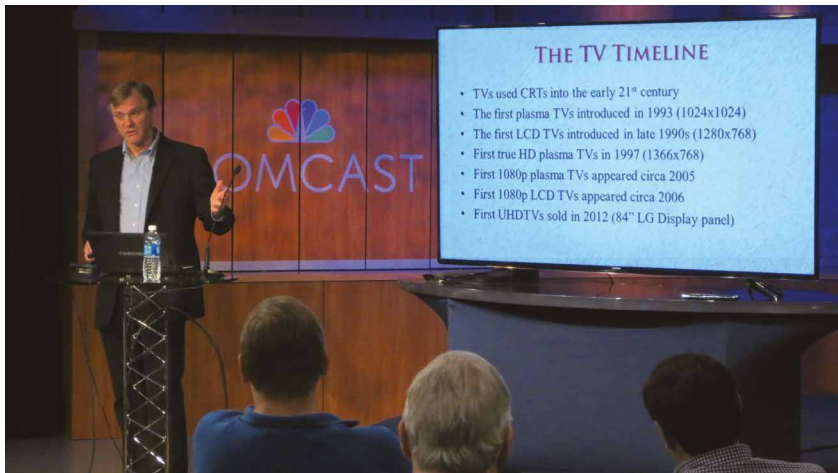



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Presenter Pete Putman speaks to attendees at the Philadelphia Section's April meeting.

## Poland

April 2017

**T**he second meeting of the Poland Section was held on 26 April at the National Audiovisual Institute in

Warsaw. The event was co-organized by Dolby and National Audiovisual Institute. The meeting began with a screening of the movie *Strange Heaven*, which was mixed with Atmos, and screened in a room equipped with Dolby Atmos. The

screening was followed by three presentations.

The first presenter, Łukasz Targosz, is a music composer who specializes in music for movies. Targosz received the most prestigious award for music for the TV series "Wataha" in 2016, and has received several other awards outside of Poland. He discussed music creation for films and how music influences the movie.

The next presenter, Tomasz Duksza, is a sound director who specializes in sound mixing for feature films. He is a member of the Polish Film Academy, Cinema Audio Society, Audio Engineering Society, and now SMPTE. Duksza, who teaches at The Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, discussed the managing and processing sound from film shot to distribution.

The final presenter was Maksymilian Górski, a manager at Dolby R&D in Poland, specializing in sound analysis. Górski's current focus is sound in virtual reality and he dedicated his presentation to this topic.

The event, which was well received by attendees, was followed by a social, hosted by Dolby.

—Kamil Rutkowski,  
Section Chair




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## Toronto May 2017

**T**he Toronto Section met at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario. The meeting, organized by Managers Stosh Durbacz and Andrew Thomas, kicked off with a quick introduction about the NAB Show, which included statistics on the number of attendees and vendors. Durbacz led a panel of four industry experts in a discussion of what they saw at the show. The panelists covered trends such as IP and the

forthcoming ST 2110 standard, virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), Drones, UHD/ 8K, and high dynamic range (HDR). Brian Young of Vistek provided a detailed presentation on cameras and camera-related technology. Matthew Bush discussed HDR and how it impacts his post-production business. Shawn Kelly of Corus focused on two companies offering cloud-based services for playout and distribution. Finally, Andrew Thomas provided a broad overview of the show including a number of systems designed for Remote at Home Production (REMI). The presentations were followed by a Q & A session that promoted some debate among the panelists regarding IP in the plant, VR, and Stereoscopic 3D.

—Andrew Thomas,  
Section Manager-at-Large



Attendees at the Poland Section meeting in April.



Panelists at the Toronto Section meeting in May.

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