

Fourth Richard DeMello Award Winner to be Honored at RCA Centennial

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC's) Governing Board will present the fourth annual Richard DeMello Award at the Radio Club of America's 100th Anniversary Gala celebration. RCA's Centennial celebration opens on November 20, 2009, at the Georgetown Conference Center and Hotel. The exhibit room opens November 21, and will feature technical and special-interest panel discussions. Confirmed speakers to date include Mark Crosby, Mike Fitch, Harlin McEwen, Dale Hatfield, Stu Overby, Stan Reubenstein, Michael Altschul, and Richard Mirgon.



In conjunction with the 100th Anniversary celebration, RCA will be operating an Amateur Radio Special Event Station, W2RCA, from a table in the Exhibit Room in the conference center, running two or more stations remotely via an Internet connection. Those members attending who have an amateur operator's license are welcome to participate and help keep the station active from Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. RCA also may be able to make arrangements for those who cannot travel to Washington, D.C., to participate from their home stations.

Award Named to Honor DeMello's Achievements

Beginning in 2005, NPSTC has presented an annual award to one public safety communications person who has demonstrated the highest levels of personal and professional conduct and performance in the local, state, and national public safety communications arena. The Richard DeMello award was named to honor the achievements of DeMello, one of the founding fathers of NPSTC. He was a frequency coordinator for the Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA), the 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee Chair for Region 21, Michigan, a Life Member of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO), and a member of RCA.

Mr. DeMello served on the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) and on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC's) Public Safety National Coordination Committee (NCC). Marilyn Ward, Executive Director, NPSTC, said that Mr. DeMello was instrumental in bringing all of the frequency coordinators together in NPSTC. "Richard believed that we should continue the work of PSWAC and develop a broader group of all levels and disciplines of public safety to work on consensus agreements on FCC filings," Ms. Ward said. "He remained a steady guiding force as NPSTC matured from its infancy into a mature consensus body."

DeMello Award Sponsors

Thanks to EADS Secure North America Networks for their generous support of this year's award. NPSTC's Governing Board also thanks RCA and past DeMello sponsors for their generous support: Ericsson, Motorola, and GEOCOMM. Past DeMello Award winners are Chief Harlin McEwen, John Powell, and Chief Charles Werner.

Radio Club of America

RCA was formed by a small group of dedicated radio amateurs and experimenters nearly a century ago. The Radio Club of America counted among its membership the very best in the radio communications industry, including the pioneers who shaped the industry.