

SAGA COMMUNICATIONS INC  
Form 10-Q  
May 09, 2016

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**Form 10-Q**

(Mark One)

**QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 or 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the Quarterly Period ended March 31, 2016**

**or**

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 or 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to**

**Commission file number 1-11588**

**Saga Communications, Inc.**

*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Delaware**

**38-3042953**

*(State or other jurisdiction of*

*(I.R.S. Employer*

*incorporation or organization)*

*Identification No.)*

**73 Kercheval Avenue**

**48236**

**Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan**

*(Zip Code)*

*(Address of principal executive offices)*

**(313) 886-7070**

*(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)*

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No .

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No .

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller Reporting Company   
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

The number of shares of the registrant's Class A Common Stock, \$.01 par value, and Class B Common Stock, \$.01 par value, outstanding as of May 2, 2016 was 4,995,865 and 864,856, respectively.



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**PART I — FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements****SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

	March 31, 2016 (Unaudited) (In thousands)	December 31, 2015 (Note)
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$15,336	\$ 21,614
Accounts receivable, net	19,519	21,300
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	3,574	2,608
Barter transactions	1,482	1,266
Deferred income taxes	1,097	1,107
Total current assets	41,008	47,895
Property and equipment	168,295	167,074
Less accumulated depreciation	110,371	108,943
Net property and equipment	57,924	58,131
Other assets:		
Broadcast licenses, net	96,116	88,106
Goodwill	7,151	2,874
Other intangibles, deferred costs and investments, net	7,528	7,565
	\$209,727	\$ 204,571
Liabilities and stockholders' equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$2,840	\$ 2,799
Payroll and payroll taxes	7,418	7,401
Other accrued expenses	4,239	2,792
Barter transactions	1,508	1,346
Total current liabilities	16,005	14,338
Deferred income taxes	28,253	27,688
Long-term debt	36,365	36,365

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Other liabilities	3,942	3,364
Total liabilities	84,565	81,755
Commitments and contingencies	—	—
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock	74	74
Additional paid-in capital	57,984	57,510
Retained earnings	99,739	98,180
Treasury stock	(32,635 )	(32,948 )
Total stockholders' equity	125,162	122,816
	\$209,727	\$ 204,571

Note: The balance sheet at December 31, 2015 has been derived from the audited financial statements at that date but does not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for complete financial statements.

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

## SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2016	2015
	(Unaudited)	
	(In thousands, except per share data)	
Net operating revenue	\$ 32,745	\$ 29,061
Station operating expenses	24,685	22,765
Corporate general and administrative	2,717	2,482
Operating income	5,343	3,814
Interest expense	189	241
Other (income) expense, net	—	(8 )
Income before income tax expense	5,154	3,581
Income tax expense	2,130	1,450
Net income	\$ 3,024	\$ 2,131
Earnings per share:		
Basic	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.37
Diluted	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.36
Weighted average common shares	5,751	5,710
Weighted average common and common equivalent shares	5,759	5,762
Dividends declared per share	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.20

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

**SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2016	2015
	(Unaudited)	
	(In thousands)	
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Cash provided by operating activities	\$ 7,190	\$ 7,587
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Acquisition of property and equipment	(1,010 )	(950 )
Acquisition of broadcast properties	(12,483 )	—
Other investing activities	25	2
Net cash used in investing activities	(13,468 )	(948 )
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Other financing activities	—	(25 )
Net cash used in financing activities	—	(25 )
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(6,278 )	6,614
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	21,614	17,907
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 15,336	\$ 24,521

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.



**SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

*Basis of Presentation*

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for annual financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements include all adjustments of a normal, recurring nature considered necessary for a fair presentation of our financial position as of March 31, 2016 and the results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015. Results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2016 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2016.

For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and footnotes thereto included in the Saga Communications, Inc. Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.

The Company has evaluated events and transactions occurring subsequent to the balance sheet date of March 31, 2016, for items that should potentially be recognized in these financial statements or discussed within the notes to the financial statements.

*Earnings Per Share Information*

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Earnings per share is calculated using the two-class method. The two-class method is an earnings allocation formula that determines earnings per share for each class of common stock and participating security. The Company has participating securities related to restricted stock units, granted under the Company's Second Amended and Restated 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan, that earn dividends on an equal basis with common shares. In applying the two-class method, earnings are allocated to both common shares and participating securities.

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2016	2015
	(In thousands, except per share data)	
Numerator:		
Net income	\$ 3,024	\$ 2,131
Less: Net income allocated to unvested participating securities	56	32
Net income available to common stockholders	\$ 2,968	\$ 2,099
Denominator:		
Denominator for basic earnings per share— weighted average shares	5,751	5,710
Effect of dilutive securities:		
Stock options	8	52
Denominator for diluted earnings per share — adjusted weighted-average shares and assumed conversions	5,759	5,762
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.37
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.36

**SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)**

The number of stock options outstanding that had an antidilutive effect on our earnings per share calculation, and therefore have been excluded from diluted earnings per share calculation, was 0 and 45,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The actual effect of these shares, if any, on the diluted earnings per share calculation will vary significantly depending on the fluctuation in the stock price.

***Financial Instruments***

Our financial instruments are comprised of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and long-term debt. The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate fair value due to their short maturities. The carrying value of long-term debt approximates fair value as it carries interest rates that either fluctuate with the euro-dollar rate, prime rate or have been reset at the prevailing market rate at March 31, 2016.

***Income Taxes***

Our effective tax rate is higher than the federal statutory rate as a result of the inclusion of state taxes in the income tax amount.

***Time Brokerage Agreements/Local Marketing Agreements***

We have entered into Time Brokerage Agreements (“TBA’s”) or Local Marketing Agreements (“LMA’s”) in certain markets. In a typical TBA/LMA, the FCC licensee of a station makes available, for a fee, blocks of air time on its station to another party that supplies programming to be broadcast during that air time and sells their own commercial advertising announcements during the time periods specified. Revenue and expenses related to TBA’s/LMA’s are included in the accompanying unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income.

## 2. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

### *Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements*

In September 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-16, “*Business Combinations (Topic 805), Simplifying the Accounting for Measurement Period Adjustments*”, (“ASU 2015-16”), which eliminated the requirement that an acquirer in a business combination account for measurement-period adjustments retrospectively. Instead an acquirer will recognize a measurement-period adjustment during the period in which it determines the amount of the adjustment, including the effect on earnings of any amounts it would have recorded in previous periods if the accounting had been completed at the acquisition date. This amendment was adopted on January 1, 2016 and did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-05, “*Intangibles - Goodwill and Other - Internal-Use Software (Subtopic 350-40), Customer’s Accounting for Fees Paid in a Cloud Computing Arrangement*” (“ASU 2015-05”), with new guidance on whether a cloud computing arrangement includes a software license and the accounting for such an arrangement. If a cloud computing arrangement includes a software license, then the software license element of the arrangement should be accounted for consistently with the acquisition of other software licenses. If a cloud computing arrangement does not include a software license, the agreement should be accounted for as a service contract. This amendment was adopted on January 1, 2016 and did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-03, “*Interest - Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30), Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs*” (“ASU 2015-03”), and in August 2015 the FAS issued ASU 2015-15, “*Presentation and Subsequent Measurement of Debt Issuance Costs Associated with Line-of-Credit Arrangements*”. These ASUs require debt issuance costs related to a recognized debt liability to be presented in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of that debt consistent with debt discounts. The presentation and subsequent measurement of debt issuance costs associated with line of credit, may be presented as an asset and amortized ratably over the term of the line of credit arrangement, regardless of whether there are outstanding borrowings on the arrangement. We currently present deferred financing costs related to our line of credit within Other assets. These amendments were adopted on January 1, 2016 and did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

**SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)**

In February 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-02, “*Consolidation (Topic 810), Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis*” (“ASU 2015-02”), which amended the consolidation requirements in ASC 810, primarily related to limited partnerships and VIEs. This amendment was adopted on January 1, 2016 and did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In January 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-01, “*Income Statement-Extraordinary and Unusual Items*” (“ASU 2015-01”), which simplified income statement presentation by eliminating the need to determine whether to classify an item as an extraordinary item. This amendment was adopted on January 1, 2016 and did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

***Recent Accounting Pronouncements – Not Yet Adopted***

In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-09, “*Compensation - Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting*” (“ASU 2016-09”), which includes multiple amendments intended to simplify aspects of share-based payment accounting. Amendments to the timing of when excess tax benefits are recognized, minimum statutory withholding requirements, and forfeitures will be applied using a modified retrospective transition method through a cumulative-effect adjustment to equity as of the beginning of the period of adoption. Amendments to the presentation of employee taxes paid on the statement of cash flows when an employer withholds shares to meet the minimum statutory withholding requirement will be applied retrospectively, and amendments requiring the recognition of excess tax benefits and tax deficiencies in the income statement are to be applied prospectively. ASU 2016-09 will be effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the standard will have on our consolidated financial statements.

In February 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-02, “*Leases (Topic 842)*” (“ASU 2016-02”), which requires that all leases with a term of more than one year, covering leased assets such as real estate, broadcasting towers and equipment, be reflected on the balance sheet as assets and liabilities for the rights and obligations created by these leases. ASU 2016-02 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2018. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the provisions of this new standard on our consolidated financial statements.

In November 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-17, “*Income Taxes (Topic 740), Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes*” (“ASU 2015-17”), which requires companies to classify all deferred tax assets and liabilities as noncurrent on the balance sheet instead of separating deferred taxes into current and noncurrent amounts. ASU 2015-17 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the provisions of this new standard on our consolidated financial statements.

In August 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-15, “*Disclosure of Uncertainties About an Entity’s Ability to Continue as a Going Concern*” (“ASU 2014-15”), which requires management to evaluate, at each annual and interim reporting period, whether there are conditions or events that raise substantial doubt about the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern and provide related disclosures. ASU 2014-15 is effective for annual reporting the first interim period within annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and is not expected to have a material impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, “*Revenue from Contracts with Customers*” (“ASU 2014-09”), which provides guidance for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of revenue resulting from contracts with customers and will supersede virtually all of the current revenue recognition guidance under GAAP. In March 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-08, “*Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606), Principal versus Agent Considerations (Reporting Revenue Gross versus Net)*” (“ASU 2016-08”), which clarifies how an entity should identify the unit of accounting for the principal versus agent evaluation and how it should apply the control principle to certain types of arrangements. ASU 2014-09 and ASU 2016-08 are effective for the first interim period within annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016. In July 2015, the FASB made a decision to defer the effective date of ASU 2014-09 for one year and permit early adoption as of the original effective date. As a result, the standard is effective for us for fiscal and interim periods beginning January 1, 2018. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the provisions of this standard on our consolidated financial statements.

**SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.****NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)****3. Intangible Assets**

We evaluate our FCC licenses and goodwill for impairment annually as of October 1<sup>st</sup> or more frequently if events or circumstances indicate that the asset might be impaired. FCC licenses are evaluated for impairment at the market level using a direct method. If the carrying amount of FCC licenses is greater than their estimated fair value in a given market, the carrying amount of FCC licenses in that market is reduced to its estimated fair value. If the carrying amount of goodwill in a reporting unit is greater than the implied value of goodwill determined by completing a hypothetical purchase price allocation using estimated fair value of the reporting unit, the carrying amount of goodwill in that reporting unit is reduced to its implied value.

Intangible assets that have finite lives are amortized over their useful lives using the straight-line method. Favorable lease agreements are amortized over the lives of the leases ranging from four to twenty-six years. Other intangibles are amortized over one to eleven years.

**4. Common Stock and Treasury Stock**

The following summarizes information relating to the number of shares of our common stock issued in connection with stock transactions through March 31, 2016:

	Common Stock Issued	
	Class A	Class B
	(Shares in thousands)	
Balance, January 1, 2015	6,446	843
Exercised options	93	32
Conversion of shares	40	(40 )
Issuance of restricted stock	26	30
Forfeiture of restricted stock	(2 )	—
Balance, December 31, 2015	6,603	865
Balance, March 31, 2016	6,603	865

We have a Stock Buy-Back Program to allow us to purchase up to \$75.8 million of our Class A Common Stock. As of March 31, 2016 we have remaining authorization of \$24.9 million for future repurchases of our Class A Common Stock.

## **5. Acquisitions and Dispositions**

We actively seek and explore opportunities for expansion through the acquisition of additional broadcast properties. The consolidated statements of income include the operating results of the acquired stations from their respective dates of acquisition. All acquisitions were accounted for as purchases and, accordingly, the total purchase consideration was allocated to the acquired assets and assumed liabilities based on their estimated fair values as of the acquisition dates. The excess of the consideration paid over the estimated fair value of net assets acquired have been recorded as goodwill. The Company accounts for acquisition under the provisions of FASB ASC Topic 805, *Business Combinations*.

Management assigned fair values to the acquired property and equipment through a combination of cost and market approaches based upon each specific asset's replacement cost, with a provision for depreciation, and to the acquired intangibles, primarily an FCC license, based on the Greenfield valuation methodology, a discounted cash flow approach.

### ***2016 Acquisitions***

On November 2, 2015, we entered into an agreement to acquire an FM radio station (WLVQ) from Wilks Broadcast - Columbus, LLC, serving the Columbus, Ohio market for approximately \$13,791,000, which included \$734,000 in accounts receivable and \$57,000 in transactional costs. We completed this acquisition on February 3, 2016. We operated this station under an LMA from November 16, 2015 through our completion of the acquisition. This acquisition was financed through funds generated from operations. Management attributes the goodwill recognized in the acquisition to the power of the existing brands in the Columbus, Ohio market as well as the synergies and growth opportunities expected through the combination with the Company's existing stations.



**SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)**

On March 16, 2016 we acquired an FM translator serving the Portland, Maine market for approximately \$50,000.

On March 25, 2016 we acquired an FM translator serving the Milwaukee, Wisconsin market for approximately \$50,000.

***2015 Acquisitions and Dispositions***

On July 13, 2015 we acquired an FM translator serving the Manchester, New Hampshire market for approximately \$45,000.

On August 1, 2015 we acquired two AM and three FM stations and one FM translator (WSVA-AM, WHBG-AM, WQPO-FM, WMQR-FM, WWRE-FM and WQPO-HD3) from M. Belmont VerStandig, Inc., serving the Harrisonburg, Virginia market for approximately \$10,131,000, which included \$128,000 in transactional costs. Cash was utilized to fund the acquisition. Management attributes the goodwill recognized in the acquisition to the power of the existing brands in the Harrisonburg, Virginia market as well as the synergies and growth opportunities expected through the combination with the Company's existing stations.

On August 26, 2015 we acquired an FM translator serving the Asheville, North Carolina market for approximately \$125,000.

On September 1, 2015 we acquired two FM stations (WSIG-FM and WBOP-FM) from Gamma Broadcasting, LLC, serving the Harrisonburg, Virginia market for approximately \$1,558,000, which included \$92,000 in transactional costs. Cash was utilized to fund the acquisition. FCC multiple ownership rules prohibit us from owning both of these stations. In order to satisfy the multiple ownership requirements and receive FCC approval for this acquisition, we simultaneously donated WBOP-FM to Liberty University, Inc, a charitable organization. In exchange for donating WBOP-FM, including the Station, the FCC License and the Assets, we received an FM Translator W267BA, the FM Translator Assets, and the FM Translator FCC license, valued at approximately \$50,000. We incurred a pre-tax loss of

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\$400,000 as a result of this donation. This loss is recorded in other operating (income), expense, net on the Company's Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income and reported in cash flows from operating activities on the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows. Management attributes the goodwill recognized in the acquisition to the power of the existing brands in the Harrisonburg, Virginia market as well as the synergies and growth opportunities expected through the combination with the Company's existing stations.

On October 23, 2015 we acquired an FM translator serving the Charlottesville, Virginia market for approximately \$30,000.

On November 12, 2015 we acquired an FM translator serving the Bucyrus, Ohio market for approximately \$30,000.

On November 23, 2015 we acquired an FM translator serving the Charlottesville, Virginia market for approximately \$150,000.

On December 31, 2015 we donated the Illinois Radio Network ("the network") to the Illinois Policy Institute. The net book value of the network was approximately \$7,000.

**SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.****NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)*****Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet of 2016 and 2015 Acquisitions:***

The following unaudited condensed balance sheets represent the estimated fair value assigned to the related assets and liabilities of the 2016 and 2015 acquisitions at their respective acquisition dates. The allocation of the purchase price for the 2016 and 2015 acquisitions is preliminary at March 31, 2016.

**Saga Communications, Inc.****Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet of 2016 and 2015 Acquisitions**

	Acquisitions in	
	2016	2015
	(In thousands)	
Assets Acquired:		
Current assets	\$814	\$977
Property and equipment	376	4,614
Other assets:		
Broadcast licenses-Radio segment	8,010	2,218
Broadcast licenses-Television segment	—	—
Goodwill-Radio segment	4,277	2,548
Goodwill-Television segment	—	—
Other intangibles, deferred costs and investments	398	1,623
Total other assets	12,685	6,389
Total assets acquired	13,875	11,980
Liabilities Assumed:		
Current liabilities	41	82
Total liabilities assumed	41	82
Net assets acquired	\$13,834	\$11,898

***Pro Forma Results of Operations for Acquisitions and Dispositions (Unaudited)***

The following unaudited pro forma results of our operations for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 assume the 2016 and 2015 acquisitions and dispositions occurred as of January 1, 2015. The translators are start-up stations and therefore, have no pro forma revenue and expenses. The pro forma results give effect to certain adjustments, including depreciation, amortization of intangible assets, increased interest expense on acquisition debt and related income tax effects. The pro forma results have been prepared for comparative purposes only and do not purport to indicate the results of operations which would actually have occurred had the combinations been in effect on the dates indicated or which may occur in the future.

## SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

## Three Months Ended

## March 31,

2016                      2015

(In thousands, except per share data)

## Pro forma Consolidated Results of Operations

Net operating revenue	\$ 32,745	\$ 31,015
Station operating expense	24,700	24,457
Corporate general and administrative	2,717	2,482
Operating income	5,328	4,076
Interest expense	189	241
Other (income) expense, net	—	(8            )
Income before income tax expense	5,139	3,843
Income tax expense	2,124	1,557
Net income	\$ 3,015	\$ 2,286
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.40
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.40

## Three Months Ended

## March 31,

2016                      2015

(In thousands)

## Radio Broadcasting Segment

Net operating revenue	\$ 27,464	\$ 26,230
Station operating expense	21,155	21,114
Other operating income	(3            )	—
Operating income	\$ 6,312	\$ 5,116

## Three Months Ended

## March 31,

2016                      2015

(In thousands)

## Television Broadcasting Segment

Net operating revenue	\$ 5,281	\$ 4,785
Station operating expense	3,545	3,343

Other operating expense	3	—
Operating income	\$ 1,733	\$ 1,442

## SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

## NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

*Reconciliation of pro forma segment operating income to pro forma consolidated operating income:*

	Radio	Television	Corporate and Other	Consolidated
	(In thousands)			
Three Months Ended March 31, 2016:				
Net operating revenue	\$27,464	\$ 5,281	\$ —	\$ 32,745
Station operating expense	21,155	3,545	—	24,700
Corporate general and administrative	—	—	2,717	2,717
Other operating (income) expense, net	(3 )	3	—	—
Operating income (loss)	\$6,312	\$ 1,733	\$ (2,717 )	\$ 5,328

	Radio	Television	Corporate and Other	Consolidated
	(In thousands)			
Three Months Ended March 31, 2015:				
Net operating revenue	\$26,230	\$ 4,785	\$ —	\$ 31,015
Station operating expense	21,114	3,343	—	24,457
Corporate general and administrative	—	—	2,482	2,482
Operating income (loss)	\$5,116	\$ 1,442	\$ (2,482 )	\$ 4,076

**SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)**

**6. Stock-Based Compensation**

*2005 Incentive Compensation Plan*

On October 16, 2013 our stockholders approved the Second Amended and Restated Saga Communications, Inc. 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan (the “Second Restated 2005 Plan”). The 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan was first approved by stockholders in 2005 and replaced our 2003 Stock Option Plan (the “2003 Plan”). The 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan was re-approved by stockholders in 2010. The changes made in the Second Restated 2005 Plan (i) increases the number of authorized shares by 233,334 shares of Common Stock, (ii) extends the date for making awards to September 6, 2018, (iii) includes directors as participants, (iv) targets awards according to groupings of participants based on ranges of base salary of employees and/or retainers of directors, (v) requires participants to retain 50% of their net annual restricted stock awards during their employment or service as a director, and (vi) includes a clawback provision. The Second Restated 2005 Plan allows for the granting of restricted stock, restricted stock units, incentive stock options, nonqualified stock options, and performance awards to eligible employees and non-employee directors.

The number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued under the Second Restated 2005 Plan may not exceed 280,000 shares of Class B Common Stock, 900,000 shares of Class A Common Stock of which up to 620,000 shares of Class A Common Stock may be issued pursuant to incentive stock options and 280,000 Class A Common Stock issuable upon conversion of Class B Common Stock. Awards denominated in Class A Common Stock may be granted to any employee or director under the Second Restated 2005 Plan. However, awards denominated in Class B Common Stock may only be granted to Edward K. Christian, President, Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and the holder of 100% of the outstanding Class B Common Stock of the Company. Stock options granted under the Second Restated 2005 Plan may be for terms not exceeding ten years from the date of grant and may not be exercised at a price which is less than 100% of the fair market value of shares at the date of grant.

*Stock-Based Compensation*



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All stock options granted were fully vested and expensed at December 31, 2012, therefore there was no compensation expense related to stock options for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2016, respectively.

The following summarizes the stock option transactions for the Second Restated 2005 and 2003 Plans for the three months ended March 31, 2016:

	Number of Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at January 1, 2016	29,035	\$ 28.47	1.4	\$ 289,769
Outstanding at March 31, 2016	29,035	\$ 28.47	1.1	\$ 336,516
Exercisable at March 31, 2016	29,035	\$ 28.47	1.1	\$ 336,516

**SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.****NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)**

The following summarizes the restricted stock transactions for the three months ended March 31, 2016:

	Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Outstanding at January 1, 2016	106,789	\$ 40.28
Forfeited	(262 )	38.11
Non-vested and outstanding at March 31, 2016	106,527	\$ 40.28

For the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, we had \$528,000 and \$462,000, respectively, of total compensation expense related to restricted stock-based compensation arrangements. This expense is included in corporate general and administrative expenses in our results of operations. The associated tax benefit recognized for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 was \$211,000 and \$185,000, respectively.

**7. Long-Term Debt**

Long-term debt consisted of the following:

	March 31, 2016	December 31, 2015
	(In thousands)	
Revolving credit facility	\$35,287	\$ 35,287
Secured debt of affiliate	1,078	1,078
	36,365	36,365
Amounts payable within one year	—	—
	\$36,365	\$ 36,365

On August 18, 2015, we entered into a new credit facility (the “Credit Facility”) with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., The Huntington National Bank, Citizens Bank, National Association and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC. In connection with the execution of the Credit Facility, the credit agreement in place at June 30, 2015 (the “Old Credit Agreement”) was terminated, and all outstanding amounts were paid in full. The Credit Facility consists of a \$100 million five-year revolving facility (the “Revolving Credit Facility”) and matures on August 18, 2020.

We have pledged substantially all of our assets (excluding our FCC licenses and certain other assets) in support of the Credit Facility and each of our subsidiaries has guaranteed the Credit Facility and has pledged substantially all of their assets (excluding their FCC licenses and certain other assets) in support of the Credit Facility.

The proceeds from the Credit Facility were used to repay all amounts outstanding on our Old Credit Agreement and pay transactional fees. The unused portion of the Revolving Credit Facility is available for general corporate purposes, including working capital, capital expenditures, permitted acquisitions and related transaction expenses and permitted stock buybacks. We wrote-off unamortized debt issuance costs relating to the Old Credit Agreement of approximately \$557,000, pre-tax, due to entering into this new agreement during the quarter ended September 30, 2015.

Approximately \$266,000 of transaction fees related to the Credit Facility were capitalized and are being amortized over the life of the Credit Facility. Those deferred debt costs are included in other assets, net in the condensed consolidated balance sheets.

Interest rates under the Credit Facility are payable, at our option, at alternatives equal to LIBOR (0.5% at March 31, 2016), plus 1% to 2% or the base rate plus 0% to 1%. The spread over LIBOR and the base rate vary from time to time, depending upon our financial leverage. Letter of credit issued under the Credit Facility will be subject to a participation fee (which is equal to the interest rate applicable to Eurocurrency Loans, as defined in the Credit Agreement) payable to each of the Lenders and a fronting fee equal to 0.25% per annum payable to the issuing bank. We also pay quarterly commitment fees of 0.2% to 0.3% per annum on the unused portion of the Revolving Credit Facility.

**SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.****NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)**

The Credit Facility contains a number of financial covenants (all of which we were in compliance with at March 31, 2016) which, among other things, require us to maintain specified financial ratios and impose certain limitations on us with respect to investments, additional indebtedness, dividends, distributions, guarantees, liens and encumbrances.

We had approximately \$65 million of unused borrowing capacity under the Revolving Credit Facility at March 31, 2016.

The loan agreement of approximately \$1.1 million of secured debt of affiliate was amended in April, 2014 to extend the due date of the loan for three years to mature on May 1, 2017.

**8. Segment Information**

We evaluate the operating performance of our markets individually. For purposes of business segment reporting, we have aligned operations with similar characteristics into two business segments: Radio and Television.

The Radio segment includes twenty-four markets, which includes all ninety-nine of our radio stations. The Television segment includes two markets and consists of four television stations and five low power television (“LPTV”) stations. The Radio and Television segments derive their revenue from the sale of commercial broadcast inventory. The category “Corporate general and administrative” represents the income and expense not allocated to reportable segments.

	Radio	Television	Corporate and Other	Consolidated
		(In thousands)		
Three Months Ended March 31, 2016:				
Net operating revenue	\$27,464	\$5,281	\$ —	\$ 32,745
Station operating expense	21,140	3,545	—	24,685

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Corporate general and administrative	—	—	2,717	2,717
Other operating (income) expense, net	(3	) 3	—	—
Operating income (loss)	\$6,327	\$1,733	\$ (2,717 )	\$ 5,343
Depreciation and amortization	\$1,346	\$321	\$ 69	\$ 1,736
Total assets	\$163,401	\$23,655	\$ 22,671	\$ 209,727

	Radio	Television	Corporate and Other	Consolidated
	(In thousands)			
Three Months Ended March 31, 2015:				
Net operating revenue	\$24,276	\$4,785	\$ —	\$ 29,061
Station operating expense	19,422	3,343	—	22,765
Corporate general and administrative	—	—	2,482	2,482
Operating income (loss)	\$4,854	\$1,442	\$ (2,482 )	\$ 3,814
Depreciation and amortization	\$1,174	\$347	\$ 68	\$ 1,589
Total assets	\$139,354	\$22,665	\$ 33,529	\$ 195,548

**SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)**

**9. Subsequent Events**

On March 2, 2016, the Company's Board of Directors declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.25 per share on its Classes A and B Common Stock. This dividend, totaling \$1.5 million, which is recorded within Other accrued expenses as of March 31, 2016, was paid on April 15, 2016 to shareholders of record on March 28, 2016.

**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

**Results of Operations**

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto of Saga Communications, Inc. and its subsidiaries contained elsewhere herein and the audited financial statements and Management Discussion and Analysis contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015. The following discussion is presented on both a consolidated and segment basis. Corporate general and administrative expenses, interest expense, other (income) expense, and income tax expense are managed on a consolidated basis and are reflected only in our discussion of consolidated results.

For purposes of business segment reporting, we have aligned operations with similar characteristics into two business segments: Radio and Television. The Radio segment includes twenty-four markets, which includes all ninety-nine of our radio stations. The Television segment includes two markets and consists of four television stations and five LPTV stations. The discussion of our operating performance focuses on segment operating income because we manage our segments primarily on operating income. Operating performance is evaluated for each individual market.

We use certain financial measures that are not calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP) to assess our financial performance. For example, we evaluate the performance of our markets based on "station operating income" (operating income plus corporate general and administrative expenses, depreciation and amortization, other operating (income) expenses, and impairment of intangible assets). Station operating income is generally recognized by the broadcasting industry as a measure of performance, is used by analysts who report on the performance of the broadcasting industry and it serves as an indicator of the market value of a group of stations. In addition, we use it to evaluate individual stations, market-level performance, overall operations and as a primary measure for incentive based compensation of executives and other members of management. Station operating income is not necessarily indicative of amounts that may be available to us for debt service requirements, other commitments, reinvestment or other discretionary uses. Station operating income is not a measure of liquidity or of performance in accordance with GAAP, and should be viewed as a supplement to, and not a substitute for our results of operations presented on a GAAP basis.

**General**

We are a broadcast company primarily engaged in acquiring, developing and operating broadcast properties.

## Radio Segment

Our radio segment's primary source of revenue is from the sale of advertising for broadcast on our stations. Depending on the format of a particular radio station, there are a predetermined number of advertisements available to be broadcast each hour.

Most advertising contracts are short-term and generally run for a few weeks only. The majority of our revenue is generated from local advertising, which is sold primarily by each radio markets' sales staff. For the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, approximately 87% and 89%, respectively, of our radio segment's gross revenue was from local advertising. To generate national advertising sales, we engage independent advertising sales representative firms that specialize in national sales for each of our broadcast markets.

Our revenue varies throughout the year. Advertising expenditures, our primary source of revenue, generally have been lowest during the winter months, which include the first quarter of each year. We expect an increase in political advertising for 2016 due to the increased number of national, state and local elections in most of our markets as compared to prior year.

Our net operating revenue, station operating expense and operating income varies from market to market based upon the market's rank or size which is based upon population and the available radio advertising revenue in that particular market.

The broadcasting industry and advertising in general, is influenced by the state of the overall economy, including unemployment rates, inflation, energy prices and consumer interest rates. Our stations primarily broadcast in small to midsize markets. Historically, these markets have been more stable than major metropolitan markets during downturns in advertising spending, but may not experience increases in such spending as significant as those in major metropolitan markets in periods of economic improvement.

Our financial results are dependent on a number of factors, the most significant of which is our ability to generate advertising revenue through rates charged to advertisers. The rates a station is able to charge are, in large part, based on a station's ability to attract audiences in the demographic groups targeted by its advertisers. In a number of our markets this is measured by periodic reports generated by independent national rating services. In the remainder of our markets it is measured by the results advertisers obtain through the actual running of an advertising schedule. Advertisers measure these results based on increased demand for their goods or services and/or actual revenues generated from such demand. Various factors affect the rate a station can charge, including the general strength of the local and national economies, population growth, ability to provide popular programming, local market competition, target marketing capability of radio compared to other advertising media and signal strength.





When we acquire and/or begin to operate a station or group of stations we generally increase programming and advertising and promotion expenses to increase our share of our target demographic audience. Our strategy sometimes requires levels of spending commensurate with the revenue levels we plan on achieving in two to five years. During periods of economic downturns, or when the level of advertising spending is flat or down across the industry, this strategy may result in the appearance that our cost of operations are increasing at a faster rate than our growth in revenues, until such time as we achieve our targeted levels of revenue for the acquired station or group of stations.

The number of advertisements that can be broadcast without jeopardizing listening levels (and the resulting ratings) is limited in part by the format of a particular radio station. Our stations strive to maximize revenue by constantly managing the number of commercials available for sale and adjusting prices based upon local market conditions and ratings. While there may be shifts from time to time in the number of advertisements broadcast during a particular time of day, the total number of advertisements broadcast on a particular station generally does not vary significantly from year to year. Any change in our revenue, with the exception of those instances where stations are acquired or sold, is generally the result of inventory sell out ratios and pricing adjustments, which are made to ensure that the station efficiently utilizes available inventory.

Our radio stations employ a variety of programming formats. We periodically perform market research, including music evaluations, focus groups and strategic vulnerability studies. Because reaching a large and demographically attractive audience is crucial to a station's financial success, we endeavor to develop strong listener loyalty. Our stations also employ audience promotions to further develop and secure a loyal following. We believe that the diversification of formats on our radio stations helps to insulate us from the effects of changes in musical tastes of the public on any particular format.

The primary operating expenses involved in owning and operating radio stations are employee salaries, sales commissions, programming expenses, depreciation, and advertising and promotion expenses.

The radio broadcasting industry is subject to rapid technological change, evolving industry standards and the emergence of new media technologies and services. These new technologies and media are gaining advertising share against radio and other traditional media.

We are continuing to expand our digital initiative to provide a seamless experience across numerous platforms to allow our listeners and viewers to connect with our products where and when they want. We continue to create opportunities through targeted digital advertising and an array of digital services that include online promotions, mobile messaging, and email marketing.

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In addition, we continue the rollout of HD radio™. HD radio™ utilizes digital technology that provides improved sound quality over standard analog broadcasts and also allows for the delivery of additional channels of diversified programming or data streaming in each radio market.

During the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 and the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, our Columbus, Ohio; Des Moines, Iowa; Manchester, New Hampshire; Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Norfolk, Virginia markets, when combined, represented approximately 35%, 34%, 34% and 34%, respectively, of our consolidated net operating revenue. An adverse change in any of these radio markets or our relative market position in those markets could have a significant impact on our operating results as a whole.

The following tables describe the percentage of our consolidated net operating revenue represented by each of these markets:

Market:	Percentage of Consolidated Net Operating Revenue for the Three Months Ended March 31,				Percentage of Consolidated Net Operating Revenue for the Years Ended December 31,			
	2016		2015		2015		2014	
Columbus, Ohio	9	%	6	%	7	%	7	%
Des Moines, Iowa	7	%	7	%	7	%	6	%
Manchester, New Hampshire	5	%	5	%	5	%	5	%
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	10	%	11	%	10	%	11	%
Norfolk, Virginia	4	%	5	%	5	%	5	%

During the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 and the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, the radio stations in our five largest markets when combined, represented approximately 37%, 32%, 36% and 32%, respectively, of our consolidated station operating income. The following tables describe the percentage of our consolidated station operating income represented by each of these markets:

Market:	Percentage of Consolidated Station Operating Income (*) for the Three Months Ended March 31,				Percentage of Consolidated Station Operating Income(*) for the Years Ended December 31,			
	2016		2015		2015		2014	
Columbus, Ohio	9	%	7	%	8	%	7	%
Des Moines, Iowa	7	%	5	%	6	%	5	%
Manchester, New Hampshire	8	%	6	%	7	%	7	%
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	10	%	11	%	11	%	10	%
Norfolk, Virginia	3	%	3	%	4	%	3	%

\* Operating income plus corporate general and administrative expenses, depreciation and amortization, other operating (income) expenses, and impairment of intangible assets.

### Television Segment

Our television segment's primary source of revenue is from the sale of advertising for broadcast on our stations. The number of advertisements available for broadcast on our television stations is limited by network affiliation and syndicated programming agreements and, with respect to children's programs, federal regulation. Our television stations' local market managers determine the number of advertisements to be broadcast in locally produced programs only, which are primarily news programming and occasionally local sports or information shows.

Our net operating revenue, station operating expense and operating income vary from market to market based upon the market's rank or size, which is based upon population, available television advertising revenue in that particular market, and the popularity of programming being broadcast.

Our financial results are dependent on a number of factors, the most significant of which is our ability to generate advertising revenue through rates charged to advertisers. The rates a station is able to charge are, in large part, based

on a station's ability to attract audiences in the demographic groups targeted by its advertisers, as measured principally by periodic reports by independent national rating services. Various factors affect the rate a station can charge, including the general strength of the local and national economies, population growth, ability to provide popular programming through locally produced news, sports and weather and as a result of syndication and network affiliation agreements, local market competition, the ability of television broadcasting to reach a mass appeal market compared to other advertising media, and signal strength including cable/satellite coverage, and government regulation and policies.

Our stations strive to maximize revenue by constantly adjusting prices for our commercial spots based upon local market conditions, advertising demands and ratings. While there may be shifts from time to time in the number of advertisements broadcast during a particular time of day, the total number of advertisements broadcast on a particular station generally does not vary significantly from year to year. Any change in our revenue, with the exception of those instances where stations are acquired or sold, is generally the result of pricing adjustments, which are made to ensure that the station efficiently utilizes available inventory.

Because audience ratings in the local market are crucial to a station's financial success, we endeavor to develop strong viewer loyalty by providing locally produced news, weather and sports programming. We believe that this emphasis on the local market provides us with the viewer loyalty we are trying to achieve.

Most of our revenue is generated from local advertising, which is sold primarily by each television markets' sales staff. For the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, approximately 81% and 85%, respectively of our television segment's gross revenue was from local advertising. To generate national advertising sales, we engage independent advertising sales representatives that specialize in national sales for each of our television markets.

Our revenue varies throughout the year. Advertising expenditures, our primary source of revenue, generally have been lowest during the winter months, which include the first quarter of each year. We expect an increase in political advertising for 2016 due to the increased number of national, state and local elections in most of our markets as compared to prior year.

The primary operating expenses involved in owning and operating television stations are employee salaries, sales commissions, programming expenses, including news production and the cost of acquiring certain syndicated programming, depreciation and advertising and promotion expenses.

Our television market in Joplin, Missouri represented approximately 10%, 10%, 10% and 10%, respectively, of our net operating revenues, and approximately 14%, 14%, 13% and 13%, respectively, of our consolidated station operating income (operating income plus corporate general and administrative expenses, depreciation and amortization, other operating (income) expenses, and impairment of intangible assets.) for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 and the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

### **Three Months Ended March 31, 2016 Compared to Three Months Ended March 31, 2015**

#### ***Results of Operations***

The following tables summarize our results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015.

#### **Consolidated Results of Operations**

Three Months Ended		\$ Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
March 31, 2016	2015		

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	(In thousands, except percentages and per share information)				
Net operating revenue	\$ 32,745	\$ 29,061	\$ 3,684	12.7	%
Station operating expense	24,685	22,765	1,920	8.4	%
Corporate general and administrative	2,717	2,482	235	9.5	%
Operating income	5,343	3,814	1,529	40.1	%
Interest expense	189	241	(52 )	(21.6 )	%
Other (income) expense, net	—	(8 )	8	N/M	
Income before income tax expense	5,154	3,581	1,573	43.9	%
Income tax provision	2,130	1,450	680	46.9	%
Net income	\$ 3,024	\$ 2,131	\$ 893	41.9	%
Earnings per share (diluted)	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.36	\$ (0.16 )	44.4	%

**Radio Broadcasting Segment**

	Three Months Ended				
	March 31, 2016	2015	\$ Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)	
	(In thousands, except percentages)				
Net operating revenue	\$27,464	\$24,276	\$ 3,188	13.1	%
Station operating expense	21,140	19,422	1,718	8.9	%
Other operating income	(3 )	—	(3 )	N/M	
Operating income	\$6,327	\$4,854	\$ 1,473	30.4	%

**Television Broadcasting Segment**

	Three Months Ended				
	March 31, 2016	2015	\$ Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)	
	(In thousands, except percentages)				
Net operating revenue	\$ 5,281	\$ 4,785	\$ 496	10.4	%
Station operating expense	3,545	3,343	202	6.0	%
Other operating expense	3	—	3	N/M	
Operating income	\$ 1,733	\$ 1,442	\$ 291	20.2	%

N/M = Not Meaningful

***Reconciliation of segment operating income to consolidated operating income:***

	Radio	Television	Corporate and Other	Consolidated
	(In thousands)			
Three Months Ended March 31, 2016:				
Net operating revenue	\$27,464	\$ 5,281	\$ —	\$ 32,745
Station operating expense	21,140	3,545	—	24,685



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Corporate general and administrative	—	—	2,717	2,717
Other operating (income) expense, net	(3	) 3	—	—
Operating income (loss)	\$6,237	\$ 1,733	\$ (2,717	) \$ 5,343

	Radio	Television	Corporate and Other	Consolidated
	(In thousands)			
Three Months Ended March 31, 2015:				
Net operating revenue	\$24,276	\$ 4,785	\$ —	\$ 29,061
Station operating expense	19,422	3,343	—	22,765
Corporate general and administrative	—	—	2,482	2,482
Operating income (loss)	\$4,854	\$ 1,442	\$ (2,482	) \$ 3,814

***Consolidated***

For the three months ended March 31, 2016, consolidated net operating revenue was \$32,745,000 compared with \$29,061,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015, an increase of \$3,684,000 or 12.7%. We had an increase of approximately \$2,017,000 generated by stations we owned or operated for the comparable period in 2015 (“same station”), and an increase in net operating revenue of approximately \$1,667,000 attributable to stations that we did not own or operate for the entire comparable period. The increase in same station revenue was due to increases in gross political revenue, gross local revenue and gross retransmission revenue of \$1,159,000, \$647,000 and \$261,000, respectively, from the first quarter of 2015. The increase in gross political revenue was due to a higher number of national, state and local elections in most of our markets. The increase in gross local revenue was primarily attributable to increases in our Columbus, Ohio, Norfolk, Virginia, and Springfield, Massachusetts markets. The increase in gross retransmission revenue was due to increases in both of our television markets during the first quarter of 2016.

Station operating expense was \$24,685,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2016, compared with \$22,765,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015, an increase of \$1,920,000 or 8.4%. The overall increase was attributable to an increase in station operating expenses of \$670,000 or 3%, for those stations we owned and operated for the entire comparable period and an increase of \$1,250,000 attributable to stations that we did not own or operate for the entire comparable period. The increase in same station operating expense was primarily a result of increases in compensation costs, health care costs, commission expense, and retransmission expense of \$181,000, \$186,000, \$178,000, and \$46,000, respectively.

Operating income for the three months ended March 31, 2016 was \$5,343,000 compared to \$3,814,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015, an increase of \$1,529,000 or 40.1%. The increase was a result of the increase in net operating revenue offset by the increase in station operating expense, noted above and an increase in corporate general and administrative expenses of \$235,000. The \$235,000 increase was primarily attributable to an increase of \$147,000 in consulting fees and an increase of \$66,000 in non-cash compensation related to the amortization of restricted stock grants.

We generated net income of \$3,024,000 (\$.52 per share on a fully diluted basis) during the three months ended March 31, 2016, compared to \$2,131,000 (\$.36 per share on a fully diluted basis) for the three months ended March 31, 2015, an increase of \$893,000 or 41.9%. We had an increase in operating income of \$1,529,000, as described above, and a decrease in interest expense of \$52,000 partially offset by a decrease in other income of \$8,000, and an increase in income taxes of \$680,000. The decrease in interest expense was primarily attributable to a decrease in our amortization of bank fees and decrease in interest rates. The increase in income taxes was attributable to the increase in income before income tax expense of \$1,573,000.

### ***Radio Segment***

For the three months ended March 31, 2016, net operating revenue of the radio segment was \$27,464,000 compared with \$24,276,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015, which represents an increase of \$3,188,000 or 13.1%. We had an increase of approximately \$1,521,000 or 6.3% generated by stations we owned or operated for the comparable period in 2015, and an increase in net operating revenue of approximately \$1,667,000 attributable to stations that we did not own or operate for the entire comparable period. The increase in same station revenue was due to increases in gross political revenue, and gross local revenue of \$1,097,000 and \$675,000 partially offset by a decrease of \$176,000 in gross national revenue, from the first quarter of 2015. The increase in gross political revenue was due to a higher number of national, state and local elections in most of our markets. The increase in gross local revenue was primarily attributable to increases in our Columbus, Ohio, Norfolk, Virginia, and Springfield, Massachusetts markets. The decrease in gross national revenue was primarily attributable to a decrease in our Manchester, New Hampshire market.

Station operating expense for the radio segment was \$21,140,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2016, compared with \$19,422,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015, an increase of \$1,718,000 or 8.9%. The overall increase was attributable to an increase in station operating expenses of \$468,000 or 2.4% for those stations we owned and operated for the entire comparable period and an increase of \$1,250,000 attributable to stations that we did not own or operate for the entire comparable period. The increase in same station operating expense was primarily a result of increases in compensation costs, health care costs, and commission expense of \$54,000, \$152,000, and \$152,000, respectively.

Operating income in the radio segment increased \$1,473,000 to \$6,327,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2016, from \$4,854,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015. The increase was a result of the increase in net operating revenue offset by an increase in station operating expense as described above.

### *Television Segment*

For the three months ended March 31, 2016, net operating revenue of our television segment was \$5,281,000 compared with \$4,785,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015, an increase of \$496,000 or 10.4% which was primarily attributable to an increase in gross retransmission revenue of \$261,000 and an increase in gross national revenue of \$235,000.

Station operating expense in the television segment for the three months ended March 31, 2016 was \$3,545,000, compared with \$3,343,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015, an increase of \$202,000 or 6.0%. The increase in expenses related to increases in compensation costs, retransmission fees, and health care costs of \$92,000, \$46,000 and \$34,000, respectively.

Operating income in the television segment for the three months ended March 31, 2016 was \$1,733,000 compared with \$1,442,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2015, an increase of \$291,000 or 20.2%. The increase was a direct result of the increase in net operating revenue offset by the increase in station operating expenses described above.

## **Forward-Looking Statements**

Statements contained in this Form 10-Q that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements that are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. In addition, words such as “believes,” “anticipates,” “estimates,” “plans,” “expects,” and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are made as of the date of this report or as otherwise indicated, based on current expectations. We undertake no obligation to update this information. A number of important factors could cause our actual results for 2016 and beyond to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by or on our behalf. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance as they involve a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions that may prove to be incorrect and that may cause our actual results and experiences to differ materially from the anticipated results or other expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements. The risks, uncertainties and assumptions that may affect our performance include our financial leverage and debt service requirements, dependence on key personnel, dependence on key stations, U.S. and local economic conditions, our ability to successfully integrate acquired stations, regulatory requirements, new technologies, natural disasters and terrorist attacks. We cannot be sure that we will be able to anticipate or respond timely to changes in any of these factors, which could adversely affect the operating results in one or more fiscal quarters. Results of operations in any past period should not be considered, in and of itself, indicative of the results to be expected for future periods. Fluctuations in operating results may also result in fluctuations in the price of our stock.

For a more complete description of the prominent risks and uncertainties inherent in our business, see Item 1A. “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.

## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

### ***Debt Arrangements and Debt Service Requirements***

On August 18, 2015, we entered into a new credit facility (the “Credit Facility”) with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., The Huntington National Bank, Citizens Bank, National Association and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC. In connection with the execution of the Credit Facility, the credit agreement in place at June 30, 2015 (the “Old Credit Agreement”) was terminated, and all outstanding amounts were paid in full. The Credit Facility consists of a \$100 million five-year revolving facility (the “Revolving Credit Facility”) and matures on August 18, 2020.

We have pledged substantially all of our assets (excluding our FCC licenses and certain other assets) in support of the Credit Facility and each of our subsidiaries has guaranteed the Credit Facility and has pledged substantially all of their assets (excluding their FCC licenses and certain other assets) in support of the Credit Facility.

The proceeds from the Credit Facility were used to repay all amounts outstanding on our Old Credit Agreement and pay transactional fees. The unused portion of the Revolving Credit Facility is available for general corporate purposes, including working capital, capital expenditures, permitted acquisitions and related transaction expenses and permitted stock buybacks. We wrote-off unamortized debt issuance costs relating to the Old Credit Agreement of approximately \$557,000, pre-tax, due to entering into this new agreement during the quarter ended September 30, 2015.

Approximately \$266,000 of transaction fees related to the Credit Facility were capitalized and are being amortized over the life of the Credit Facility. Those deferred debt costs are included in other assets, net in the condensed consolidated balance sheets.

Interest rates under the Credit Facility are payable, at our option, at alternatives equal to LIBOR (0.5% at March 31, 2016), plus 1% to 2% or the base rate plus 0% to 1%. The spread over LIBOR and the base rate vary from time to time, depending upon our financial leverage. Letter of credit issued under the Credit Facility will be subject to a participation fee (which is equal to the interest rate applicable to Eurocurrency Loans, as defined in the Credit Agreement) payable to each of the Lenders and a fronting fee equal to 0.25% per annum payable to the issuing bank. We also pay quarterly commitment fees of 0.2% to 0.3% per annum on the unused portion of the Revolving Credit Facility.

The Credit Facility contains a number of financial covenants (all of which we were in compliance with at March 31, 2016) which, among other things, require us to maintain specified financial ratios and impose certain limitations on us with respect to investments, additional indebtedness, dividends, distributions, guarantees, liens and encumbrances.

We had approximately \$65 million of unused borrowing capacity under the Revolving Credit Facility at March 31, 2016.

In 2003, we entered into an agreement of understanding with Surtsey Media whereby we have guaranteed up to \$1,250,000 of the debt incurred in closing the acquisition of a construction permit for KFJX-TV station in Pittsburg, Kansas, a full power Fox affiliate serving Joplin, Missouri. At March 31, 2016, there was \$1,078,000 of debt outstanding under this agreement. The loan agreement was amended in April, 2014 to extend the due date of the loan for three years to mature on May 1, 2017. We do not have any recourse provision in connection with our guarantee that would enable us to recover any amounts paid under the guarantee. As a result, at March 31, 2016, we have recorded \$1,078,000 in debt and \$1,000,000 in intangible assets, primarily broadcast licenses. In consideration for the guarantee, Surtsey Media entered into various agreements with us relating to the stations.

### *Sources and Uses of Cash*

During the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, we had net cash flows from operating activities of \$7,190,000 and \$7,587,000, respectively. We believe that cash flow from operations will be sufficient to meet quarterly debt service requirements for interest and payments of principal under our Credit Facility. However, if such cash flow is not sufficient we may be required to sell additional equity securities, refinance our obligations or dispose of one or more of our properties in order to make such scheduled payments. There can be no assurance that we would be able to effect any such transactions on favorable terms, if at all.

Our capital expenditures, exclusive of acquisitions, for the three months ended March 31, 2016 were \$1,010,000 (\$950,000 in 2015). We anticipate capital expenditures in 2016 to be approximately \$5 - \$5.5 million, which we expect to finance through funds generated from operations.

On March 2, 2016, the Company's Board of Directors declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.25 per share on its Classes A and B Common Stock. This dividend, totaling \$1.5 million, was paid on April 15, 2016 to shareholders of record on March 28, 2016 and funded by cash on the Company's balance sheet.

On November 2, 2015, we entered into an agreement to acquire an FM radio station (WLVQ) from Wilks Broadcast - Columbus, LLC, serving the Columbus, Ohio market for approximately \$13,791,000, which included \$734,000 in accounts receivable and \$57,000 in transactional costs. We completed this acquisition on February 3, 2016. We operated this station under a LMA from November 16, 2015 through our completion of the acquisition. This acquisition was financed through funds generated from operations.

We continue to actively seek and explore opportunities for expansion through the acquisitions of additional broadcast properties.

We anticipate that any future acquisitions of radio and television stations and dividend payments will be financed through funds generated from operations, borrowings under the Credit Agreement, additional debt or equity financing, or a combination thereof. However, there can be no assurances that any such financing will be available on acceptable terms, if at all.

### *Summary Disclosures About Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments*

We have future cash obligations under various types of contracts, including the terms of our Credit Facility, operating leases, programming contracts, employment agreements, and other operating contracts. For additional information concerning our future cash obligations see “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation — Summary Disclosures About Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.

We anticipate that our contractual cash obligations will be financed through funds generated from operations or additional borrowings under the Credit Facility, or a combination thereof.

### **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

Our consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, which require us to make estimates, judgments and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of certain assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and related disclosures and contingencies. We evaluate estimates used in preparation of our financial statements on a continual basis. There have been no significant changes to our critical accounting policies that are described in Item 7. “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Critical Accounting Policies” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.

### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

Recent accounting pronouncements are described in Note 2 to the accompanying financial statements.

### **Inflation**

The impact of inflation on our operations has not been significant to date. There can be no assurance that a high rate of inflation in the future would not have an adverse effect on our operations.

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk**

Refer to “Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk” and “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Market Risk and Risk Management Policies” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 for a complete discussion of our market risk. There have been no material changes to the market risk information included in our 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

As of the end of the period covered by this report, the Company carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the Company’s management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rule 13a-15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Based upon that evaluation, the Company’s Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures are effective to cause the material information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to be recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Commission’s rules and forms. There were no changes in the Company’s internal controls over financial reporting during the quarter ended March 31, 2016, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company’s internal controls over financial reporting.



**PART II — OTHER INFORMATION****Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

The Company is subject to various outstanding claims which arise in the ordinary course of business and to other legal proceedings. Management anticipates that any potential liability of the Company, which arise out of or with respect to these matters, will not materially affect the Company's financial statements.

**Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**

The following table summarizes our repurchases of our Class A Common Stock during the three months ended March 31, 2016. There were no shares repurchased during the quarter.

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Program	Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Program(a)
January 1 — January 31, 2016	—	\$ —	—	\$29,924,698
February 1 — February 28, 2016	—	\$ —	—	\$29,924,698
March 1 — March 31, 2016	—	\$ —	—	\$29,924,698
Total	—	\$ —	—	\$29,924,698

We have a Stock Buy-Back Program which allows us to purchase our Class A Common Stock. In February 2013, (a)our Board of Directors authorized an increase in the amount committed to the Buy-Back Program from \$60 million to approximately \$75.8 million.

**Item 6. Exhibits**

- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act 1934, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32 Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 and Rule 13-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 101.INS XBRL Instance Document
- 101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
- 101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Calculation Linkbase Document
- 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
- 101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Date: May 9,  
2016

/s/ SAMUEL D. BUSH

Samuel D. Bush

*Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer*

*(Principal Financial Officer)*

Date: May 9,  
2016

/s/ CATHERINE A. BOBINSKI

Catherine A. Bobinski

*Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Corporate Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)*