



The Radio Club of America

Honorary Members

Honorary Membership is provided for in the Bylaws as follows:

Article I, Section. 5: An Honorary Member shall be a person of high professional standing who is interested in the activities of the Club. The status of Honorary Member shall be awarded pursuant to a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Article I Section 1 further states: All members shall be entitled to all privileges of the Club except that Honorary Members and Corporate Members may not hold office or be elected to the Board of Directors.

To date, RCA has chosen 26 Honorary Members. They are, in order of most recent to earliest, and the year they were selected:

#	Name	Year Selected	Best Known For:
26	Walter Cronkite	2007	Anchorman for the CBS Evening News for 19 years (1962–81).
25	Andy Rooney	2007	His weekly broadcast "A Few Minutes with Andy Rooney," a part of the CBS News program <i>60 Minutes</i> from 1978 to 2011.
24	Dr. Harold Beverage	1983	Invented the Beverage antenna for LF and MF, which was used for the transatlantic tests in 1921
23	Harry W. Houck	1983	
22	William H. Offenhauser	1983	
21	Dr. Harold A. Wheeler	1983	
20.	June Poppele	1981	Daughter of Jack Poppele who started radio station WOR in NYC; active in the RCA
19	Dr. George W. Bailey	1974	
18	Frank King	1972	
17	William E.D. Stokes, Jr.	1972	
16	W. Walter Watts	1972	
15	Richard W. Konter	1970	

14	Ralph R. Batcher	1967	
13	Joseph J. Stantley	1967	
12	Dr. Raymond A. Heising	1964	Inventing a method of AM modulation that did not require large amounts of audio power
11	Paul F. Godley	1964	Operated the wireless station in Ardrossan Scotland during the transatlantic HF wireless tests in 1921 on 200 meters
10	Ernest V. Amy	1964	One of the operators of radio station 1BCG in 1921 that transmitted a signal over the Atlantic on 200 meters
9	Dr. Lloyd Espenschied	1959	
8	Capt. Henry J. Round	1952	
7	Prof. Michael I. Pupin	1926	Columbia University electrical engineering professor, was Armstrong's professor
6	Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff	1926	Founder of Radio Corp. of America and NBC network
5	Dr. Alfred N. Goldsmith	1922	
4	Prof. Jonathan Zenneck	1916	
3	John V.L. Hogan	1915	
2	Robert H. Marriott	1915	
1	John Stone Stone	1915	

Sources: RCA Diamond Jubilee Book, *The Story of the First Trans-Atlantic Short Wave Message*-Proceedings of the RCA, 1BCG commemorative issue, Oct. 1950; company records

Walter Cronkite, June Poppele , and Andy Rooney.

Walter Cronkite:



Walter Leland Cronkite, Jr. (November 4, 1916 – July 17, 2009) was an American broadcast journalist, best known as anchorman for the CBS Evening News for 19 years (1962–81). During the heyday of CBS News in the 1960s and 1970s, he was often cited as "the most trusted man in America" after being so named in an opinion poll.[1][2][3] He reported many events from 1937 to 1981, including bombings in World War II; the Nuremberg trials; combat in the Vietnam War;[4] the

Dawson's Field hijackings; Watergate; the Iran Hostage Crisis; and the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, civil rights pioneer Martin Luther King, Jr., and Beatles musician John Lennon. He was also known for his extensive coverage of the U.S. space program, from Project Mercury to the Moon landings to the Space Shuttle. He was the only non-NASA recipient of a Moon-rock award. Cronkite is well known for his departing catchphrase "And that's the way it is," followed by the broadcast's date. Cronkite died on July 17, 2009 (aged 92) in New York City. (source: Wikipedia)

He was made an Honorary Member of the RCA at the 2007 Annual Meeting, and he gave a speech after his award.

June P. Poppele:

June is the wife of Jack Poppele, a well known broadcaster from the New York City area. Mrs. Poppele has been a long term supporter of the RCA, and has worked on many projects assisting the club, including being the chair of the Good and Welfare Committee for many years. In 2010 she received, along with several others, the Antique Wireless Association's Houck Award for Preservation, as a result of her efforts in preserving RCA's archives and assisting in passing those records to the AWA for safe keeping. Mrs. Poppele was made an RCA Honorary Member in 1981.

Jack Poppele's life is summarized in his obituary from the Newark Star-Ledger, Oct 8, 1986, written by Gordon Bishop:

Jack Poppele Jr., 88, radio and TV pioneer

Jack Poppele Jr., a native of Newark who pioneered radio and television in the 1920s and '30s, died early yesterday in the Hospital Center at Orange. He was 88.

Mr. Poppele's career spanned the history of broadcasting, beginning in 1922 when Louis Bamberger, the department store founder, asked his inventive crystal

set salesman to set up one of the nation's first radio stations, WOR.

Mr. Poppele erected two poles on the roof of the Bamberger's store in downtown Newark, strung a wire between them, and went on the air.

The "one-man radio station", as he was known in the early days of wireless broadcasting, was credited with broadcasting the first show on Christmas Day. The handful of other stations around the country were off the air on holidays.

Mr. Poppele, who lived in South Orange, also worked closely with Allen B. DuMont, regarded as the father of commercial television.

Mr. Poppele founded Tele-Measurements in 1961 after a technologically prolific career with WOR radio and television as an electrical engineer, disc jockey and executive.

He launched broadcasting in New Jersey when such giants as Guglielmo Marconi, who developed the wireless, and Thomas Edison, who invented the phonograph, were establishing a new industry.

"You could say we were working on the same frequency or wavelength," Mr. Poppele often remarked in reminiscing about the early days of radio and television. He also worked with David Sarnoff, founder of RCA, and knew the Morse family.

Mr. Poppele started out as a wireless and radio operator on passenger freighters in 1915 and then in the Army Transport Service during World War II.

President Eisenhower appointed him director of the Voice of America for two terms from 1952 to 1956 when the Soviet Union was "jamming the devil out of us."

Mr. Poppele considered his most important contribution to radio to be the directional signal he developed with two teams of research scientists at Bell Laboratories in Whippany. The 50,000-watt transmitter, the world's first, was erected in 1935 in Carteret at a cost of \$350,000. He was rewarded with a vice presidency and a seat on the board of directors of WOR.

Mr. Poppele organized and helped found the Television Broadcasters Association (TBA) and served as its president for six terms, from 1944 through 1950. As chief executive officer of the TBA, he participated in drafting the engineering rules and channel allocations that serve as the basis of today's TV broadcasting industry.

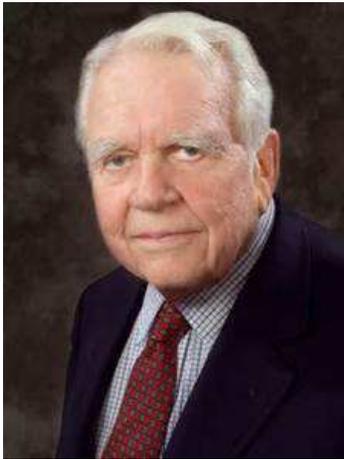
Mr. Poppele also participated in the first trans-Atlantic broadcast and went to Washington to set up Franklin Roosevelt's first inaugural address. He also was credited with rigging up the first portable radio for the Dempsey-Tunney heavyweight championship bout in 1926.

Recently, he helped launch another breakthrough in broadcasting by making stereo available on AM radio. Stereo had been limited to FM frequencies.

Mr. Poppele is survived by his wife, June, whom he met at Bamberger's, where she was the store's china buyer; three daughters; two sisters; two brothers; and four grandchildren.

The Poppele family established an RCA award in his name in 1989 for those that have made important contributions to the broadcasting field. Details can be found on the RCA Website.

Andy Rooney:



Andrew Aitken "Andy" Rooney (January 14, 1919 – November 4, 2011) was an American radio and television writer who was best known for his weekly broadcast "A Few Minutes with Andy Rooney," a part of the CBS News program 60 Minutes from 1978 to 2011. His final regular appearance on 60 Minutes aired on October 2, 2011. He died one month later, on November 4, 2011, at age 92. (source: Wikipedia)

Andy received his Honorary membership in the RCA at the 2007 Awards Dinner.