NBA Unveils New Website

We are excited to announce a complete redesign of the NBA website!

The new site is live at our same address: [www.ne-ba.org](http://www.ne-ba.org)

You’ll see a modern look for both desktop and mobile with streamlined menus, clear navigation and updated content.
Our goal was to make it more useful for you and to that end, we have upgraded the home page with headlines, consolidated member services content and improved visibility of our job postings.

It is best viewed in Firefox or Chrome browsers. If you have any difficulty in seeing the new site, you may need to clear your cache. A simple internet search will provide instructions on clearing cache for your specific browser.

Take it for a test drive and let us know what you think. Thank you for your membership and continued support of the NBA!

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**NBA Pinnacle Awards Via Live Stream on August 19**

The Pinnacle Awards show will go on! Join us on Wednesday August 19 at 7:30 p.m. CDT for a live stream of our 2020 winners. Related details are tba. Winners’ plaques will be shipped in the following days. The NBA thanks Pinnacle Bank and Nebraska Public Power District for continuing as event cosponsors in this most unusual time.

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**Suicide Prevention Awareness Project**

Fellow Nebraska Broadcasters Association members,

I am asking all our members to support an initiative the NBA is undertaking with the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention.

With COVID-19 forcing many people into isolation, stressing their finances and relationships, the risk of suicide is greatly increased. In addition to promoting helplines and other services for those who need help, this initiative aims to help news departments report on instances of suicide in a way that can help steer the conversation away from the stigma typically associated with suicide.

Please review the attached information and consider having your station(s) and staff become a part of this initiative.

Several years ago, the NBA undertook an initiative to raise awareness of the help available to those contemplating suicide, and the effort resulted in a major increase in calls from right here in Nebraska to prevention hotlines.

With so many risk factors due to the current pandemic, please consider supporting this important endeavor.
Notice of NBA Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the membership of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association will be held virtually on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. CDT. A Zoom link and related meeting information are forthcoming.

Chairman’s Column

Fellow broadcasters,

Dramatic upheaval was not the way I envisioned my year as chairman to unfold. I strive to be low stress and low drama in my personal life and with my business. This year has been anything but, from a health pandemic that turned our lives upside down and killed or sickened scores of Nebraskans, to protests that have shined a light on every aspect of the way we go about our daily lives and made us reexamine practices and institutions most of us take for granted.

As my year as chairman of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Board of Directors draws to a close, I want to thank the fellow broadcasters who serve on the board and especially Executive Committee members Ariel Roblin, Mark Jensen, Ami Graham and Dennis Brown. We have had issues to address this year that could never have been anticipated – canceling the 2020 NBA Convention, providing guidance on responding to a health pandemic, and covering protests safely and responsibly.

I have been thoroughly impressed watching how this diverse group of broadcasters, each with a unique perspective, has set aside issues they may be facing at their individual stations to collectively craft policies and practices that benefit Nebraska broadcasters as a whole. It has been humbling to be a part of this amazing group of people.

Broadcasters have been forced to transition from a thriving economy to one of the toughest since at least the Great Recession of 2009 if not going back to the Great Depression. Broadcasters had to make that transition within a 60-day span, as did thousands of businesses in the state. The NBA continues to provide members with vital information to help stations weather the pandemic, along with information on available state and federal assistance programs. Jim Timm is available to any member who has a specific issue or question and, if he does not have the answer, he can put you in touch with those who do.

Stay tuned for information from the NBA on additional webinars to assist with sales and management issues that have arisen during the pandemic. The NBA has announced an August 19th live streamed Pinnacle Awards ceremony to recognize the fine work done by
broadcasters in a variety of areas during the past year.

Also, I encourage our members to consider participating in an initiative the NBA is undertaking with the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention to help broadcasters cover suicide in a manner that can steer the conversation away from the stigma and toward getting resources to the people who are suffering in silence. This initiative is being undertaken at a time when so many Nebraskans are nearing a breaking point from isolation and financial stress.

Stay healthy my fellow broadcasters. Despite the challenges we may each face with our businesses, let us continue to set the tone by being responsible and accurate in our reporting, and uplifting in our attitudes during a time when Nebraskans desperately need both.

Yours in broadcasting,
Graig Kinzie, NBA Board Chairman

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**Legislative Update**

**State Legislative Update**

Our legislature is scheduled to return on July 20 for 17 days to wrap up the 2020 session. With the many and continuing impacts of the pandemic hovering over the proceedings, it is widely expected that other than bills with no fiscal note and little to no opposition, the only items to receive action will be property tax relief, business incentives and the proposed UNMC expansion project. The NBA and our lobbying partners at Radcliffe Gilbertson Brady will monitor the action for any amendments or other surprises that could impact our member stations.

**Federal Legislative Update**

The NBA continues to work through the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) to pursue added relief for broadcasters as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic persists. Through the National Alliance of State Broadcast Associations (NASBA), the NBA joined other states in filing comments with the FCC regarding their proposed regulatory fee increase. The comments not only push back on the notion of any increase in the current financial crisis, they also take issue with the entire process by which the FCC assesses fees to the various industries it regulates.

To learn more about any of these issues, contact Jim Timm at jim@ne-ba.org or 402-933-5995.
Transactions

My Bridge Radio has agreed to purchase KMMJ (750 AM, Grand Island) and FM translator K282BR from The Praise Network. Terms are $35,000 for the translator with KMMJ being gifted.

NBA Donates $5,000 to Broadcasters Foundation of America

The onset of the pandemic found the Broadcasters Foundation of America (BFOA) “knee deep” in requests for financial aid from all over America. The Executive Committee of the NBA Board of Directors unanimously approved a $5,000.00 contribution to BFOA to help support fellow broadcasters in need.

BFOA Vice President Peter Doyle gratefully acknowledged our contribution, stating “During these unimaginably difficult times, the demands on our granting initiatives have never been greater. As a result, your generosity becomes that much more important. Please accept our boundless appreciation for your benevolence.”

At the time of our contribution BFOA was already assisting almost 100 colleagues in 35 states, including Nebraska. To donate or learn more about BFA assistance, [click here](#).

Members in the News

Jacque Harms, longtime KNOP TV news director, has been named general manager of Gray Television’s WTOK in Meridian, Mississippi.

Longtime Lincoln sportscaster Dick Janda has retired. Janda called hundreds of play by play broadcasts for various Nebraska Wesleyan University and Lincoln high school contests over his 40+ year radio and TV broadcasting career.
Hearst Television announced a series of GM changes. KETV president & general manager Ariel Roblin is off to Sacramento to assume the same role at KCRA & KQCA. Roblin’s Omaha replacement is Shawn Oswald, who returns to Omaha after running KHBS & KHOG for Hearst in Fort Smith and Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Roblin receives her NBA Board of Directors service plaque from Jim Timm at a safe social distance.

Tregg White has left his GM role at Gray-Scottsbluff’s KNEP TV to become vice president and general manager of Scripps-owned KGUN and KWBA TV in Tucson. Jim Beck succeeds White at KNEP.

Board Briefs

A summary of the NBA Board of Directors spring meeting held virtually on May 6, 2020.

Chairman Graig Kinzie called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Minutes from the February 4, 2020 meeting were approved.

Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Brown presented the financial reports for January, February
and March, 2020, which were approved. An NCSA program update was provided. President/Executive Director Jim Timm stated that the recent Review of Agreed Upon Procedures found our practices to be sound.

**Convention:** Kinzie recapped the factors that led to the Executive Committee’s recent decision to cancel our 2020 convention due to the pandemic. A motion was approved to have the 2020 speakers’ lineup become the 2021 speakers’ lineup. Regarding our 2020 Annual Meeting, it was agreed to conduct it electronically on the original date of August 11.

**Legislative/FOI:** Timm provided an update on Federal and State legislative matters of interest and noted that a few court camera rule tweaks are pending through the Bench Media Committee.

**Member Services:** Regarding Alternative Inspections, Timm reported only a few requested delays due to social distancing and company policies. Timm also reported a large increase in member requests for access to all three sales training providers’ content.

**Public Service:** Timm said he continues to work with the Governor’s office on COVID-19 PSA distribution, and that the Governor’s Call-In Show continues to get consistent call volume.

**History Project:** Timm said he has started loading content on the new site, and that President Emeritus Marty Riemenschneider is identifying old photos to be added.

**Old Business:** It was agreed that Past Chairperson Ariel Roblin and Timm would review a request for a NBA initiative on suicide prevention awareness.

**New Business:** A motion was approved to participate in a “virtual convention” proposal from Derron Steenbergen and P1 Learning to be held in July. It was suggested that webinars for other departments be considered since we won’t have our Annual Convention this year.

Kinzie thanked everyone for their participation. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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**Rewind**

The NBA thanks President Emeritus Marty Riemenschneider for compiling items from the NBA archives.

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**1970: 50 Years Ago**

At the 10th annual Journalism Awards Banquet held on Saturday, June 10th, the following scholarship winners were announced: NBA - Ann Pedersen, Laurel, Nebraska; KLIN/KLIN FM - James Furrer, Lincoln; KOLN/KGIN - Jim Henney, Omaha, and Stuart Stations - Richard Janda, Ord.

**1980: 40 Years Ago**

The Public Relations Committee of the NBA is working on spots which will accentuate the positive side of broadcasting in Nebraska. At their upcoming meeting, Deb Kneip of KOLN TV and Rick Alloway of KFOR will present sample scripts for radio and television.
Lee Hall is inviting fellow broadcasters to attend an open house at the newly remodeled facilities of KCSR-AM and the new studios of KQSK-FM. Chadron’s KCSR is concluding its 25th year of broadcasting and the FM has brand new color weather radar.

1990: 30 Years Ago

Neil Nelkin, KODY/KXNP, North Platte, is the 1990 NBA Convention Chair. Working with Neil in the planning phase are NBA Chairman Larry Rice, (KBRB), Ray Lockhart (KOGA), Charlie Brogan (KRVN), George McPherson (KODY/KXNP), Jim Kamerzell (KOOQ/KELN), John Townsend (KJLT) and Ulysses Carlini (KNOP-TV).

2000: 20 Years Ago

KLIR/KJSK, Columbus has received the First Lady Award for the State of Nebraska. Chosen by the Volunteer Service Commission, the stations were named as “Volunteer Business of the Year” of all businesses in Nebraska. Congratulations to General Manager K.C. Hunter and his staff.

The Nebraska Associated Press Association presented UNL broadcasting professor Larry Walklin and Lexington radio broadcaster Jim Struck of KRVN with its lifetime achievement awards at the group’s annual meeting in Kearney.

2010: 10 Years Ago

NBA Chairman Chuck Schwartz announced that a great lineup of speakers will be appearing at the 76th Annual NBA Convention in August, starting with renowned sales trainer Chris Lytle, radio programmer Kipper McGee, and a special keynote from NAB President & CEO Gordon Smith. The Awards of Excellence Emcee will be radio legend Fred Winston of WLS fame who worked in Nebraska at the Mighty 1290 KOIL.

Sync with the NBA Calendar

EVENTS, MEETINGS & DEADLINES

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>NBA Summer Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>August 11, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>NBA Annual Meeting</td>
<td>August 11, 2020 - 3:30 PM - Virtual</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Election LUC window opens</td>
<td>Sept. 4, 2020 - 11/3 Gen. Election</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE License Renewal announcement</td>
<td>December 1, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>NBA Annual Convention</td>
<td>August 10 &amp; 11, 2021 - La Vista</td>
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2020 GOVERNOR RICKETTS CALL-IN SHOW SCHEDULE

All shows air at 2:00pm C / 1:00pm M

More than 30 member stations across Nebraska carry the NBA Governor’s Monthly Call In Show, which originates from KFOR in Lincoln with distribution support from Husker IMG Sports. Call volume is strong and listener passion evident on the variety of issues raised during each program. The NBA and Governor Ricketts thank our many affiliates and remind you to promote each month’s program on the air, online and through social media.
2020 Governor Ricketts Call-In Show Dates:

- July 13, 2020
- August 10, 2020
- September 14, 2020
  (future dates pending)

Visit our Website