



# THE RARA E-RAG

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NO. 2

## NYQP? What's that???

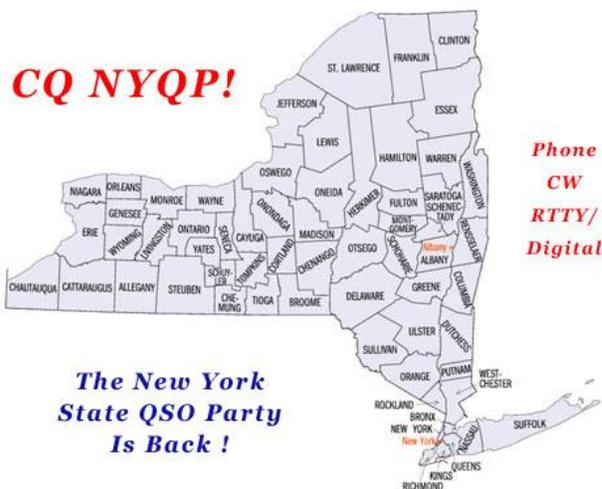
By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
Vice President, RARA

NYQP is an acronym for the New York QSO Party. No, it is not a new line on the November ballot; but, depending on your station and operating procedures it may very well include silly hats, helium balloons, lots of food and beverages. It all depends on your idea of a party. The NYQP is an operating event on October 17<sup>th</sup> with its epicenter and focus on New York State Hams. Hey, that's US! The NYQP is a nice, casual event. Not the fast paced rapid fire exchange that melts your headphones like you often hear.

Ok, I hear you grumbling already "I don't do contests". Well this is different; even if you don't do contests you'll enjoy the NYQP. Because, being the **New York** QSO Party, everyone outside of NY will be seeking to make contact with stations inside NY (you). Now, unless your call sign is K2MP, when was the last time there were stations out there looking for YOU? In the NYQP they will be! Besides, we have put a pin in K2MP's coax to give everyone a fair chance.

Paul Mackanos, K2DB and Rick Mintz, W1TY will be in attendance to tell us all about how to participate in the NYQP. They will provide everything we need to know; like what frequencies to use, and what "magic words" to say to attract all those out of state stations. Truth-be-told, Paul is the knowledgeable one while Rick is the comic relief.

Not because he looks funny, ok he does, but because he's actually quite humorous. At the meeting: Be prepared to be entertained. At the NYQP: Be prepared to fulfill your Worked All States requirements! Please remember: The State of "Confusion" is not recognized by the ARRL towards credit for WAS. Even if you do have a QSL card!



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[Meet your friends at RARA. Make new friends at RARA.](#)



## SILENT KEYS

Kevin P. O'Brien, WB2ITN  
June 6, 2009

John R. Blauvelt, WA2GMU  
August 13, 2009



## The Prez Sez



By Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
President, RARA

It was good to see so many people at the September meeting. We had over 75 people which was impressive considering it was the start of the Labor Day weekend. So how did you like those Tim Horton donuts? Tom Austin was able to cut a small deal with his local donut shop. My guess is most people liked them since there were only 2 left at the end of the night.



The Board of Directors and club officers have been busy discussing a number of items to improve the club. One such item is the RARA RAG that you are currently reading. For those of you that may not know or have forgotten, there is a RARA e-RAG that has been published for over a year now. It is an enhanced version of the RAG that you receive in the mail. The e-RAG is enhanced with color photos, more content, nicer color graphics, and instant delivery of a PDF file to your computer. If you have a Yahoo account, go to "Groups" and do a search for "RARA-Rag". All current RARA members may subscribe to this group. By joining this group you will receive an email with a link on where to go to download the current edition of the e-RAG. If you have not seen a copy of the e-RAG and would like a onetime copy please send an email and I will forward you a copy.

Setting up a Yahoo account is the same as creating a Yahoo email account. The accounts can be set up with minimal personal information required. You do not even need to check the Yahoo email account because in Groups you can enter an email address that you regularly use and all posts to the group will be sent to your active email account. Yahoo email accounts are a great place to send your first time or one time personal business dealings that request your email address and you do not want to run the risk of them spamming your regular email account.

Other Groups that you can subscribe to with your Yahoo account are:

- **"rara-general"** – A general posting site for club related information.
- **"RochesterSpecial Events"** – Radio related special events in the Rochester area.
- **"ham-mag\_en"** – A free ham radio magazine from France but written in English.

There are Yahoo Groups out there for many topics. Do a search on your radio model. There is a good chance that a Group exists with all kinds of discussions and information on your radio. Have some fun with Yahoo.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on October 2, 2009. As always the coffee will be hot, the soda will be cold, and the donuts will be good!

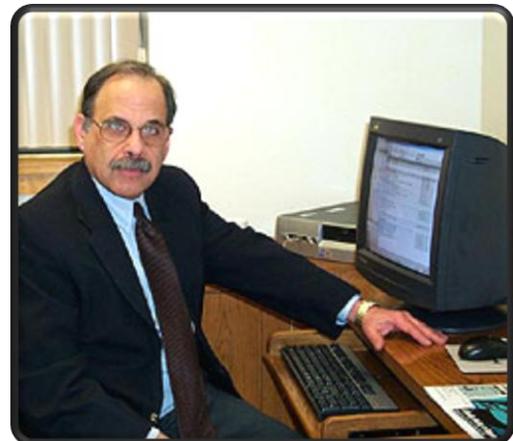
## ARRL COO to speak at EmComm East

By Jeff Wigal, WY7Q

Amateur radio operators pride themselves on the ability to get the message through, "when all else fails" during a disaster. Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (or EmComm) plays an important role in helping disaster relief organizations communicate when land lines, cell phones, and other traditional modes of communications become overloaded or fail.



EmComm East is an ARRL-sanctioned amateur radio emergency communications conference, where amateur radio operators involved in EmComm can attend training sessions on technical topics, learn from served agencies, obtain VE testing for license upgrades, and interact with other EmComm operators from all over the area.



**ARRL COO Harold Kramer, WJ1B**

EmComm East will be held on October 3, 2009, in Rochester, New York. Our featured speaker this year will be the ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. Sign up for e-mail announcements, and we'll keep you informed of new developments in this exciting opportunity!

\$30 pre-registration is required. Breakfast & lunch included, seating is limited. For more information or to register online, visit our website at <http://www.emcommeast.org>, or drop us an e-mail at [info@emcommeast.org](mailto:info@emcommeast.org).



## Public Service 2009

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
RARA Public Service Coordinator

October is your last opportunity to help out with Public Service for 2009. Another busy year is coming to a close with our final 3 events in October. Many thanks to all that have taken the time to assist in a Public Service event or in some cases multiple events this year.

Go to [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org) and click on "Public Service". A complete listing of events and details on each event are there. Click on the "Sign Up" button and fill in the boxes. Highlight the events you like and click on "Submit". I will receive an email with your information and will reply to you acknowledging that I have received it.

**America's Walk for Diabetes** – Sat, October 3  
**Jamboree on the Air (BSA)** – Sat & Sun, October 17 & 18  
**NYS Thruway Pumpkin Patrol** – Fri & Sat, October 30 & 31

## RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: October, 1989

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RARA Historian



The October meeting was an interesting technical talk by Ron Horton, a telecommunications engineer with the RG & E. Ron's talk was on the use of fiber optics for use as communication links within the local power supplier facilities. At this time the meetings were held at the 40 & 8 Club at 933 University Avenue, starting at 8:00 p.m.

The Rochester Area Packet Society (RAPS) had a long article penned by Vice-Chairman J.D. "Van" Griethuysen, N2BNE. The other new officers were introduced as Chairman Keith Hibbert, KE2DI, Secretary Roger Harnaart WB2BWQ and Treasurer Jim Centanni, W2IMK. The October RAPS meeting was a clinic night where non-working packet set ups were analyzed and made to play by the attending experts.

Many area clubs just recently held elections and the Rochester DX Association was no exception. RDXA members elected Alan KM2P as President, Walter NQ2O, as Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer to Bob, WE2T.

As long as this seems to be the recognition issue we should identify the hard working RaRa Rag personnel as Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP, and Jack Dempsey KA2PJN as Co-Editors, with Dwight Hill, K2KWK, as Contributing Editor and Dick Goslee K2VCZ as Advertising Manager.

Reported in this issue was that the FCC has removed the bottom two MHz of the 220 MHz amateur band and given it to a new land mobile service. Amateurs are instructed to make an orderly move up to 222 MHz.

With regret it was reported that Bud Lawson W2TTZ, Jim Milne WA2KAQ, Chuck Schifano KA2LCW and John Butterfield W2CSK were reported as Silent Keys.

From the Want Ads you could buy a Drake SPR-4 solid state receiver for \$300.00 from Bob Hobday N2EVG. Michael G. Rice, KB2SG, Attorney At Law, remained a long term advertiser.

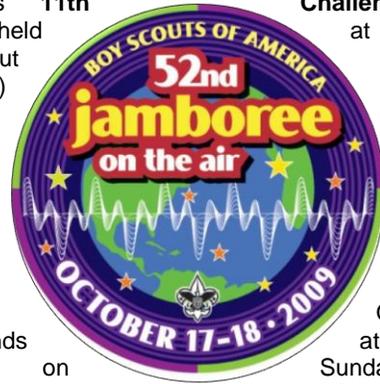
## Doing JOTA this year?

By Van: N2BNE. John: W3OAB & Bill: WB2SXY

OK What is JOTA you ask? To quote the World Scout Bureau's web page "The JOTA is an annual event in which Scouts and Guides (Girl Scouts) all over the world speak to each other by means of amateur radio contacts. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, via the radio waves".

Several Amateur Radio Operators (Hams) W3OAB, WB2SXY, N2BNE & K2MTH from RARA have been invited back to operate at this year's **11th** **Challenge Trophy**

**Camporee** held at the J. Warren Reservation to do the **52<sup>nd</sup> JOTA** that they really few more help out on



This year at 0001 hours Saturday, 2009, and ends local time on Sunday, October 18, 2009. Just 48 Hours. Bill Kasperkoski (WB2SXY) has signed us up for a Special Event call sign of **K2O**. This stood for "Keeping 2 Otetiana", as this is the last year for Otetiana Council. Otetiana Council has merged with Finger Lakes Council (and at the time of printing) the new name has yet to be finalized. So **K2O** is going to be really special.

The ARRL has a web page that tells a lot more about JOTA that you can go and actually run a JOTA event. Just go and read about JOTA at: <http://www.arrl.org/ead/jota.html>

The International Division of the Boy Scouts of America also has a web page that tells more about JOTA that you can go and read at: <http://www.scouting.org/>, Then look for this year's pdf: 130-218.pdf

**HB9S** will, once again, operate from the Geneva Scout Centre "**Les Perouses**" on the outskirts of Geneva for "their full JOTA weekend" The station HB9S will be run by an international team of Scout radio operators, including Yves, HB9AOF, station manager and Richard, PA3BAR, World JOTA Coordinator. QTH locator: JN36AE. Coordinates: 46° 12' 18" 38 N, 6° 2' 19" 17 E.

Making a contact with **HB9S** may sometimes take some patience. Usually many stations are calling at the same time. The operators will do their very best to make contact with Scout stations world-wide and speak to Scouts in as many languages as possible. More can be read at: [http://www.scout.org/en/information\\_events/events/jota/hb9s](http://www.scout.org/en/information_events/events/jota/hb9s)

Ok, so it might be a little late to plan for this year, just remember JOTA **Always** falls on the third full weekend in October. It runs for the full 48 hours of your time zone tune in on any of the published "Scout frequencies". The World Scout Frequencies have partly changed per **1 July 2007**. ARRL posts them at: <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/#frequencies>. If you can't do anything this year, Please go ahead and plan for next year.

I have heard a fair amount of people complaining about how the number of younger people entering Amateur Radio seems to be way down from what it once was. I for one, think that the people that did the complaining should volunteer just one weekend (this weekend). If they just went to their local Boy or Girl Scout office and told their local Scout Council that they are willing to help participate in this year's (and next year's) JOTA we would get a larger number of youths joining the world of Ham Radio. However it is most likely our local council will forward your request to someone in RARA.



**RaRa Hotline**  
**(585) 671-2424**  
**24 Hours a Day**

## Special Events Stations

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

Listen for the Special Event Station N2E starting Friday Oct. 2 - Sun Oct. 4, 2009, 14.260 ± QRM (fired up by WB2PAY). N2E will also be the Talk-in Station Saturday morning on 146.61- 110.9 pl. and 146.52 simplex.

N2E: EMCOMM EAST

Start Date: October 2, 2009

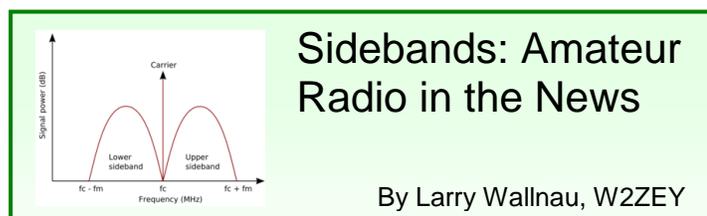
End Date: October 4, 2009

K2O will be the Special Event Station for the Otetiana CTC & JOTA campout, Oct 17.

K2O: JOTA

Start Date: October 14, 2009

End Date: October 22, 2009



**Happy Birthday, Hiram!** Amateur Radio celebrated the 140th anniversary of the birth of ARRL co-founder and first President, Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW. Maxim – born September 2, 1869 – decided a national organization for Amateur Radio was in order after he needed a "relay" station in Agawam, Massachusetts to pass a message he was sending from Hartford to Springfield, Massachusetts. See the ARRL website for the complete story at <http://tinyurl.com/m2hhgh>.

**World Cup Special Station.** With World Cup soccer coming to South Africa in 2010, hams in that country will commemorate the event starting in September 2009 with a special call sign: ZS10WCS. According to the South African Radio League (SARL) that country's IARU Member Society, the call sign will be used in two ways: In the months leading up to the World Cup, to be held June 11-July 11, 2010, and for times during the event itself. SARL is requiring that clubs selected to use ZS10WCS before the event be on the air on weekends, Friday night through Sunday night. Clubs using the special call sign during the World Cup are expected to be on the air each day. SARL will supply the special event QSL cards, and requests for direct QSLs will be handled by the SARL QSL bureau. Direct QSLs must include a self-addressed envelope and one IRC or US \$1. Amateurs may also QSL via e-mail to [wcs@sarl.org.za](mailto:wcs@sarl.org.za), but those hams sending an e-mail QSL will only receive an e-mail QSL in return, and not the commemorative printed QSL. Sources: [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) and **The ARRL Letter**

**An Electrifying Fest.** When the Midwest Inventor's Faire and Midwest Ham Radio Swap Fest decided to join forces for their meet, they decided to electrify the crowd. Literally! On display and for demonstration were very large, homebrew, high-voltage machines. These included plasma globes and cylinders, a 250 million volt Van de Graff generator, and a 1 million volt Tesla coil. The Tesla coil could generate 15-foot sparks. **Baraboo (Wisconsin) News Republic**

**News Anchors Needed.** *This Week in Amateur Radio* is looking for volunteer news anchors and readers for the news magazine, North Americas Premier Amateur Radio. The work requires a commitment to a two or three week rotation with other anchors, and a PC or Mac computer with a soundcard and good studio microphone. You must be able to handle sound recording and editing using the software of your choice; for example, Audacity, SoundForge, WaveLab, or Cool Edit. Anchors must be able to use FTP clients and have a broadband connection. *TWIAR* can supply software. *TWIAR* is heard on WBCQ on 7.415 MHz. If interested, email Producer/Technical Director, George Bowen, W2XBS, [w2xbs@twiar.org](mailto:w2xbs@twiar.org). Include day/evening telephone numbers.

**New Enforcement Head: "Pay to Correct Noise".** Laura Smith, the new head of the FCC Amateur Enforcement unit has told a Pennsylvania utility that it is responsible for paying for "efforts to locate and correct instances of [power line] noise". At least one amateur has been complaining to the FCC since 2000 regarding harmful radio interference possibly caused by power line equipment maintained by Pittsburgh's Duquesne Light Company (DLC). Bob Thacker, K3GT, of Allison Park, Pennsylvania – a suburb of Pittsburgh – first noticed harmful interference back in 1996. DLC would work on the problem, but he would soon hear noise again. The problem persisted and he complained to the FCC, and in 2005 the FCC notified DLC of the complaint. DLC responded to the FCC more than once and explained what measures had been taken to resolve the matter. But during the latter half of 2005 and into 2006, Thacker continued to experience interference and continued to report these instances to DLC. In 2007, he located a specific pole as one source of noise and advised DLC. Yet in March 2008 DLC contacted Thacker, indicating that it had swept the area where the suspected pole was located and discovered no noise. DLC indicated that the noise source was a neon light. Finally, DLC stated that it had spent "significant amounts of time and money" attempting to address his concerns and that it would require Thacker to pay for any additional efforts to locate and correct instances of noise. Special Counsel for Amateur Enforcement Laura Smith responded to DLC in July of this year, saying "Such a response is not acceptable." She spelled out what she called "the most important rules relating to radio and television interference from incidental radiators," specifically: 47 CFR, Section 15.5: General Conditions of Operation; 47 CFR, Section 15.13: Incidental Radiators; and 47 CFR Section 15.15: General Technical Requirements. **The ARRL Letter**

## Calendar of Events

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Oct 2</b>  | RARA meeting – 7:30PM, Henrietta FD #1   |
| <b>Oct 3</b>  | EmComm East  |
| <b>Oct 4</b>  | Greater Buffalo Hamfest – 7:30AM Ismalia Shrine Ctr., 1600 Southwestern Blvd West Seneca, NY |
| <b>Oct 7</b>  | RaRa Board of Directors – 5:30PM RIT, Bldg-17, Room 2110                                     |
| <b>Oct 13</b> | RDXA – Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM EOC, Rm 200, 1190 Scottsville Rd                            |
| <b>Oct 16</b> | RRRA – 8:00PM, Pittsford Town Hall Downstairs room   |
| <b>Oct 17</b> | RARA VE Testing – 10:00AM RIT, Building 9, Room 3139   |



## Shorts & Sparks

By I. M. Zapped, FZZ1POP  
Reporting From the Geek Isles

**Backpack with a Punch.** How about taking a 2 kilowatt backpack transceiver on your next hike in the wilderness? Does such a beast exist? According to Bob Curry, KC3VO, it does and it is a sight to behold. Watch and listen to him as he describes his creation at <http://tinyurl.com/njwfhj>. By the way, he notes it is limited to "only" 500 watts when using the portable backpack antenna. Hmmmm. If the linear in your shack is a foot warmer, I suppose the KC3VO rig is a "bum warmer."

**Hallicrafters and the Voice of Victory.** Hallicrafters sponsored a World War II newsreel, *Voice of Victory*, about the role of radio communications and ham radio in the war effort. This 14-minute newsreel includes a description of modifications to the Hallicrafters HT-4 transmitter to make it suitable for mobile field use. See the film online at:

<http://www.archive.org/details/VoiceofV1944>.

**Ham Radio, Meet CopperTop®.** What do ham radio and CopperTop® have in common? They are mentioned in the same commercial – along with the National Hurricane Center and WX4NHC. To hear the Duracell® commercial, go to <http://tinyurl.com/pxggco>. *Duracell® and CopperTop® are registered trademarks*

**Amateur Radio Station WX4NHC Featured In National Commercial** WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC), is featured in a 60 second radio spot for Duracell batteries. The commercial, which begins airing this month, highlights the efforts of an all-volunteer army of ham radio operators for WX4NHC. Narrated by actor Jeff Bridges, it describes the important role that radio amateurs play during severe weather conditions -- enabling communications with emergency medical teams, police and fire departments -- when the power goes out. The narration underscores the importance of a reliable battery to power the portable ham radios, which are crucial to WX4NHC's work.

"This commercial is being played nationally during hurricane season and will help promote awareness of Amateur Radio and the public service we do to provide emergency communications, especially during and after hurricanes, when we have experienced complete electrical and conventional communications blackouts for periods of days and weeks," WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, told the ARRL. – tnx ARRL Letter

**Tip: D-STAR Transfer File for any Radio** Les Rayburn, N1LF, forwarded this tip from D-STAR coordinator KG4EUD: The file <http://chirp.danplanet.com/wiki/beginnersguide> works great for converting any D-STAR radio file to work with any other D-STAR radio. Just convert it to that radio and upload it, and all of your radios will be configured in the same manner. I just uploaded my ID-800 to 2820 and it worked just fine with no problems. It was very quick and very simple. -- Randall Landers, KG4EUD, Alabama ARES Region 7 DEC; Calhoun County ARES EC; Calhoun County EMA RACES Commander; Cheaha Mountain D-STAR Administrator; and Coldwater Mountain D-STAR Administrator

*Tnx ARRL ARES E-Letter*

## RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing



**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each  
Month, September – April**

**Registration – 10:00AM  
Testing – 10:15AM**

**Room 3139, Building 9 (Park in Lot J)  
Rochester Institute of Technology**

**Contact Ken Hall, W2KRH  
to reserve space.**

**RaRa Memorial Scholarship  
Application Deadline: April 15, 2010**

# THE RARA E-RAG

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Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY ..... 389-1926  
[contax2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:contax2@rochester.rr.com)

## **DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Awards / Raffle Administrators ..... Dan Waterstraat, W2DEW  
..... Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE  
Club Historian ..... Ed Gable, K2MP  
Club Station Trustee..... Jim DiTucci, N2IXD  
Education Coordinator..... Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY  
Hamfest Producer ..... Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
Public Service Coordinator ..... Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
License Testing Coordinator..... Ken Hall, W2KRH  
Membership Secretary ..... Sue Goslee, N2HKA  
Media Communications ..... Len Crellin, KC2PCD  
RARA RAG / Directory Editor ..... Dick Goslee, KG2I  
Refreshments Coordinator ..... Tom Austin, KA2GXX  
Webmaster ..... Frank Schramm, WB2PYD

RARA meets on the first Friday of each month from September through May. Come join us at:

**Henrietta Fire Company No.1  
3129 East Henrietta Rd.  
Henrietta, NY 14467**

[Get Directions](#)

## Rochester Area Radio Club Contacts

### **Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)**

Bob Taylor, N2MLD ..... [n2mld@juno.com](mailto:n2mld@juno.com)

### **Monroe County ARES**

Jim DiTucci, N2IXD..... [n2ixd@arrl.net](mailto:n2ixd@arrl.net)

### **Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)**

Duane Fregoe, K2SI ..... [k2si@arrl.net](mailto:k2si@arrl.net)

### **Rochester DX Association (RDXA)**

Paul Mackanos, K2DB ..... [k2db@arrl.net](mailto:k2db@arrl.net)

### **Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)**

Brad Allen, KB2CHY ..... [kb2chy@frontiernet.net](mailto:kb2chy@frontiernet.net)

### **Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)**

Andy Flowers, K0SM ..... [aflowers@frontiernet.net](mailto:aflowers@frontiernet.net)

### **Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)**

Dave Foster, ..... [D1161F@aol.com](mailto:D1161F@aol.com)

### **XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)**

Ned Asam, W2NED ..... [w2ned@frontiernet.net](mailto:w2ned@frontiernet.net)

**November Rag Deadline  
October 4, 2009**



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They are the common goals that unite an entrepreneurial start-up with the world's largest companies.

They are essential elements of success for every one of our clients. Boylan Brown attorneys provide innovative, cost-effective legal solutions to help our clients achieve their most important goals: the growth, protection, and succession of their business and personal assets.

*Boylan Brown is a leading business and corporate law firm with 39 attorneys and an international client base. Our core value is our ability to help our clients create and sustain growth, protect their assets and interests, and support the progression of a logical, planned process to achieve key business and personal objectives. To learn more about our innovative approach to helping our clients achieve their most important goals, please contact one of our attorneys or visit our website at:*

[www.boylanbrown.com](http://www.boylanbrown.com)

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**Boylan Brown**

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BUSINESS AND CORPORATE LAW

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