



Radio Club of America

October 2008

Online



The Radio Club of America Online e-letter. All complete newsletters and articles can be seen on our website <http://www.radioclubofamerica.org/>

Jacobs To Keynote 99th Annual Banquet

Dr. Paul Jacobs has been named as the keynote speaker for the 99th Annual Radio Club of America Awards Banquet. Jacobs is CEO of QUALCOMM and a member of the Company's board of directors. He has been instrumental in the development of CDMA and VoIP. Jacobs will also receive the Sarnoff Citation as will Brian Williams from NBC's Nightly News. Attached is the [Banquet Flyer](#) for the Annual Awards Banquet at the New York Athletic Club. The cocktail party will begin at 5 pm followed by dinner at 6:30 pm. The Technical Symposium will begin at 2 pm and is loaded with presentations from Mark Madden, Ken Budka, Dale Clement, and Kelly McNair to name a few. Thank you to those who helped line up these presentations and to Radio Waves, Inc. for sponsoring a portion of the symposium. Remember to RSVP on the banquet flyer if you are attending. Please contact [Rich Reichler](#) if you would like to support the Symposium in any way or to bring any items to exhibit at the Symposium.



Please contact [Mercy Contreras](#) if you would like to be included as a sponsor of the banquet.

Financial FAQ

In response to the interest in the Radio Club's financial health, we have prepared a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the Radio Club financials. Any further questions or comments should be directed to the Finance Committee Chair, [Elaine Baugh Walsh](#), or to Radio Club President- [Phil Casciano](#), or to the RCA Treasurer- [Roger Madden](#).

Is the Radio Club in financial difficulty?

No, the Radio Club is not currently and is not projected to be in financial difficulty. Like all non-profit entities, we operate on a lean and efficient budget. The Radio Club uses non-restricted funds for operating expenses and those funds come from sponsorships, ads, sales of items the RCA produces, dues and donations that are designated for non-restricted funds. Restricted funds are used to fund scholarships. The scholarship awards are derived solely from the earnings of the restricted funds.

Has the Radio Club Board approved a budget?

No, the Radio Club Board has not approved a budget. The Radio Club of America has never produced a formal budget in the past, so spending was approved on an *ad hoc* basis, from year to year. In the past, a Treasurer's Report had been prepared for discussion and acceptance by the Board each year that included revenues, expenditures and investment performance for the past year. However, the Finance Committee was directed by the President in 2007 to produce the first-ever budget for the Radio Club. A preliminary draft budget document for the examination of the board was prepared and presented at the June 2008 meeting. This budget document covered non-restricted funds only, *i.e.*, operating expenses and the revenue that funds those expenses (not scholarships). The document presented in June was a *pro forma* budget, "a straw man" budget format, if you will, and there was no vote on it. Development of a formal budget process is obviously desired, and the Finance Committee and the Board is working on a more formalized budgeting process for the future. The budget is currently being revised to match the Radio Club fiscal year, and a new version will be presented at the November 2008 Radio Club Board meeting for discussion, and possible approval and adoption.

Did the *pro forma* budget presented at the June meeting show a deficit?

No, the *pro forma* budget showed that the Radio Club would, in a typical year, show a slight revenue surplus after typical expenses. The draft budget was based on real spending data, and every single number in the *pro forma* budget was derived from a true and verifiable expense or revenue item that has been reported to the Board and the membership at large in financial reports. No speculative or estimated numbers were included. And, the budget showed that the Radio Club can meet its obligations for the coming year and the years to come. No anticipated expenses were left out. No board member who was present at the board meeting and who looked at the actual document has come forward to disagree with or question any of the entries in that *pro forma* budget.

How else are you going to ensure the financial viability of the Club?

The Board directed the Finance Committee to research and present quotes for the first-ever audit of the Radio Club's finances. One of the main reasons for this is not to guarantee the validity of the Radio Club's finances, but to make sure that the Radio Club can be considered for large legacy gifts, grants and other sources of funding that are reliant upon outside audits. The Radio Club has an accounting firm that reviews the Radio Club finances on an annual basis and then produces a report, so we do have a set of checks and balances.

Through the hard work and dedication of certain Club members and Board Members, the Radio Club continues to hold excellent stand alone events for members at various conferences around the country. Some of these events bring in several thousand dollars in sponsorships and donations and we are going to encourage more of these in 2008 and beyond.

Does the Club have an Investment Plan in place?

Yes, we do, and we do adhere to it. If any member would like to have a copy of it, please contact our Executive Secretary, Karen Clark.

I'm looking at a Treasurer's Report dated October 2007 and a copy of the Spring 2008 Proceedings and it looks like the numbers don't match. Why is that?

Like many organizations, the Radio Club does its initial accounting on a cash basis, but it does its official reporting (e.g., to the IRS) on an accrual basis. The actual "money in the bank" doesn't change, but there is a shift between the two reports that can account for small differences for each entry. This is common and does not mean that there is misfeasance or errors; it's just what happens when you report this way, which is, again, typical of any organization.

How can the Radio Club afford to have an Executive Secretary?

It's a good question, as many organizations of our size rely on volunteers. The Radio Club has done so in the past. Since that time, however, both the activities and the outreach of the Radio Club have increased, with e-newsletters, trade show participation and additional events along with the day-to-day task of keeping the Club running. We are fortunate in that we have an Executive Secretary who also serves as a salesperson for the advertising that appears in the Proceedings and other printed materials and who also helps to secure sponsorships for many events the Radio Club does for outreach to new members. The Club has utilized the services of a paid administrator/executive secretary for nearly 15 years, so this is not a new phenomenon.

An Executive Secretary is a good idea to guarantee continuity of service and consistency of paperwork flow, and it allows us to have a permanent address and phone number for the organization and to use more of the money that we do get from sponsorships and other events for scholarships. Having an Executive Secretary means that the Radio Club can move from year to year without the issues that come from transferring records and having to educate and train a new volunteer Secretary with each election. Also, as our Executive Secretary is dedicated to Radio Club, we have our records updated and membership information kept current without regard to the work schedule or other obligations of an elected Secretary.

Why doesn't the Club do anything with the Legacy Fund?

Until 2008, the Legacy Fund, which was established through the efforts of former Board Member Arch Doty, was not promoted consistently. The new Finance Committee has done two separate promotions to the membership in 2008 about the Legacy Fund, and it will continue to build interest in the Fund. The Fund is one of the important ways that the Radio Club can guarantee operating funds in the future and it's an excellent way for Radio Club members to give back to the organization.

Elaine Baugh Walsh, Director & Finance Committee Chair

Comments from Members

Several comments have been received about the "Letter to all Members" from RCA President, Phil Casciano. Here is another members response. Please continue to send in your questions and comments.

Bob Wise writes:

Dear Philip:

Thank you for the letter and the explanation of why it was sent. I find it totally unacceptable that members are sniping and complaining behind the Board's back and that backstabbing has become an 'event du jour'. The perpetrators need to either shut up, speak up in the correct forum or stand for lection if they are dissatisfied.

I for one fully support the Board in all respects and frankly think that if these anonymous members want to practice their ill manners they should resign and go somewhere else. I have never heard of anything so disgraceful and unprofessional.

Again you have my full support and consider those in office and all volunteers are doing a fine job.

Answered Phil Casciano, Radio club president:

Bob,

Thank you for your kind words. Your Board and your officers may not be perfect but we are working hard to the best of our abilities to serve our members and our industry. All positive input is welcomed and if anyone wants change then as

*you suggest, speak up in the correct forum or become active and cause change to happen.
Thanks again for taking the time to send this e-mail.*

RCA at PCIA

RCA will have a booth at [PCIA](#) at the Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood, Fla on Oct 12-15. Please stop by the booth while you are at this show. Contact [Tom Thornton](#) if you would like to help at the booth and in any other way. You can find more information on this and other RCA activities at the [Calendar of Events](#) on the RCA website. Do you know someone who isn't yet a member of the Radio Club of America? Click [here](#) for more information.. Do you know someone who wants to sponsor an event at a trade show? Contact us!

 ***We'd love to hear from you! Send your feedback to karen@radioclubofamerica.org or phone 303/948-4921.***
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