

Please join me in congratulating Blaise Labbe, Mark Neerman and Julie Fries on their promotions to Regional News Director. All three will continue to lead their individual newsrooms, but will have additional responsibilities of supervising regional sister stations. I'm also proud to announce Jeff Parsons will take over the Group News Director responsibilities for the West Coast.

Blaise has done a great job of transitioning two very different newsroom cultures into a very strong news content center in San Antonio. He has developed a winning mindset and raised the level of expectations. His passion and drive to be the best are contagious. Blaise will now oversee all of the Texas news operations.

Mark is an innovative leader with a passion and dedication to excellence. He has done a remarkable job of turning around a number 3 station to a number 1 station. He understands the importance of developing a targeted plan with a commitment to relentless execution. Mark will oversee Reno and Fresno.

Julie has built a very impressive news operation that consistently leads the market. She has embraced the importance of developing an effective digital and social workflow with a goal to increase the engagement on all platforms. She has the experience to help accelerate our commitment to not only being brilliant at the basics, but developing a strong point of difference with quality storytelling. She will work with our South Carolina stations: Columbia, Charleston, and Myrtle Beach.

Jeff Parsons will take over the West Coast stations. Jeff will continue with his news and special project duties, but will focus more of his time working with his assigned stations. I have worked closely with Jeff for more than six years, and while he is often pulled in many different directions, he still excels at helping his stations build a more relevant and meaningful news strategy. Jeff will also work closely with Eric Zager on daily and special news coverage.