

## **WION ISSUES AND REPORTS, 1st quarter 2020**

**(January 1st-March 31st, filed within FCC extension period due to Covid-19)**

**WION Regularly airs the following: (and will omit the individual visits' details going forward in reports)**

- 1) National and International News from CBS at the top of each hour, 24/7 at 144 minutes per day.**
- 2) State of Michigan News, 16 minutes per weekday in 8-'casts at 6,7, 8 AM, Noon, 3, 4, and 5 PM.**
- 3) Shiloh Community Church Sundays at 8 AM, duration 1 hour each program. (this is a non-denominational church)**
- 4) 1-visit with the Ionia DDA, Duration 1.5 hours each first Thursday of the month, during morning show.**
- 5) 1-visit with the Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce each first Tuesday of the month during morning show.**
- 6) Michigan Sports reports from the Michigan News Network 4 x each weekday @2 mins.**
- 7) 13 minutes (5/5/3) each weekday of Agriculture News from "Michigan Ag Today" in the morning show, noon hour, and 5pm "Information blocks"**

**January 5, 2020 "National Technology Day" our topic on the morning show was, "what is your favorite piece of technology and why?" We found listeners like shortwave radios, bluetooth speakers, the "PC", wireless speakers, cellphones, blood-testing machine for diabetics, and the good ol' fashioned...RADIO. Discussion included not just the devices, but WHY they were important to society today. Duration: Most of the 3 hour morning show with calls and posts to FB.**

**January 10th: WINTER STORM WARNING issued. WION extended it's morning show and recorded extra weather announcements (4x per hour) since this was a change from a previous weather alert, and an extension to Sunday the 12th. This was also broadcast in text form on WION's FM 92-7 RDS as a public service for those driving.**

**January 11th: Freezing Rain took Consumer's Energy offline for some listeners and residents in Ionia county along the I-96 corridor. Jim Carlyle was "on the air" through the afternoon of this day (Saturday) with information from the NWS, Consumers' Energy, and local 9-1-1 officials up until our syndicated show, "The Lost 45's" began at 6pm. WION also notified listeners of an outage of 9-1-1 phones due to the weather. Jim Valentine, Director of 9-1-1 texts and calls WION directly whenever this type of incident occurs. WION was also on generator power from early afternoon until 2AM the next day (1-12-20)**

**January 12th: yet ANOTHER winter weather advisory issued by the NWS late this Sunday night. WION increases frequency of weather forecasts once again, as above (recorded).**

**January 14th (tuesday)...WION notifies the Ionia County Health Department that their phone number has been illegally spoofed, (as the spoofer called WION) and turns this into an on air topic of how to protect yourself, (especially aimed at Senior Citizens) against those who steal local numbers trying to make it look like a local call. The ICHD was extremely happy with our discussion of this and of notifying them, so much so that they passed on the word to their own clients through their own channels as well. Hopefully this helped people not to have their identities and other resources stolen.**

**Thursday January 16th: ANOTHER winter weather advisory for heavy snow. All live show' announcements and recorded weather announcements upped in frequency**

**January 24th: WION discusses the “test” change of the traffic light at Dexter and Washington in Ionia proposed by MDOT, and finds much negative reaction to MDOT ‘s study. Most of the callers and emails were concerned for school students who cross there. MDOT wants to make it a yellow FLASHING light only, which would mean no crossing by pushing the button, and difficulty in turning right off of Washington to go North on Dexter due to the steps of the historic hotel blocking daytime traffic. We gave out the email to MDOT’s representative who presented this at City Council meeting and requested listeners to POLITELY send their comments to him.**

**January 29th: WION notices the HGTV “Hometown Takeover” (makeover) and discusses historic buildings on the air with listeners, and what local town would be best to nominate for HGTV to “make over” just in case we have a chance at it in our area. Former retail and service shops were discussed, with calls from two members of the historical society, and further discussion of what businesses used to be located in buildings of today with our modern businesses. Duration: 1.5 hours of morning show in-between usual music and features.**

**February 4th: (Tuesday) Chamber Director Kat Reed visits WION to discuss EXPO 2020, coming up on March 14th. It’s registration time, and there are limited numbers of booths remaining after the automatic yearly renewals. We also discussed upcoming Spring events (in a lighthearted effort to get people’s mind off the rough winter we’ve had) including the Chamber golf outing, and what benefits are available to new members joining the Chamber. Duration of visit: 1.5 hours of co-hosting during usual morning show events.**

**February 9th/10th: Jim Carlyle receives phone call from Sup’t of Ionia Schools Ron Wilson that school will be closed on Monday February 10th. Recorded announcements are placed on the air, and in weather forecasts, and on the 10th we speak with Ron**

**Wilson on the air about how these decisions are made for the safety of our local students. Duration of phone call: 10 minutes. Duration of announcements: 1 min, 4x per hour from evening through morning of the 10th.**

**February 10th: Special “bonus” visit with the Ionia Chamber for more specifics on the upcoming Ionia Expo. Duration: 1 hour from 8AM to 9AM. Focus was on the list of existing clients signed-up, the fact that this is a family friendly event, and that it is FREE to the public.**

**February 13th: in live shows and with recorded 30-second messages, WION reminds listeners to let their taps run when they go to bed in the evening as the actual temperature drops to minus 3 predicted. Recorded announcements run 2x per hour for 12 hours from 9AM Feb 13th through 6AM on Feb 14th. (and mentions in forecasts as well.)**

**February 18th: NO school again for Ionia, and for Lakeview, Saranac, schools. WION starts the morning show a half hour early after very early morning calls from the local transportation departments. Extra half-hour hosted live on the air previous to 6AM.**

**February 24th: WION makes “service call” to local Florist, “Sids Flowers” on complaint of our signal being “wiped out” and sounding like “a motorboat” on both AM and FM in their main Street Store. Jim Carlyle took a portable radio and was able to reproduce the same noise as they were receiving on their stereo in the floral shop. After a walk up and down the sidewalk, the noise was narrowed down and found nextdoor in two “oil infusers” that put a scent in the air at the Intermediate School District building adjacent to Sids Flowers. The wall-wart AC adapters were of the switching variety and pumped lots of noise into the nextdoor wiring which radiated it to Sids. The school was politely asked to NOT use those as they interfered with both AM and FM broadcast locally, and they agreed. There were no issues, hard feelings or problems in getting this resolved. Granted, this is not an “on air” event...but it CERTAINLY is a service to both a client, and the public.**

**February 25th: WION places a call to the National Weather service to verify that our Winter Storm Watch was, indeed dropped....because local TV stations were still running “crawlers” hours after they should have. NWS verified we had it correct, and we explained to listeners that we always have a direct line to the NWS and that they can trust WION’s weather forecasts and for us to be accurate at all times because we verify anything that may not seem correct. A “listener” service, and discussion on the morning show of about 15 minutes with co-host Phil Cloud and with listeners.**

**March 2nd, “National Day of Unplugging”....WION once again discussed “devices” but this time, how long can you go “unplugged.” Listener’s average time was only about 3**

hours according to their calls and a quick informal poll. Duration of this fun poll and it's discussion: about an hour and a half, from 7:15-8:45 on the morning show.

March 3rd: WION's FM 92-7 translator is shut off for most of the daytime as tower crew workers come to repair high VSWR. This had been planned for quite some time, so listeners were instructed to tune to our AM stereo 1430 or to use our online streaming of the AM. This is only mentioned here to show our commitment to always keeping our signal and sound the best it can be FOR OUR LISTENERS. Problem was solved, crew found water in the connectors "up top" and in the end of the cable, both issues fixed.

March 6th: WION's morning show question for the listeners: What was your favorite breakfast cereal of your younger years? Duration of this ongoing phone poll (also on email and Facebook) ..the full 3 hours of the Friday morning show with Phil Cloud.

March 12th: MANY cancellations came in due to a scare in the public over health issues. The Winter Daddy-Daughter dance was cancelled for Ionia Public Schools...and, the planned broadcast by WION of Ionia basketball at Lakeview schools was cancelled by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. These were last-minute cancellations and took us all by surprise as people seem to be fearing the "virus" that is in Michigan now. Also cancelled on this day is the upcoming breakfast ahead of EXPO at Ionia High School. Expo officials are meeting today to see if we hold the Chamber Expo or not as mentioned in previous visits with our Chamber Director back in February on WION. (added later this day) Chamber officials have met and cancelled the EXPO for this year.

March 14th: (a Saturday)....Ionia Mayor Dan Balice, and Ionia City Manager Jason Eppler join Jim Carlyle and Phil Cloud at the WION "Round table" for discussion of the local impacts of the Covid-19 virus in our area. We covered it's impact on city services like Dial a Ride, the Library, and City offices. At THIS time, all of those are open and operating, and the two guests promised to keep WION in the loop. The duration of this on-air visit was two hours of discussion from 10 to noon today, with "some" music played, but overall a talk program, needed due to the outbreak of Covid-19. We recorded this show and posted the link to our website, i1430.com. Jim Carlyle continued this on-air visit for another couple of hours "solo" after the Mayor and City Manager had left.

Monday March 16th: WION BEGINS producing Covid-Specific "In the Loop" messages for our listeners, each one's duration 1 minute. Topics include: Closure of the Ionia Theatre (City owned)...Status of Dial-a-ride (Still running) ...Closure of the Ionia Armory building (Ionia Parks and Rec)...and the status of City Hall (still allowed to be open at this time with caution)...Plus food distribution plans for Ionia Public Schools and Lowell Public Schools, and Saranac Community Schools. 23 of these messages were initially recorded, and then scheduled to run as our "stopset promos" 8 times per day, plus they replaced our "top of the hour promo" which usually promotes our town just ahead of the

legal ID each hour. Thus, the rotation of them is rather high, and the information will get out quickly and efficiently. These will be updated as needed.

**Tuesday Marh 17th:** Phil Cloud, normally only on Fridays joins Jim Carlyle to discuss the Covid-19 situation in different parts of the state. Phil's usual job is transporting Juveniles for the State of Michigan Court System, so he has contact with officials in different parts of the state, specifically the Thumb area and Southeast Michigan where there are more cases of Covid at this time. Duration of visit: The full 3 hours of the morning show. WION is grateful to Phil for his insight and the information given him by Judges, "handlers" and State of Michigan employees with whom he works.

**March 18th:** WION receives frantic email from Zion Food Pantry, part of the Zion United Methodist Church. Rumors were circulating of the closure of their pantry, and they Needed people to know they ARE open! WION read their email, made sure our afternoon announcer had the information, AND recorded some "liners" to tell people that the pantry was operating as planned, not interrupted at this time by scares of Covid. Email printed here: (After the multiple announcements we were told at LEAST one family came to the Pantry and told Deb that they heard it on the radio.!!!

*Good Afternoon,*

*This is Deb Hall from the Zion Community Food Pantry. There apparently is a lot of misinformation going around about our pantry right now. People think we are closed but we are NOT. We are open our normal hours: every Wednesday from 2pm-4:30 pm. wever, we will be serving from their cars, they will not be entering our building.*

*ALSO: United Way is funding us to host a Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry every Tuesday at 4pm. We are hoping to hold them at the Ionia Fair Grounds as usual but have not been able to get in touch with anyone there yet to confirm. This will also be conducted in a drive-thru format.*

*Any help you can give us to get the word out would be greatly appreciated.*

*Thank you, Deb Hall,  
Director Zion Community Food Pantry*

**March 20th:** WION had Ionia County Health Department Officer Ken Bowen live in-studio with Jim Carlyle and Phil Cloud to dispel rumors about Covid, and to speak to listeners about how they can protect themselves from this very dangerous virus. Duration of the discussion and visit: 30 minutes live at our round table. Following the discussion, our local floral shop, Sids Flowers brought by the "Hand Sanitizer Bouquet" to the station, as

a gift, and to help us remind listeners to wash their hands.



**March 21st:** Owner and Chief Operator of WION, Jim Carlyle begins regular weekend visits with listeners, explaining that he, himself felt “disconnected” from people as more and more of our state is in a “stay home, stay safe” posture. Voluntary on-air time and visits through the radio on Saturday and/or Sunday by Jim Carlyle are a minimum of 2 hours long by his own giving to the station.

**Tuesday March 24th:** Ionia Mayor Dan Balice volunteers to be WION mid-day co-host with Jim Carlyle from 9 to noon. Jim has extended his morning show, normally 6 to 9 AM now 6 to noon in an effort to provide more “comfort” and “personality” to the listeners during our Covid-19 crisis. Jim says it helps HIM to feel more connected and less isolated as station owner and morning host. WION thanks Mayor Dan Balice for co-hosting, discussing some of Covid-19, and being being a calming voice for his town via our airwaves. It should be noted that streaming listenership went up with his visit for which we are grateful. (see picture)

Mayor Dan Balice co-hosts on WION beginning at 9 AM. Tune in and enjoy!



**Friday March 27th:** We hold our usual “Friday Round Table” with Phil Cloud co-hosting, and have a “two topic Friday” discussing what gadgets have you bought from seeing them on TV, and...”What is your favorite comfort food” that you reach-to in this Pandemic? We receive many opinions, mainly by phone. Duration: our 9 to noon portion of the “extended” morning show which now goes from 6 to noon instead of just 6 to 9.

**March 29th (Sunday)** Jim Carlyle volunteers his time for 3 hours “on the air” in the mid-day to visit with listeners by being “in.” Quite a few calls, emals, but no particular agenda, just “being together” extra time during the Pandemic. As noted above, this is how owner Jim Carlye helps to feel more “connected” to the public during this Pandemic.

**March 30th:** WION’s Phil Cloud comes in for extra “round table” visit, from 8 to noon with Jim Carlyle. Phil is our Friday Co-host and wanted to basically help Jim visit with listeners, as he, like all Michigan residents is new to “stay home, Stay safe”...and the Michigan Association of Broadcasters has given essential radio personnel permission to travel to and from work as long as social distancing is observed.

Filed this 5th day of May, 2020 by special permission of the FCC to be “late filed without penalty” due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We’re grateful for the extension of time as it has, indeed, been a very busy time for a single operator of this radio station.

**Jim "Carlyle" Angus**  
**Chief Operator, Owner**  
**On behalf of**  
**Packer Radio WION, LLC**  
**Licensee of WION Radio**  
**AM 1430, FM 92-7, FM 100.3 and online to the world.**