Pinnacle & Sales Awards Entry Deadlines Fast Approaching!

The 87th Annual NBA Convention will be here before we know it! Join us August 9 & 10 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln as we celebrate all things great about local broadcasting!

Pinnacle Awards entries will be accepted on the Rock Our Awards platform from April 14 through 5pm CDT on May 3, 2022. Two significant changes for 2022: 1) All long-form entries are now limited to submissions not exceeding 7 minutes in total length. 2) “Service to Children” has been replaced with “Station-Originated Community Service Project.” Click here for complete details. The Pinnacle Awards banquet will be held on the evening of Wednesday, August 10.

Account Executive of the Year Award entries must be submitted to jim@ne-ba.org no later than April 30, 2022. Find out who will be recognized as the Dick Chapin – Radio and Roger Moody – Television Account Executives of the Year by attending the Keynote Luncheon on Wednesday, August 10.

We’ve selected a tremendous lineup of guest speakers for management, sales, news, radio programming & social media, and engineering. Convention Registration will open in mid-June!

NBA Names Student Education Debt Grant Recipients

The NBA Foundation’s 2022 Student Education Debt Assistance Grant program carried a budget of $10,000 (up from $5,000 last year), allowing up to 10 NBA member station employees to receive a $1,000.00 grant. Applications were judged by a panel of NBA board members with no parent company/employee applicant conflicts. Congratulations to these dedicated NBA-member station employees!
NBA Offers Virtual Job Fair April 11 - 15
Hiring? The NBA’s next Virtual Job Fair is April 11 - 15. Member stations can post jobs, interact with candidates and expand your outreach program.

Registration deadline is April 4th.

Complete details here:

Contact Linda Meuret at linda@ne-ba.org with any questions.

Radio Experts Needed for Upcoming NBA High School Project

The NBA is currently developing a special project to connect Nebraska high school students to careers in radio. While we’re not ready to share details, we’re incredibly excited about what the "High School Radio Project" can become.

The NBA is looking for radio members to share some of their radio expertise and other ways to help students learn how content ultimately gets delivered over the air. While we’re still unsure about time commitments, know that it should be minimal and infrequent. And, it might even help your station earn EEO credit.

If you’re interested in learning more, just email jim@ne-ba.org Thank you for your consideration!

Chairperson’s Column

One of the best parts of living in Nebraska is the fact we get to enjoy four seasons. But let’s be honest, it sure is nice when we can say goodbye to winter for several months! In addition to the ‘look’ of Spring we are experiencing, there is also the ‘feeling’ of Spring. It is so welcoming to notice clients, community members and employees are just happier when Spring arrives!

Representing the Nebraska Broadcasters Association, Jim Timm, Shawn Oswald and myself headed to Washington DC last month for the NAB State Leadership Conference. What a difference it is in DC these days. In addition to many places not
yet reopened to the public, we also saw our Capitol completely fenced off due to the State of the Union event with no access to even walk around the Capitol grounds.

Certainly a first for me to see and hope it was the last. Also a little shocking: many state broadcasters associations either did not make the trip or brought far fewer board members because they were not going to be granted in person meetings due to the pandemic. Not the case for Nebraska, however! Each of our representatives welcomed the opportunity to sit down with us to learn more about the items broadcasters are facing. We had two and a half asks on our visit to The Hill:

1) Please support the **Journalism Competition and Preservation Act** in order to give news producers the ability to jointly negotiate for their local journalism content. Big Tech has been untouched with nearly limitless control over the digital marketplace when it comes to both diverting advertisers and power over search and content discovery through their ever-changing algorithms.

2) Please support the **Local Radio Freedom Act** that would oppose a performance tax on local radio broadcasters. For us, this became mostly a “Thank You” as Nebraska Representatives Bacon, Fortenberry and Smith along with Senator Fischer have all co-sponsored the LRFA.

2.5) Please do NOT get LRFA confused with American Music Fairness Act (AMFA), as support for this (currently a House bill) will actually ADD a performance tax to radio broadcasters!

The NAB recently has asked all broadcasters to run an on-air campaign to fight the imposition of new performance fees on local radio stations. And as Jim Timm has commented, there has never been as much concern by the NAB about such a tax becoming law. We hope the decade-plus of bipartisan support in Congress to oppose any performance tax on radio broadcasters continues.

It has been a great honor, and great learning experience, to be one of the voices representing Nebraska broadcasters in DC over the past several years. May the new season bring new opportunities to you and your teams!

Ami Graham
Chairperson of the Board
Nebraska Broadcasters Association
**State Legislative Update**

As of this publication date, only eight (8!) days remain in the 2022 Nebraska Legislative session and thankfully, it’s been fairly quiet for broadcaster concerns. As expected, priorities such as the budget and ARPA funding have consumed much of the time so as of this writing, the chances of “Winner Take All” or any attempt to tax advertising appear minimal, if that. The pending passage of Permanent Daylight Saving Time in Nebraska could create some wrinkles down the road should neighboring states end up in a patchwork of different time zones and time observations throughout the year. However, recent action in the Senate and potential action in the House may help sort this possible change out with minimal impact on Nebraska broadcasters and the people we serve. Through the NBA’s membership in Media of Nebraska, we have kept close watch for any potential encroachment on Nebraska’s open meetings & public records statute and it appears we’ll emerge from this session in good shape.

**Federal Legislative & Regulatory Update**

As Ami Graham noted in her *Chairperson’s Column* she, Shawn Oswald (KETV – Omaha) and Jim Timm (NBA President/Executive Director) participated in the recent NAB State leadership Conference in Washington DC. In other legislative and regulatory matters, Senator Deb Fischer has cosponsored the Low Power Protection Act, which would create a new Class A window for eligible local broadcast stations in markets 189 and smaller, similar to the previous Class A window which Congress authorized in 1999. If enacted, stations that are newly able to elect Class A status would be protected from interference and allow them to better serve their viewers by hiring more journalists, investing in new equipment and transitioning to the ATSC 3.0 standard. Over at the FCC, the ongoing uncertainty of a pending commissioner appointment leaves broadcasters unsure of what types of other changes the Commission may prioritize for the rest of this year.
Transactions

In Valentine, **Dave (Dent) Otradovsky** is selling his interest in **KVSH AM** to long-time News & Program Director **Mike Burge**, who has been a part-owner for many years. The deal is expected to receive FCC approval in early June.

In the later part of 2022, **Cox Media Group** will assume ownership of Lincoln’s ABC affiliate, **KLKN TV**. The pending deal is an outcome of current owner **Standard Media Group**’s pending acquisition of **TEGNA**.

Board Briefs

*A summary of the NBA Board of Directors winter meeting held at the Governor’s Residence in Lincoln on February 3, 2022.*

Chairperson **Ami Graham** called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Minutes from the November 3, 2021 meeting were approved.

The 2022 Hall of Fame election process was conducted, resulting in **Rick Alloway**, **Gary Kerr** and **Neil Nelkin** being elected for induction in August.

Past President **Mark Jensen** presented financial reports for October, November and December 2021, which were approved.

President/Executive Director **Jim Timm** reported on federal and state legislative matters of concern to NBA members.

Timm reported on Annual Convention items including forthcoming dates and deadlines for Pinnacle Awards entries and Sales Awards nominations.

Discussion continued on a possible research project on how Nebraskans use local radio & television.

Lobbyist **Walt Radcliffe** of Radcliffe Gilbertson Brady joined the meeting to touch on current state legislature matters. **Governor Pete Ricketts** also joined the meeting to provide an update on his current priorities.

Graham thanked everyone for attending and the meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Kinney & Sodomka Awarded NBA EEO Scholarships
Congratulations to Hannah-Kate Kinney and Kylee Sodomka, recipients of the two, $2,000 NBA EEO Scholarships for 2022. Both students attend the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

Kinney is pursuing a triple major in Broadcasting, Journalism, and in Advertising/Publication Relations, and is tracking to graduate in May of 2024.

Sodomka is pursuing a double major in Sports Media and Communication, and in Broadcasting, and is on pace to graduate in May of 2023.

This unique scholarship program is supported by participating NBA member Station Employment Units (SEUs) who fund and promote the program and then review and score the resulting qualified applications. SEU scores are then averaged with the top two scoring applicants each awarded a scholarship.

NBA Foundation Awards 2022
High School Senior Scholarships

The NBA Foundation recently announced the pending recipients of its four, $1,000.00 scholarships for Nebraska high school seniors with plans to earn a broadcasting-related degree and aspirations to work in broadcasting. Applications were reviewed by a panel of NBA board members, resulting in the following students earning a scholarship:
Chairman's Club Donors Fund Scholarships

The NBA Foundation Chairman's Club recognizes scholarship donors who contribute $1,000 or $2,000 at our Platinum level. These funds are awarded to college students and high school seniors through our respective scholarship programs.

The NBA thanks Ken Fouts and Graig & Stephanie Kinzie for joining the Chairman’s club.

Contributions can be paid in installments and by check or by credit card. Complete details – including a list of all Chairman’s Club donors – are found here. Scholarship contributions of any amount are welcome and appreciated!

KOLN Tower Rebuild Nears Completion

KOLN’s two-year tower rebuild project is nearing completion. The Gray-owned Lincoln CBS affiliate’s main 1,500-foot tower collapsed during an ice storm in the early morning hours of January 18, 2020. KOLN’s local engineering team performed heroically that day to get channels on an alternative tower and backups up on all major carriers that same day – in about 12 hours. Fortunately, KOLN submitted its steel tower order before the Covid-19 pandemic caused significant inventory issues.
The new tower and facility, constructed on the original site, houses the newest in transmitters, lines and antennas. KOLN (channel 10) began broadcasting from the new tower in November. All equipment for NBC sister station KSNB Local4 was moved onto the same tower, with broadcasting from the site launched earlier this month. Only a few associated channel lineup changes remain for April before the project will be considered complete. Between KOLN and KSNB there are currently nine television channels operating from the equipment on the new tower, with opportunities to add more channels in the future.

**NBA Funds Video Streaming Workshop for Members**

More than 30 people from 15 different NBA member SEUs participated in the January 24 “Video Streaming Summit” arranged by the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters. Attendees heard directly from local station operators in other states who are growing revenue through various video streaming opportunities. The content included hands-on how to’s, right down to the recommended gear. The event’s $1,500 participation cost was underwritten by the NBA as another member benefit.

![Video Streaming Summit](image)

**Pennsylvania Broadcasters Thank NBA Judges**

The Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters’ 2022 Awards entries were recently judged by a number of NBA members. State broadcasters associations routinely trade judging favors with one another through their respective station personnel who are willing to volunteer their time.
The PAB (and the NBA) thank the following NBA members for judging: Brad Beahm (Flood Communications – Central Nebraska); Jim Beck (Gray Media Group, Inc. – Scottsbluff); Bill Boyer (Nebraska Rural Radio Association – Scottsbluff); Charlie Brogan (Alpha Media – Lincoln); Jodeane Brownlee (UNO); Mallory Connelly (Gray Media Group, Inc. – Lincoln); Julie Cornell (KETV – Omaha); Anthony D'Agostino (KLKN TV – Lincoln); Justin Fluke (KLZA/KTNC – Falls City); Ami Graham (NRG Media – Lincoln); Maria Hansen (NRG Media – Lincoln); Gavin Higgins (KCNI/KBBN – Broken Bow); Jessie Johnson (Flood Communications – Central Nebraska); Bill Kelly (Nebraska Public Media – Lincoln); Steve King (NRG Media – Lincoln); Laurie Lee (UNL); Kate Maguire (SummitMedia – Omaha); Nathan Nakama (Gray Media Group, Inc. – Omaha); Mark Onwiler (KNTK – Lincoln); Emily Roehler (Gray Media Group, Inc. – Omaha); Jim Rose (iHeart Media – Omaha); Spencer Schubert (Gray Media Group, Inc. – Hastings); Jeremy Shipe (KCNI/KBBN – Broken Bow); Melanie Standiford (Gray Media Group, Inc. – North Platte); Jeffrey Steffen (WJAG/KEXL/KQKX – Norfolk); Mark Vail (NRG Media – Lincoln) and Tristen Winder (Husker Radio – North Platte).

Timm Elected to NASBA Executive Committee

NBA President/Executive Director Jim Timm was recently elected as Secretary-Treasurer of the National Alliance of State Broadcasters Associations (NASBA). Timm joins the slate of executive committee members including President Bob Houghton (Georgia); President Elect Dewey Bruce (Montana); Vice President Wendy Paulson (Minnesota) and Past President Dave Arland (Indiana).

NBA Hall of Fame to Induct Alloway, Kerr & Nelkin

The NBA Hall of Fame will welcome Rick Alloway, Gary Kerr and Neil Nelkin on the evening of August 9th during the 87th Annual NBA Convention in Lincoln. Established in 1972, these inductees will bring the total number of NBA Hall of Fame members to 112.

Rick Alloway earned bachelor’s and masters’ degrees in broadcasting from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. He worked for KFOR radio in Lincoln from 1972-1984 as an announcer, producer, promotions director and operations manager. He then worked as an account executive and as a broadcast producer for a Lincoln ad agency for two years, and also did Lincoln-area high school sports play by play cablecasts from 1972-1981. A full-time UNL faculty member since 1986, he taught the college’s sports broadcasting course for 30 years and was a member of the steering committee that developed the college’s major in Sports Media and Communication. From 1995-2021, Alloway hosted the NBA’s monthly Governor’s Call-In Show. He is a 28-time recipient of the UNL Parents Association recognition for contributions to students, reflecting his continuing, powerful impact on the education and lives of hundreds of future broadcasters.

During his 34 years as a broadcast journalist, Gary Kerr became known as the “Cronkite of the Midwest,” a trusted anchor for his professionalism, intelligence and kind demeanor. His career began as an Ag reporter in Sioux City, Iowa before moving to Omaha in a similar role at WOWT. Kerr’s experience includes anchoring and reporting for KETV, KETV2, and KOWI for over 40 years, and as the Chief Special Projects Editor for WOWT. He has also served as the Assistant Dean forMSG33/MSU Communication. Kerr has been honored with numerous awards, including the Nebraska Broadcasters Association's First Amendment Award, the Nebraska Press Association's Award of Excellence, and the Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau’s Volunteer Award.

Neil Nelkin received a Bachelor of Science in Advertising from the University of Nebraska and began his career in broadcasting as a disc jockey and newscaster at KZCO radio in Holland, Nebraska. He moved to Omaha in 1973 and has been with KETV since then, where he currently serves as the News Director. Over his career, Nelkin has received numerous awards, including the Nebraska Broadcasters Association’s First Amendment Award and the Nebraska Press Association’s Award of Excellence. He has also been an active member of the Omaha community, serving on various boards and organizations.
role at WOW radio & WOW TV in 1964. Kerr became the WOWT TV news anchor in 1971, delivering the news of significant events including Omaha Civil Rights and Vietnam War protests, the 1975 Omaha tornado and the 1980’s farm recession. Kerr covered several presidential campaigns and traveled to Germany to report on the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran. Kerr retired from WOWT in 1998, leaving the station with a legacy of producing a “Kerr Story;” a story that is factual, includes everyday people, asks the hard questions, and is told with compelling video and excellent writing. Since 2000, Kerr has volunteered to help organize monthly education programs at the Omaha Press Club.

In a career spanning more than 50 years and still going strong, Neil Nelkin has excelled in a career that includes his work as an announcer, talk show host, program director, operations manager, station manager and co-owner. Nelkin also worked in operations and engineering for the ABC Television Network in New York. Nelkin’s true love is radio, where he worked with numerous owners and managers at successful radio stations in North Platte, Ogallala, Lincoln and Omaha. Nelkin is perhaps best known for his unique ability to identify and groom talent. Referred to by many as the “Godfather of Radio,” Nelkin is revered by deejays, talk show hosts and sports play-by-play announcers whom he coached and trained to go on to achieving their own level of significant success, in Nebraska and far beyond. He continues to stay active in Omaha radio, at both NRG Media and at Walnut Media. His tireless devotion to broadcast excellence is unmatched.

Members in the Spotlight

Mike Flood – founder of Flood Communications and News Channel Nebraska – announced his candidacy for Nebraska’s 1st Congressional District. Incumbent Rep. Jeff Fortenberry has since resigned his seat effective March 31 after a jury convicted him of federal crimes on March 24. A special election to fill the seat for the remainder of his term is pending. November’s general election will decide Nebraska’s 1st District Representative for the next term.

iHeart Media – Omaha’s KXKT has been named a NAB Crystal Radio Award Finalist...while the station’s morning team of Steve Lundy and Gina Melton (“Steve & Gina in the Morning”) were finalists for the”On Air Personality of the Year – Medium Market” award from the Academy of Country Music.
Chadrad Communications’ KCSR & KBPY (Chadron) were honored for their “Outstanding Service to Nebraska Extension” by the Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards during the group’s recent annual meeting in Lincoln. The stations were nominated for the award by the Chadron Extension office.

After more than 40 years in sales and sales management with Norfolk’s WJAG, KEXL & KQKX, Sally Lewis will retire on April 30. Tony Maxey has been hired as general sales manager. Jennifer Vik was named Director of National Retail, Digital Sales for the Nebraska Rural Radio Association.
Alpha Media – Lincoln’s Chris Schmidt was named 2021 Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sports Media Association.

The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association named Kevin Kugler as the recipient of their Russell D. Anderson/Wilbur Snypp Award for national contributions to college baseball.

Charlie Brogan of Alpha Media – Lincoln’s KFOR was inducted into the Nebraska Agricultural Achievement Hall of Fame. Brogan joins Eric Brown and Max Brown as inductees from Nebraska’s broadcasting industry.

NRG Media – Omaha’s KOZN (“1620 The Zone”) reunited Gary Sharp and Damon Benning as morning co-hosts. Following six years at BDP Communications’ KNTK (“The Ticket FM”) in Lincoln, Connor Happer joined KOZN to host middays.

Rewind

The NBA thanks President Emeritus Marty
1962: 60 Years Ago

KRVN’s Max Brown reports exceptional response to a tractor-driving contest, held at the Dawson County fairgrounds. Contestants were scored on their driving ability, safety and time on an obstacle course. First prize was a 1961 Case Tractor.

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA), has waived the radio broadcast fees for the 1962 State Basketball Tournament. This decision was made after an appeal from the NBA by the group’s president, Arden Swisher.

1972: 50 Years Ago

The FCC has approved the assignment of the license of KBRL, McCook, from LeRoy Lenwell and associates to Edwin Towle III of Falls City, for $155,000. Towle is president of Southeast Nebraska Broadcasting Co., the applicant for the license of KTNC-AM, Falls City. Lenwell owned KBRL for 25 years and is a past president of the NBA.

Bob Schnuelle, operations manager of KGIN-TV, Grand Island was the emcee at the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce annual meeting on March 9, with Art Linkletter as the featured speaker. KOLN/KGIN TV televised the meeting live.

1982: 40 Years Ago

Chuck Roberts, KMTV-Omaha, has been appointed anchor at CNN2, Turner Broadcasting, Atlanta.

Frank Scott, division VP, NBC Radio, and former general manager, WRC AM, Washington, DC, joins Voice of America as director of programs.

Custer County Broadcasting, Broken Bow, has applied for the call letters KBBN for its new FM.

1992: 30 Years Ago

The NBA board passed a resolution in honor of the retiring Walt Kavanaugh of KFAB, Omaha. Ray Lockhart, NBA President, presented the resolution on a live hookup from Ogallala to Omaha on Walt’s last day on the air as a tribute for his 40-year newscasting career. NBA Executive Director Dick Palmquist presented Walt with the resolution at a special KFAB-sponsored reception. Also on the program were Governor Ben Nelson and current & former KFAB personnel including Bob Sweet, Kent Pavelka, Gary Sadlemyer, Tom Johnson and Jack Payne.

2012: 10 Years Ago

Trailblazing broadcast media owner Cathy Hughes was honored as the Nebraska Society’s Distinguished Nebraskan of the year, the first African-American woman to receive the award. Hughes was inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame in 2005. Born and raised in Omaha, Hughes is the founder and chairwoman of Radio One, Inc., the largest black-owned and operated broadcast company in the nation.
Several changes have occurred at the Nebraska Rural Radio Association. Legendary broadcast manager Eric Brown is easing into retirement, resulting in changes in the company. Craig Larson, Station Manager at KNEB AM/FM, Scottsbluff has been named general manager. Dwight Lane has moved from KTIC AM/FM, West Point, to Lexington’s KRVN AM/FM as Station Manager. Jay Thouvenell replaces Lane in West Point.

Sync with the NBA Calendar

EVENTS, MEETINGS & DEADLINES

Virtual Job Fair Registration Deadline: April 4, 2022

Pinnacle Awards Practice Window Open: April 1-7

Virtual Job Fair: April 11-15, 2022

Pinnacle Awards Live Entry Window Open: April 14 - 5pm CDT on May 3

LUR Window Opens for Iowa Primary Election (June 7, 2022), April 23, 2022

2022 NBA Annual Convention (Lincoln): August 9-10, 2022

LUR Window Opens for General Election (November 8, 2022), September 9, 2022

2022 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:

- April 18, 2022
- May 2, 2022
- June 13, 2022
(future dates pending)

In Remembrance

Jim Keck
Jim’s 30-plus years in radio included roles in sales, sales management and station management, with several years in Lincoln with Three Eagles Communications and Home Field Communications.

Ed Littler
Lovingly referred to as "The Legend," Ed served central Nebraskans for 25 years as sports anchor at Hastings’ KHAS TV (which
later became KSNB), from 1992 to 2017.

Don Wright
Don pioneered Lincoln's KOLN TV through multiple technology upgrades from the 1950's through the 1980's and was inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame in 2017.