



THE MODULATOR

Quarterly newsletter of the
NBA NEBRASKA
BROADCASTERS
ASSOCIATION

Vol 48 No 3 September 2025

Thank you for Supporting our Annual Convention!

Over 500 people attended our 2025 NBA Annual Convention on August 12 & 13 at the Embassy Suites in La Vista.

As we acknowledged the NBA's 91 years of supporting our members, dedicated broadcasters from multiple station departments took part in our various sessions led by industry experts in sales, news, programming, engineering and management. The NBA Hall of Fame welcomed **Dennis and Kathi Brown, Dale Johnson, Mike McKnight and Dave Wingert**. At the Keynote Luncheon, attendees heard a motivational and relevant presentation titled "Embrace Disruption" by **Jeff Schmidt**. Dozens of NBA members were recognized for broadcasting excellence during our Pinnacle Awards banquet.



Your continued strong support is what keeps this event going strong. THANK YOU for participating! We look forward to seeing you on August 11 & 12, 2026, at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln.



Dennis & Kathi Brown



Dale Johnson



Mike McKnight



Dave Wingert



Jeff Schmidt



Jessie Johnson
NBA Board Chairperson

NEW NBA Career Achievement Award



The NBA Board of Directors is proud to introduce the “**NBA Career Achievement Award**” program. Created to recognize NBA member station personnel from any station department who have demonstrated a significant, long term commitment to their career in Nebraska radio and/or television broadcasting, nominees must have worked for at least 25 years in Nebraska radio and/or TV to be eligible for consideration.

Complete details and the nomination form are found [here](#). The NBA thanks former NBA Chairman of the Board **Craig Larson** (retired, Nebraska Rural Radio Association) for introducing the concept for the board’s consideration.

Legislative Update



Federal Update

At the time of publication, a pending federal government shutdown adds uncertainty to when the AM For Every Vehicle Act might advance. The bill cleared its recent markup by the House Energy & Commerce Committee on a 50-1 vote, with a potential House floor vote next. The bill has 302 supporters in the House and 61 in the Senate. The Local Radio Freedom Act also continues to gain support. The NBA thanks **Congressmen Don Bacon, Mike Flood, & Adrian Smith** and **Senators Deb Fischer & Pete Ricketts** for their continued support of both initiatives.



Nebraska Legislature Update

In Lincoln, we remain watchful and vigilant as next year’s “short session” is expected to be headlined by a budget shortfall so the return of an ad tax proposal wouldn’t be a complete surprise. We also expect another “Winner Take All” push and will continue monitoring for bills that might address the use of AI in Political ads and regulations on the advertising of prescription medications and related treatments. The NBA thanks our lobbying team of **Korby Gilbertson** and **Justin Brady** for their continued guidance and

work on our behalf.

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

Nebraska Public Media Responds to Federal Funding Cuts

In the face of recent federal funding cuts to public media outlets across the country, the NBA asked Nebraska Public Media GM & CEO **Stacey Decker** for an update on the current funding impact and how Nebraska Public Media is responding so far:

“The recent rescission of federal funding for public media has resulted in a loss of nearly \$4 million annually for Nebraska Public Media. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the independent nonprofit that has administered federal investment in public media since 1967, is winding down operations effective



October 1. This is undoubtedly a challenge, but we are responding with careful stewardship and a clear-eyed commitment to the people of our state.

We have not made any reductions in staff or services at this time, but we are tightening our belts and exploring innovative ways to sustain the breadth of programming Nebraskans rely on every day. We are grateful for the continued support of the State of Nebraska, the University of Nebraska, and especially our dedicated supporters and donors, whose generosity helps ensure that public media remains strong. To help offset the loss of federal funding and support our long-term sustainability, we have just launched a campaign to

raise \$2 million in additional revenue between now and December 31.”

Register for the Engineering Academy



Register now for our third regional **Engineering Academy on Wednesday, November 12** in Kansas City! This one-day seminar is created for station personnel interested in learning more about the technical side of radio and television broadcasting. Attendance is **FREE** for NBA members and includes breakfast and lunch, limiting your expenses to travel & onsite hotel. Hurry, registration ends on October 30th!

Welcome to the NBA Board of Directors



Mike Burge, co-owner/operator,
KVSH AM – Valentine



Patrick Combs, president/general
manager, Walnut Media – Omaha



Allison Smith, president/general manager, KETV – Omaha



Pam Waugh, general manager, Huskeradio – North Platte

Meet Your Chairman of the NBA Board



Mark Jensen
KNLV AM/FM, Ord

Get to know **Mark Jensen**, our new Chairman of the NBA Board of Directors.

My current role is best summed up as: President of MWB Broadcasting II, LLC

First job in broadcasting: 1260 AM KIMB in Kimball, Nebraska, I was hired to do news and cover a midday board shift.

Best career advice I've ever received: Find a career that you love and you'll never work a day in your life.

In high school and college, I worked in restaurants and in construction and that gave me a new understanding of what hard work was all about. I've been in broadcasting now for 43 years and I can truly say I enjoy it so much that it has never been work to me. I love this industry and the many people I have met along the way. I have great friends throughout Nebraska and all over the U.S. in broadcasting and we all understand how lucky we are to have found a career that doesn't seem like work.

Why I love what I do:

I've always enjoyed meeting new people and building relationships with listeners. It's knowing that you can make a difference in people's lives just by being there in times of crisis like severe weather. To be a calm voice in the storm is everything and something that our listeners will never forget. I have been off the air for eleven years and I still have people come up to me and thank me for the weather coverage I provided in years past. Again, they never forget!

One thing I'd like to change about this business:

I don't think we promote ourselves enough. We have so many opportunities for the youth just graduating from high school or college where they can actually be on the air or behind the scenes with digital and video opportunities, but I feel they don't know about these positions. Just think about the engineering aspect of our business and the amount of jobs available in that field. There is something for everyone! I would like to see us promoting

our industry more to build excitement so our youth will come and see what we're all about and hopefully they will start a career in broadcasting.

Why young people should get into broadcasting:

I think the NBA is off to a good start by working with high schools to give them a taste of what we do, but as TV and Radio stations in this state we also need to invite them into our world to see what we do. As much time as our youth spend on their phones, they could be making money by updating station websites, Facebook pages, X/Twitter etc. How many young people like editing video at home that could be working in broadcasting? As we know this is a wonderful industry that we love and if you love what you do you will never work a day in your life. **(Best career advice ever!)**

My family: I'm happily married to my wife Wendy of 30 years (former Traffic Director at KNEB, KOLT and KOAQ), I have a wonderful daughter Brooke and son in-law Kyson and two of the most amazing grandchildren on this planet, Fallon and Declan.

I enjoy serving on the NBA board because:

I believe we are on this earth to serve others and I want to give back to an amazing group of broadcasters. We have some of the best Television and Radio stations in this state that truly serve the communities they cover. I also believe in the mission of this organization and what it offers to the stations all across Nebraska and last but not least, Our Executive Director is one of the best!

Chairman's Column

What a wonderful convention we had in August with this year's theme, **The Power of Local Broadcasting**. I would first like to thank our Executive Director, Jim Timm and our new Director of Member Services, Jenna McKain for all their hard work in making this a very successful convention. I also want to thank my predecessor and now past chair of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association, Jessie Johnson for all her hard work over this past year. It's been a year of change and new beginnings and I look forward to what 2026 has to offer.

As we move into the 4th quarter of the year my question would be, what did we learn at convention that we have already implemented at our stations or what can we use that we picked up from our session speakers? Many of you I'm sure have implemented some new techniques and will stand to gain plenty by just making a few changes. I'm one that is always looking for a takeaway at any seminar I attend. Sometimes it's an impactful statement that was made or maybe it's their books or website that can be helpful. I would encourage everyone to find at least a couple of takeaways and see about implementing them at your station.

Finally, don't forget to sign up for the BTS Engineering Academy Wednesday November 12th, 2025. Registration for this event is **FREE** to broadcast association members and includes a one-day seminar, breakfast and lunch. The Registration Deadline is October 30th, 2025 presented by the Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa Broadcast Associations. This seminar has been created for those that are interested in learning about the technical side of radio and television broadcasting. The Engineering Academy is for prior and new attendees and will build upon prior academy curriculum. Click [here](#) for more information.



Mark Jensen
Chairman of the Board 2025-2026
Nebraska Broadcasters Association

Board Briefs



A summary of the NBA Board of Directors summer meeting held on August 12, 2025 at Embassy Suites - La Vista.

Chairperson **Jessie Johnson** called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and recited our Antitrust policy.

Minutes from the May 14, 2025 meeting were approved. Financial reports for April, May and June 2025 were approved as presented by Secretary-Treasurer **Graig Kinzie**.

President/Executive Director **Jim Timm** reported on federal and state legislative & regulatory matters.

Timm stated that the regional engineer training conference, a joint effort of the Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa associations, is set for November 12 in Kansas City.

An update on Annual Convention operations was provided by Timm, and approval was given to a new "NBA Career Achievement Award" program to be announced in the fall.

Jeffrey Steffen was elected Secretary-Treasurer for 2025-2026. **Shannon Booth, Bryan Loker** and **Katie Philippi** were recognized for their board service as their terms conclude, and **Jessie Johnson** was thanked for her leadership as Chairperson over the last 12 months.

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

Welcome to our New NBA Members!



The NBA thanks **Joe Costa & Associates** and **CBS Media Ventures** for joining as Associate Members!

Transactions





NRG Media has completed the sale of Omaha's **KMMQ AM** (1020) and its FM translator (99.5) to **Munoz Media**.



Connoisseur Media has closed on its purchase of **Alpha Media**, which includes Columbus stations **KJSK**, **KKOT**, **KLIR**, **TTTT** & **KZEN**, and **Lincoln stations** **KFOR**, **KFRX**, **KIBZ**, **KLMS**, **KTGL** & **KZKX**.

Rincon Broadcasting Group has announced plans to purchase **Standard Media Group's** television station portfolio, which includes ABC-affiliate **KLKN TV** in Lincoln. The transaction awaits FCC approval.

Scholarships, Scholarships and more Scholarships!

The NBA Foundation continues to offer several scholarship programs to support the education of potential future broadcasters. Here's a quick rundown:

NBA College Scholarships: Students must **apply by October 31** for scholarships of \$5,000, \$3,500 or \$2,500.

High School Senior Scholarships: Students must **apply between December 31 – January 31** for \$1,000 scholarships.

EEO College Scholarship Program: The NBA thanks our many members who are participating in the 2025-2026 cycle of this program. An email with suggested copy, air dates & NBA logos will hit your inbox soon. Students must **apply between January 1 – March 1, 2026** for consideration of one of three potential EEO Scholarships.



Scholarship Donations Welcome!

So how do all of these scholarships get paid for? Donations, of course! The NBA thanks Hall of Fame member **Neil Nelkin** for his recent \$1,000 donation to the NBA Foundation Chairman's Club. Donations of any amount are welcome and can be made by credit card or check.

Developing and Encouraging Future Talent

Our Future Talent Initiative remains active, engaging with high school and college students to showcase broadcasting career opportunities.

The annual **NHSPA Summer Camp** was held at UNL in mid-July with a Video Production workshop led by Creighton Prep's **Matt Rasgorshek**. The NBA's continuing sponsorship of this event included scholarships for two students to attend at no cost.



Platteview High students recording content on The Oracle

The **High School Radio Project** is up and running in year number three. "The Oracle" returned to **Platteview High School** last month, and another Nebraska high school is preparing to sign on soon. The Project is also active at high schools in Louisiana, Massachusetts and Michigan.

NBA Members Judge Kansas Awards Entries

With the NBA's move last year to in-person panel judging by another state for our annual Pinnacle Awards entries, we return the favor each year by forming a panel of NBA members to judge yet another state's awards entries. In July, entries from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters were judged by the following NBA members over two days inside **Andersen Hall** on the UNL campus: **Kevin Boughton** (KMTV), **Ken Dudzik** (KIOS FM), **Ami Graham**, **Steve King & Dallas Nau** (NRG Media), **Mark Jensen** (KNLV AM/FM), **Mike McKnight** (WOWT), **Carrie Murphy** (retired, KMTV) and **Steve White** (Nebraska Rural Radio Association). Thank you for taking time away from your daily business to provide this vital service to fellow broadcasters!

2026 Hall of Fame Nominations



Nominations for the NBA Hall of Fame class of 2026 must be submitted **by January 12, 2026**. Please visit our [Hall of Fame website](#) for more details. If you wish to advocate for someone already in nomination please contact jim@ne-ba.org.

Save the Date



Save the Date!
2026 NBA Annual Convention
August 11 & 12, 2026
Embassy Suites - Lincoln

Members in the Spotlight



Kennedy

Following 45 years as a reporter and news director for **KWBE** and **News Channel Nebraska** in Beatrice, **Doug Kennedy** retired on July 1.

Sinclair Broadcast Group's **KPTM & KXVO TV** have relocated to the 12th floor of the WoodmenLife Tower in downtown Omaha.



The first phase of a lighting upgrade at **UNO Television** is complete following a \$50,000 contribution from the NBA Foundation, which also covers upgrading lights in student field kits.



Svoboda



Carroll

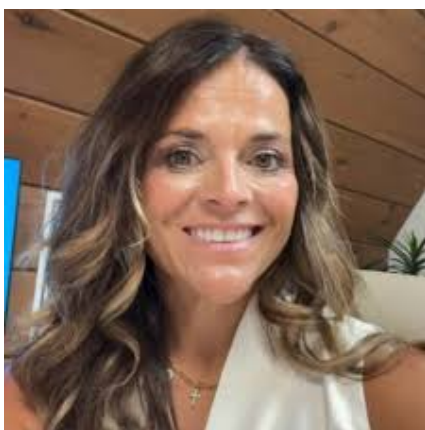
Eric Svoboda is the new executive director at **Spirit Catholic Radio**, where longtime leader **Jim Carroll** stepped down from that role to form a foundation to support their network.



McCartney

KETV news anchor **Rob McCartney** has announced that he will retire at the end of 2025, following 33 years with the Hearst-owned ABC affiliate in Omaha.

KRNU FM is set to undergo a substantial renovation inside Andersen Hall on the UNL campus. The NBA Foundation is supporting this project with a \$100,000 contribution.



Armagost

The **Nebraska Rural Radio Association** has promoted **Kathy Armagost** to market manager for **KRVN AM/FM & KAMI** in Lexington, following 25 years there in sales and sales management.

Nebraska Public Media has been named the recipient of the [Wordsender Award](#) by the **John G. Neihardt Foundation**, crediting the public media outlet as an “essential beacon of news.”



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

REWIND

1965: 60 Years Ago

Bill Hardt, Chairman of the NBA Ak-Sar-Ben awards says there are changes in the awards competition this year. For radio, there will be no splitting awards, and going forward, the committee feels that the smallest station is capable of competing with the largest, and vice versa. For television, no split there either. This year **KUON-TV** will be included with commercial TV, as it is felt they are on an equal basis with any commercial station in the ability to perform a community service.

1975: 50 Years Ago

The 42nd annual NBA Convention will be held in North Platte, Sept. 14-16. **Jerrell Shepherd**, President of **KWIX**, Moberly, Mo., will speak on “How to Bill Over Half a Million from a Town of 13 thousand.” **Dick Wagner**, VP of the Cincinnati Reds and president of **KODY**, North Platte, will handle the subject of broadcasting and sports, and the proposed public radio network will be debated by **Dick Chapin** and **Jack McBride**.

KOLT, Scottsbluff, received the National Weather Service Public Service Award for “its outstanding contribution to the warning effort during the blizzard of March 27, 1975”.

Bits & Pieces: **Theodore Stork**, owner of **KTCH**, Wayne, has been granted an FM license at 104.9 mhz, 3kw from HAAT 113 feet. **KMTV's Dave Hamer** won the top award in the National Press Photographers Association competition. **UNO** has merged its speech and journalism department into a new department of communications. **UNO** has 85 students majoring in broadcasting! On the night of July 29, the new **KRGI-FM** transmitter building was fired on by an unknown assailant who pumped three, .357 magnum slugs into the door. Two nights later the building was fired on again with a lesser sized weapon. The local police, sheriff and FBI are on the case.

1985: 40 Years Ago

The Spring, 1985 Arbitron ratings are out. In Lincoln, the ratings were led by **KFRX FM**, 10.5%; **KFMQ FM**, 12.9% and **KFOR**, 12.9%. In Omaha, the leaders were **KFAB**, 20.1%, **KQKQ FM**, 16.1%; and **KEZO FM**, 13.2%. **KEFM** continued its steady rise to 5.9%. **KEDS'** format change moved it from 1% to 3.1%.

DKM Broadcasting Corp., of Atlanta is buying the ten stations owned by the **James Stuart** family of Lincoln, including **KFOR AM** and **KFRX FM**. **Dick Chapin**, who began

work for the Stuarts in 1953 and has been president of Stuart Broadcasting since 1956, will continue as president.

The Gillett Communication Company has purchased **KOLN/KGIN TV**, Lincoln and Grand Island from **Fetzer Communications**, who has owned **KOLN** since 1954 when it was on Channel 12. Fetzer switched **KOLN** to Channel 10 and donated Channel 12 to **UNL** for the beginning of **Nebraska ETV**.

1995: 30 Years Ago

NBA Executive Director Dick Palmquist reports that **The Governor's Call-In Show** maintains a strong presence across the state. Forty stations are carrying the program. **KFOR** and **KKAR** are rotating origination, and **KFAB** provides the uplink. **Rick Alloway**, **KRNU**, continues as moderator.

Ray Lockhart, NAB Radio Board Representative for Nebraska, is concerned about a Satellite Digital Audio Radio Service. He urged members to write the FCC opposing this service as it stands.

2005 20 Years Ago

All across Nebraska, radio and television stations are airing public service announcements and raising money for **Hurricane Katrina** relief through various methods, including promotions and remotes. The Nebraska Broadcasters Association made a \$10,000 donation to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief fund.

A new quarterly **Senator Ben Nelson Call-In Show** aired its inaugural program on August 18. This program follows the same format that is used for the Governor's Call-In show, as Nelson began the Governor's Call-In Show when he was Governor. The show originates from **KKAR**, Omaha, with **Neil Nelkin** as host.

2015: 10 Years Ago

Gray Television is purchasing **Schurz Communications Inc's** TV and radio stations for \$442.4 million. **KDUH TV**, Scottsbluff will change hands in this deal, giving Gray "coast to coast" TV coverage across Nebraska.

Mike Flood's **Flood Communications** continues to expand across Nebraska, with their pending acquisition of **KUTT FM** (Fairbury/Beatrice), **KWBE AM** (Beatrice) and **KUTT AM** (Fairbury), from **Rick Siebert**, owner of **Siebert Broadcasting**.

Sync with the NBA Calendar

EVENTS, MEETINGS & DEADLINES

Virtual Job Fair: September 29 - October 3, 2025

Nebraska Primary LUC Window Opens: March 28, 2026

Iowa Primary LUC Window Opens: April 18, 2026

Nebraska Primary Election: May 12, 2026

Iowa Primary Election: June 2, 2026

2026 NBA Annual Convention (Lincoln): August 11 & 12, 2026

General Election: November 3, 2026

2027 NBA Annual Convention (La Vista): August 10 & 11, 2027

2025 GOVERNOR PILLEN CALL IN SHOW SCHEDULE

All shows air at 2:00 pm CT unless otherwise noted.



Governor Jim Pillen

More than 40 member stations carry the NBA Governor's Monthly Call In Show, which originates from KLIN in Lincoln. The NBA and Governor Pillen thank our many affiliates and remind you to promote each month's program on the air, online and through social media.

Upcoming Call in Show Dates:

- October 20, 2025
- November 17, 2025
- December 15, 2025

In Remembrance



Val Lane -
contract engineer who supported dozens of
Nebraska stations over his career.

✓ Supporting Radio & TV
broadcast professionals

✓ \$20 million
in grants funded

✓ Serving all US
states & territories



Find out how the **BFOA** can help
broadcasters in your community.

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