**SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS, INC.**

***The Association for Broadcast and Multimedia Technology Professionals***

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Society of Broadcast Engineers Authorizes Dakotas Chapter**

***December 18, 2024, Indianapolis, IN –*** The Society of Broadcast Engineers, the association for broadcast and multimedia technology professionals, has authorized a new SBE chapter to serve members in North and South Dakota and the bordering areas. The chapter has been given the Chapter number 63. While the Dakotas still cover a wide area, the next nearest chapters are a considerable distance from the two states. It's expected that some chapter members will attend meetings virtually.

To form a new SBE chapter, the SBE By-Laws require a group of at least 10 members to hold a minimum of three organizational meetings, which the group did earlier this year, submitting its final application materials in October. A group of 16 SBE members worked together, meeting the requirements to form the SBE chapter. Officers have been selected to lead that group. Chapter Chair Jake Bechtold, CBRE, DRB, CBNE; Vice Chair Eli Koppenhaver; Secretary Mark Heller, CPBE; and Treasurer Dustin Moore. Additionally, Mark Borchert will serve as Membership Chair, and Jake Bechtold will serve as Frequency Coordinator.

On the formation of the new chapter, SBE President Ted Hand, CPBE, 8-VSB, AMD, ATSC3, DRB, said, "We constantly strive to serve our members, and creating a chapter for the Dakotas helps fill a geographic void. I applaud the SBE members who worked to put this chapter together." Mark Heller, who previously served on the SBE national Board of Directors, was instrumental in coordinating the chapter efforts.

To form a new SBE chapter, at least 10 SBE members must meet three or more times, as well as some other administrative requirements. Once accomplished, an application can be submitted for the SBE Board of Directors to review.

The Society of Broadcast Engineers is the professional organization of television and radio engineers and those in related fields. The SBE has nearly 4,000 members in 116 chapters across the United States and in Hong Kong and Eastern Europe. There are also members in more than 25 other countries. Most chapters meet monthly and offer educational programs and an opportunity to network with other broadcast technical professionals. The SBE offers the preeminent technical broadcast certification program in the U.S. and an expansive list of educational programs for broadcast engineers, operators, technicians, and broadcast IT professionals.

The SBE provides education and training programs to expand technical skills, and its certification program is a standard-bearer for professional competency in broadcast and communications engineering. SBE offers a forum for the exchange of ideas and the sharing of information allowing engineers to keep pace with the rapidly changing broadcast industry. The SBE’s frequency coordination program facilitates the use by broadcast engineers of radio spectrum for program and electronic news production. The SBE also advocates before Federal agencies and the United States Congress on technical regulatory issues that affect broadcast engineers.

For more information about the SBE, contact Chriss Scherer, CPBE, CBNT, member communications director, at [cscherer@sbe.org](mailto:cscherer@sbe.org), or 317-846-9000, or visit the SBE website, [www.sbe.org](http://www.sbe.org).

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