



FPA PLAYBACK

FPA Institutes Television Volunteer Training Credit Program

Beginning Saturday, January 9, certified television volunteers will be able to earn credit toward FPA training classes when they volunteer their services to shows produced at or through Fairfax Public Access. This credit program, as envisioned by the Board of Directors, will allow volunteers to apply accumulated credits of up to 50% toward the cost of any future training course they wish to take. Any volunteer on a certified technical field or studio crew position (e.g. camera, audio, directing, etc.) can earn a \$ 20.00 credit that will be valid for one year from the date of the production, providing that they have filled out and submitted a volunteer form within 24 hours of their volunteer work, and that the form has been signed by the producer of record for the program and verified by the Equipment Room or Training Dept. staff. Producers cannot earn credits for their own productions, but may claim credits for volunteering on others'.

While credits can be applied toward 50% of the cost of the class, at least one-half of any credits used must come from volunteering on a show that is less than 4 years old, based on their initial proposal date. All 50% can be comprised of programs within the last four years, but only half of that 50% (25% of the class cost) can come from older shows. Volunteers must be certified and have completed any volunteer requirements before they will be allowed to earn credits toward future classes. When registering for a class using credits, the training department can only use credits earned and recorded in the database up to that date, and only credits that have been earned in the previous one-year period. Credits older than one year will be marked invalid and void for use.

To find out which programs currently in production are considered "old" or "new", volunteers can consult the yellow "Active Producers List", copies of which are found at the Equipment Room or with the Training Dept. Volunteers can also be added to the green "Volunteer List" and e-mail list group. Anyone who would like to be added to either list can contact Jay Erausquin at 571-749-1102, and will be included in the next listing update.

Volunteerism is the life blood of Fairfax Public Access, and with this program we hope that not only will our volunteers be able to further their training at reduced rates, but that our producers, especially new ones, might also have an easier time finding collaborators.

Year-End Push for TV Programming

Hours of television production submitted have grown steadily over the past number of years, from 1,607.5 hours in calendar year 2006 to 2,265.5 hours for 2008. As of this date, we are only 42 hours away from tying last year's output, so for the last two weeks of this year, let's get busy! If you've got any shows finished, then make a point to get them turned in before the end of the year, or if you're close to completing a project, take a little extra time amidst the holidays and see if you can finish it up and submit it. The number of hours of programming we receive and air goes toward showing the public the value and importance of our mission at FPA, as well as allowing our viewers to see and hear valuable information from within their own community they are unlikely to find anywhere else. Help us continue our trend, setting a new high for 2009, and let's see if we can hit 2,500 for 2010!

Steve Vlahovich: Aug.10, 1920 - Oct. 27, 2009

Steve Vlahovich, volunteer producer and cameraman at Fairfax Public Access for more than twenty years, died of pneumonia Tuesday evening, October 27, 2009, at Sleepy Hollow Manor Nursing Home in Annandale after battling several illnesses over the past three years.

A native of Cleveland, OH, Steve was a Marine combat photographer during World War II, first deployed to the South Pacific and later reassigned to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in the China / Burma / India theatre, where he served in the Field Photographic Unit headed by Hollywood director John Ford. He was one of a group that parachuted onto Hainan Island to ensure the safety of British prisoners of war after the defeat of the Japanese. He photographed the surrender of the Japanese to the British in Hong Kong. During a brief post-war period when he worked as a civilian photographer, two of his photographs were published in the National Geographic.

On retiring from a career with the John Hancock Insurance Company, Steve became a volunteer producer and cameraman at Fairfax Public Access, Channel 10. He produced numerous individual programs, worked as a cameraman for others producers, and produced two long-running series of interest to the community, "Alternative Medicine" and "Photographers of Northern Virginia". He spent a part of almost every day at the studio.

He is survived by a daughter, Sharon Shields of Odenton, MD, a son, Stjepan Vlahovich of Columbus OH, a grand-daughter, three great-grand-children, and a great-great-granddaughter. Steve's ashes will be placed in the columbarium at Arlington Cemetery sometime this spring. Expressions of sympathy to Steve's family may be sent to his son.

Stjepan Vlahovich

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Apt #3A

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Steve Vlahovich on the set of
"Photographers of Northern Virginia"
with host Luella Murri

Obituary courtesy of Luella Murri

From the Engineering Department

Work continues on Master Control, with racks and consoles now in place. Upon receipt of the routing system in January, it is estimated that the upgrade will be completed by February 1. This upgrade now provides FPA with the latest in state-of-the art digital technology in a modular system, replacing analog components that in some cases were over twenty years old and prone to glitches or occasional transmission disruptions. With the upgrades and the complete re-wiring in place, the centralized system will provide greater reliability, use less energy, and put us in a position to allow for future expansion or improvements in technology as they arise. It will also make it possible to re-fit and rewire the studios at a later date to bring them up to current technical standards. Kudos to Chief Engineer Daniel Olewine and Engineer Patrick Cowan for all their efforts!



Photos by Patrick Cowan



From the Executive Director

As a Fairfax Public Access member, you know that FPA fulfills a special need, giving our members the remarkable ability to actually produce and crew on television and radio shows that are presented over our channels throughout Fairfax County on Cox Communications and across Northern Virginia on Verizon FiOS TV. People from around the DC area come to FPA and tell us our studios are the envy of other public access centers in the region.

We need your financial support to help Fairfax Public Access continue its mission of providing high quality services to our members. If you value the production opportunities and programming that FPA provides, please make a TAX-DEDUCTIBLE donation to support FPA. Contributions of any amount are sincerely appreciated. Additionally, all contributions of \$100 or more will receive special recognition, with the donor's name and year of donation inscribed on the Perpetual Plaque, located in the hallway of the FPA studios, for donations made at the following levels:

DONORS: \$100+	PATRONS: \$500+
BENEFACTORS: \$300+	LEGACY CIRCLE: \$1,000+
DIRECTORS' CIRCLE: \$2,500+	

Please send your tax-deductible donation of any amount to FPA today. Donations may be mailed to:

Member Support
Fairfax Public Access
2929 Eskridge Road, Suite S,
Fairfax, VA 22031

Donations by VISA or MasterCard can be accepted during regular business hours during the Holiday Season, until close of business, December 31, by telephoning 571-749-1110. If you are mailing your contribution, it needs to be postmarked no later than December 31, 2009, to be able to deduct the payment for income tax purposes for calendar year 2009.

I want to thank all of you who have already generously donated to FPA in the past. Your donations have directly enabled us to provide the very best in television and radio production equipment and facilities to our members. Further support will allow us to continue to upgrade and improve our equipment and facilities throughout 2010.

Happy Holidays,

Chuck Peña
Executive Director
Fairfax Public Access

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Executive Director Chuck Peña

MILESTONES

Congratulations to David Mayberry, producer of the Channel 10 program "What Does the Bible Say" for reaching 500 shows in November of this year. The program began in 1994 under original producer David Clark, with David Mayberry picking up the producer role in the last couple of years. Their names will be added to the 500+ plaque outside of Studio B.

NOTICE - FCP USERS

The computers in FPA's Final Cut Pro edit suites will be rebuilt and wiped clean during the Jan. 4-8 hiatus. Editors with projects on the FPA hard drives must transfer all shows or footage to external hard drives by Jan. 3 to avoid the risk of losing any footage during the procedure. Questions/concerns, contact Lisa Clarke at 571-749-1121.

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Fax: 571-749-1112
E-mail: askfpa@fcac.org



Hours of Operation

Mon - Fri Noon to 10pm
Sat / Sun 8am to 8pm

FPA Board of Directors**President**

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Paul Porzio

Holidays and Closings

For the remainder of the 2009 and the first half of 2010, the station will be closed to members and visitors on the following dates:

December 24 & 25 - Christmas Holidays
January 1 - New Year's Day
January 4 through 8 - Technical Interval / Hiatus
April 4 - Easter Sunday
May 31 - Memorial Day

For the following specific holidays, the station will only be open from the hours of 4pm to 10pm:

January 18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 15 - Presidents' Day

Additionally, FPA will be open only from Noon to 6pm on January 31, closing early for New Year's Eve.

Regarding closings due to inclement weather, FPA follows Northern Virginia Community College in deciding to close, as posted on most local news stations. Should there be any question as to whether FPA will be closed or closing early, members can contact the main number at 571-749-1100 for a recorded message.

Stay Connected to FPA!

To receive newsletters and other important information, make sure that your current e-mail address is listed in the FPA database. Likewise, if you change your residence you need to be certain that FPA has your new address as well. Forgetting to make those changes could cause confusion for voting members at election time, particularly if the new driver's license address does not match the old address in our database. A P.O. Box may be sufficient to receive mailed announcements such as program renewal forms or training certificates, but a physical address is needed in our records for voting purposes and for producers who use equipment and facilities at FPA, especially for those taking equipment off the premises. So - stay current and stay connected!

I don't think you can really make television based on what you think audiences want. You can only make stories that you like, because you have to watch it so many times. - Dick Wolf, creator of "Law & Order"