

## American Women in Radio & Television's Executive Director to Continue Her Service on the FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity in the Digital Age



December 21, 2006 (McLean, VA) – American Women in Radio and Television is pleased to announce that Maria Efantis Brennan, CAE, Executive Director of AWRT, accepted FCC Chairman's Martin invitation to continue her service on the FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity in the Digital Age. Brennan was selected as a charter member of the Committee in October 2003. The Diversity Committee is comprised of high-level leaders in the communications industry. The 2006/2007 Committee had its inaugural meeting today to examine ways to increase minority and female participation in the communications industry.

After participating in the group's December 21, 2006 meeting, Brennan stated, "I am honored to continue to represent AWRT on this important committee. AWRT has spent the last five decades working to ensure that all women are afforded equal opportunity within the communications fields. We look forward to finding ways to implement much of the good work that was forged by the last Diversity Committee, as well as explore innovative avenues with the new Committee."

The Diversity Committee has a two-year life span and its mission is to make recommendations to the FCC regarding policies and practices that will further enhance the ability of minorities and women to participate in telecommunications and related industries. Brennan joins Chair, Henry Rivera, *Emma Bowen Foundation for Minority Interests in Media*; and fellow members: Daryl E. Bassett, *Arkansas Public Service Commission*; Matthew Blank, *Showtime Network*; Sheba Chacko, *BT Americas, Inc.*; Abel Guerra, *Latino Coalition*; Salvador Guzman, *WHEW Radio*; David Honig, *Minority Media & Telecommunications Council*; Rodney Hood, *National Credit Union Administration*; Paul Jones, *Time Warner Telecom*; Rebecca A. Klein, *Loeffler Tuggey Pauerstein Rosenthal, LLP*; Marc S. Lampkin, *Quinn Gillespie & Associates*; Marie Long, *AT&T*; Vonya McCann, *Sprint Nextel*; Robert Mendez, *ABC Television Network*; Max Navarro, *Operational Technologies Corporation*; Andrew Schwartzman, *Media Access Project*; Tara Sweeney, *Arctic Slope Regional Corporation*; Kade Twist, *Native Laboratories*; Margarita Wilder, *Entravision Communications*; and James Winston, *National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters*.

For more information about FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity in the Digital Age, please visit <http://www.fcc.gov/DiversityFAC/>.

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**About AWRT:** The year 2006 marks the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of American Women in Radio & Television (AWRT), the longest established professional association dedicated to advancing women in media and entertainment. AWRT carries forth its mission by educating, advocating and acting as a resource to its members and the industry at large. Founded in 1951, AWRT works to improve the quality of electronic media; promote the entry, development and advancement of women in the field; foster communication and idea exchange; and give back to the community we serve.

**About The Foundation of AWRT:** The Foundation of AWRT is the philanthropic arm of American Women in Radio and Television, supporting educational programs, charitable activities, public service campaigns and scholarships to benefit the public, the electronic media and allied fields. The Foundation of AWRT has created partnerships and joint-initiatives with the National Middle School Association, the Emma Bowen Foundation, the American Red Cross and other organizations that are philosophically aligned with the mission of the Foundation of AWRT.

The Foundation supports several public service campaigns including most recently *AWRT Empowering America* which pays tribute to many of America's most pioneering and inspiring women. Through this initiative, the Foundation of AWRT has adopted needy urban middle schools around the country and provided educational donations derived from collateral based on the *Empowering America* program. The Foundation also produces nationally acclaimed recognition programs including the Gracie Allen Awards®, a live, New York-based gala that awards exemplary programming created for, by, and about women.