

Bio: Ann Arnold, Texas Association of Broadcasters

Ann Arnold has been president of the Texas Association of Broadcasters since 1987. Under her leadership, TAB has increased membership more than 50 percent; vastly expanded the menu of member services; constructed a permanent home in Austin (the Texas Association of Broadcasters building); and defeated numerous legislative proposals that would have created enormous hardships for broadcasters and the communities they serve.

TAB honored her with its first ever Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007 at a gala attended by government officials and political leaders as well as broadcasters.

Due to her efforts, Texas broadcasters have taken the lead on issues of national concern to the radio and television industry. Texas passed the first state Telco legislation in 1995 guaranteeing the public the right to see and hear all FCC-licensed broadcast stations when telephone companies begin providing video or audio services.

Federal statutes gave broadcasters similar must carry/retransmission rights with regard to cable companies in 1992, but there still are no national regulations guaranteeing consumers' the right to access broadcast channels if video service is provided by a phone company or by an electric company.

As a strong proponent of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Arnold has led efforts to develop this system into the alert and warning system Americans deserve and, for the most part, think they already have. She headed a subcommittee of the FCC's Media Security and Reliability Council that conducted the nation's first – and so far only – survey of how well EAS is implemented in each of the 50 states. She organized key meetings in 2003 that brought representatives of the FCC, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Weather Service and new Department of Homeland Security together to discuss problems thwarting a Presidential emergency message from being relayed to the entire nation.

On Feb. 26, 2005, she took the lead in organizing the first ever EAS Summit in Washington. She will chair the fifth EAS Summit next year. The Summits have accomplished much in focusing attention on EAS, helping spark a re-invigoration of the Primary Entry Point system for relaying presidential messages, pilot testing of Internet based emergency communications networks and public television's proposal to relay national emergency messages via the PBS network, expansions of FEMA's activities in EAS and increased appreciation for the public service broadcasters provide.

She served as president of the National Alliance of State Broadcaster Associations in 2004-05, the culmination of more than a decade of work to make that organization a stronger, more activist advocate for radio and TV stations, the broadcast industry and the American people. The group, formerly named the Broadcast Executive Directors Association, has taken the lead on EAS and issues such as the FCC's unreasonable EEO regulations and paperwork requirements that put broadcasters in a no-win situation.

Arnold organized Texas' response to the FCC's localism hearing in San Antonio in 2004, and collected thousands of commendations for broadcasters' public service efforts. Under her leadership, TAB began annually documenting radio and television stations' public service contributions. The state organization recently documented more than \$3 billion in contributions by Texas' 1,200 radio and TV stations over the past eight years.



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Texas legislative proposals to impose an Ad Tax, outlaw strobe lights on towers, require licensing of meteorologists, restrict broadcast advertising and innumerable other bad ideas have been averted under Arnold's leadership.

Additionally, TAB has taken a strong stand for Freedom of Information under Arnold's leadership.

Open government issues have always been important to Arnold. As a reporter for UPI she uncovered corruption in Texas state government in the early 1970's and later covered the passage of the state's first "sunshine" laws as a result of the Sharpstown scandal. Since that time she has worked tirelessly to defend the state's open records and open meetings laws, first reporting on these issues, and then lobbying for open government with other media groups and TAB's Open Government Task Force.

The Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas honored Arnold and then-Attorney General John Cornyn with their James Madison Award on Sept. 28, 2001 in Austin. Cornyn currently represents Texas in the U.S. Senate. The James Madison Award recognizes people who have supported and protected the public's right to Freedom of Information.

In 1993, she was honored by the Society of Professional Journalists with its national Sunshine Award for important contributions in the continuing fight for open government. While still a print reporter, Arnold served on the State Bar Advisory Committee that first recommended cameras be permitted in Texas courts.

Arnold served as the first female press secretary to a Texas governor when she joined the administration of then-Gov. Mark White in 1983. She was a key member of his staff in an administration that helped pass legislation improving Texas schools and implementing "no pass/no play" rules and other reforms credited with improving the state's academic programs for more than a decade.

She was a long-time capitol correspondent in Austin for United Press International (1968-1980) and headed the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram's* capitol bureau from 1980-1983. She worked previously for the *Dallas Times-Herald* and won a Headliners award for articles published by that newspaper.

Arnold began her reporting career while she was still a student at L.D. Bell High School in Hurst, Texas. She covered nighttime meetings of the city council and school board in Hurst, Euless, Bedford, Richland Hills, N. Richland Hills and Haltom City for the *Mid Cities News Texan*.

She graduated with honors from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1968. She completed her first two years of college at Arlington State College (now the University of Texas at Arlington). Arnold was selected in a nationwide competition to be a summer intern in 1967 for the *Washington Post*.

A native of Jackson, Miss., Arnold spent most of her formative years in Little Rock, Ark., and became interested in communications as a student watching news coverage of the struggle to integrate Central High School.

She has two sons, Bill Arnold, an Atlanta attorney, and Jon Arnold, who is enrolled in college in Georgia.

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