

Vol 49 No 3 September 2026

Thank you for Supporting our Annual Convention!

Nearly 600 people – our second-largest attendance – participated in our 2026 NBA Annual Convention on August 11 & 12 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. THANK YOU!

As we acknowledged the NBA's 92 years of supporting our valued 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 **John Knicely, Kevin Kugler, Steve Lundy and Ken Siemek**. Keynote Luncheon attendees heard a motivational presentation entitled "Broadcast Proud" by **Derron Steenbergen**. 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. We look forward to seeing you on August 10 & 11, 2027, at the Embassy Suites in La Vista.



John Knicely



Kevin Kugler



Steve Lundy



Ken Siemek



Derron Steenbergen



Mark Jensen
NBA Board Chairman



Congressional & Regulatory Update

On August 6, the FCC voted to repeal its 39% national television multiple ownership rule and “replace it with a granular, case-by-case review.” While the national cap for radio ownership was eliminated in 1996, potential FCC action that might relax current local radio ownership regulations remains uncertain.

The “AM For Every Vehicle Act” took a huge step closer to becoming law when the House passed it by a voice vote on September 15. Now it’s up to the Senate to advance it to the President’s desk for his signature. The NBA thanks all of our member radio stations for continuing to promote the bill and encourage listeners to contact their representatives. We remain grateful to our entire federal delegation of Congressmen **Don Bacon, Mike Flood, & Adrian Smith** and **Senators Deb Fischer & Pete Ricketts** for supporting “AM4EVA” from the jump.



Nebraska Legislature Update

While “editorial” opinions on the topic may vary, the Nebraska Legislature will indeed face a budget deficit in next year’s session. We’re preparing to deal with proposals to remove certain tax exemptions as well as ongoing attempts to make public records less public and open meetings less open. The NBA remains in close contact with our tremendous lobbying team of **Korby Gilbertson** and **Justin Brady** to strategize and take needed actions to protect the interests of our membership.

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

FCC Compliance: New Cybersecurity Requirements, National EAS Test



The Commission is certainly keeping broadcasters busy in pursuit of enhanced cybersecurity and public safety. **New EAS Cybersecurity Requirements** went into effect on September 29. Should questions remain, [click here](#) to see the FCC’s FAQs and [click here](#) for a deeper dive from David Oxenford of Wilkinson Barker Knauer.

FEMA and FCC have set **November 17** as the date of the next **National EAS Test**. Prior to the test, all EAS participants must submit their annual ETRS Form One for calendar year 2026 **no later than October 30**. [Click here](#) for an excellent overview of the requirements courtesy of *Radio World Magazine*.

How to Make Great Radio Commercials: FREE October 27 webinar



Big ideas, human stories, and humor people remember.

A great radio commercial can start with a conversation, a family story, a small irritation, or something strange you noticed that morning.

Join Lisa Orkin, Creative Director of the award-winning Radio Ranch, for an interactive workshop on recognizing those moments, developing them through brainstorming, and turning them into funny, story-driven radio commercials.

Lisa will share techniques for brainstorming on your own or with a group, play clips from Radio Ranch spots, and show where the original ideas came from and how they developed.

* Advance registration required; contact jenna@ne-ba.org for details

NBA Welcomes new Board Members

Following election by our membership in June, the NBA is pleased to welcome two new directors whose three-year terms began following our Annual Convention:

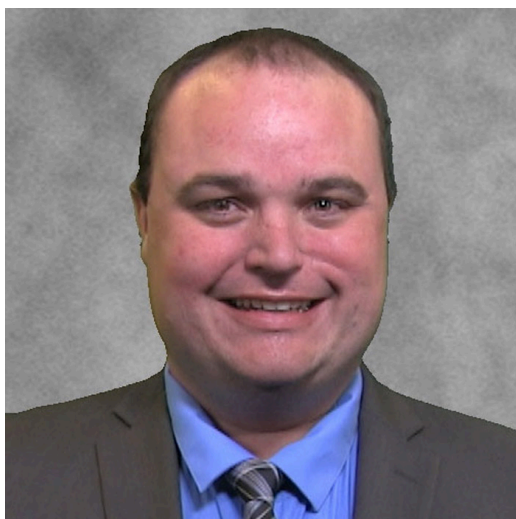


Brad Achtemeier
Senior Vice President
Flood Communications



Dr. Michael Hilt
Dean Emeritus, CFAM
University of Nebraska - Omaha

Meet Your Chairman of the NBA Board



Bill Boyer
Nebraska Rural Radio Association, Scottsbluff

Get to know **Bill Boyer**, our new Chairman of the NBA Board of Directors. Bill is Market Manager for Nebraska Rural Radio Association's six Scottsbluff radio stations: KHYY, KMOR, KNEB AM & FM, KOLT and KOZY

My current role is best summed up as: Trying to lead by example, motivate our staff to get the best out of themselves for the good of the team, advocate for the future of broadcasting, and remind younger audiences that local radio is still pretty darn important. A big part of the job now is also figuring out how to embrace new technology — including AI — and use it to work smarter and get our content in front of more people. In my “free time,” I host a morning show and lead our severe weather

coverage, because apparently I needed a couple more things to do.

First job in broadcasting: I was 14 years old — fresh out of eighth grade — when I started as a part-time board operator for KCOW/KAAQ (Eagle Radio) in Alliance, Nebraska. I learned a lot about radio, a lot about people, and probably more than any 14-year-old needed to know about how a radio station actually works. I also had the opportunity to work for future NBA Hall of Famer Mike Garwood, who taught me a tremendous amount about the business.

Best career advice I've ever received: Don't take yourself too seriously. It's radio, not rocket science. That advice has served me pretty well — especially on the days when radio somehow starts to feel like rocket science.

Why I love what I do: I love radio, and I love being part of the local community. What other job lets you turn on a microphone and talk to thousands of people while somehow making it feel like you're talking to one person? I also get to work with a group of hardworking people who genuinely love what they do and care about the communities we serve. I never take that for granted.

One thing I'd like to change about this business: The perception that radio is dying. I don't buy it. Radio isn't dying — I think it is on the precipice of flourishing, but only if we are willing to evolve. We need to embrace technology, including AI, and use every tool available to get our content in front of more people than ever. The platforms may change, but our biggest strengths haven't: we're local, we're part of the community, and people trust us. That's a pretty good place to start.

Why young people should get into broadcasting: See above! Seriously, why wouldn't you want to do this? Radio is fun, creative, unpredictable and never boring. One day you're selling, the next you're on the air, covering breaking news, calling a game, creating digital content or helping a local business grow. There are very few businesses where you can do that many different things and call it one career.

My family: I've been married to my high school sweetheart, Reagan, for 25 years. We have one son, Seth, who is 21 and is a special needs adult. Seth has always been the center of our universe. He recently moved to Kearney, where he lives in a group home and is thriving. Watching him become more independent has been a pretty incredible chapter for all of us.

I enjoy serving on the NBA board because: I love this industry, and I really enjoy being around other people who love it too. We all want the same thing — a strong future for broadcasting — but we don't always see the path exactly the same way, and I think that's a good thing. I enjoy hearing different perspectives, stealing good ideas from really smart people — with full credit, of course — and working together to make sure broadcasting stays strong, relevant and ready for whatever comes next.

Chairman's Column

As we enter the busy fall sports and political advertising season, I'm reminded of what radio does best: connect with our local communities.

Whether we're behind a microphone or television camera, typing up copy, covering a city council meeting, selling advertising, producing a commercial, broadcasting a high school softball game, anchoring a newscast, forecasting the weather, or managing people, we're all in this industry for essentially the same reason — to serve the communities around us.

If you think back to our annual convention and Pinnacle Awards in August, our very own Jim Timm shared something that stuck with me: the out-of-state judges were genuinely impressed with the quality of content being produced here in Nebraska.

That's worth remembering.

It can be easy to lose sight of the bigger picture when we're knee-deep in day-to-day operations — especially when we're filling out all-important political paperwork and waiting patiently for the FCC public file website to load.

But across this state, we have incredible talent and, even more importantly, incredible people doing meaningful work every single day.

So this fall, I encourage you to take a minute and look around.

Step outside. Or, if the phones are ringing and traffic logs are piling up, at least look out the window.

Notice the changing leaves. Enjoy the sunshine. Listen to the rain. Watch the people driving through town, walking into businesses, heading to school activities and filling the stands on Friday nights.

That's your community.

Those are your listeners and viewers.

And ultimately, they're the reason we come to work every day.

So, that's it. That's all I have to offer.

As the kids would say: touch grass.

I'm Bill Boyer, and I approved this message.



Bill Boyer
Chairman of the Board 2026-2027
Nebraska Broadcasters Association

Board Briefs



*A summary of the NBA Board of Directors
summer meeting held on August 11, 2026
at Embassy Suites - Lincoln.*

Chairman **Mark Jensen** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and recited our Antitrust policy.

Minutes from the May 13, 2026 meeting were approved. Financial reports for April, May and June 2026 were approved as presented by Secretary-Treasurer **Jeffrey Steffen**.

President/Executive Director **Jim Timm** provided an update on federal & state legislative concerns.

Regarding Member Services, Timm reported that **Andy VanDerslice** has agreed to take over the NBA Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program (ABIP) from **Art Morris**. Timm also noted that members will soon be notified of a new two-year cycle of our EEO Scholarship Program to begin in 2027. Timm then provided an overview of Annual Convention registration data and an update on the pending "Digital Ambassadors" program.

Regarding board leadership, **Allison Smith** was elected Secretary-Treasurer for 2026-2027. Outgoing directors **Jessie Johnson** and **Todd Murphy** were thanked for their many years of tremendous service.

Jensen thanked everyone for attending and the meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

NBA Welcomes New Member



KMMQ AM 1020 – Munoz Media Group, Omaha

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 February 1– March 31** for \$1,000 scholarships.

EEO College Scholarship Program: The NBA thanks our many members who are participating in the 2027-2028 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, 2027** 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! Donations of any amount are welcome and can be made by credit card or check.

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 among multiple journalism sessions. The NBA's continuing sponsorship of this event included



The **High School Radio Project** started year #4 in August. Platteview High's "The Oracle" is back on the air, along with the "Mob on the Mic" at Omaha Westview. The Project is also active at high schools in Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts and Michigan.

NBA Members Judge Indiana Broadcasters Awards Entries

With the NBA's recent move 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 August, entries from the Indiana Broadcasters Association were judged by the following NBA members over two days at **KETV** in Omaha: **Bayley Bischof** (KOLN/KGIN), **Christian Champoux** (KETV), **Ken Dudzik** (KIOS FM), **Mark Jensen** (KNLV AM/FM), **Jessie Johnson** (Flood Communications – Tri Cities), **Matt Kirkle** (KETV), **Amber Little** (KOLN/KGIN), **Harrison Popp** (KETV) and **Tyler Rinkol** (KETV). The NBA thanks these members for taking time away from their daily business to provide this vital service to our fellow broadcasters!

2026 Hall of Fame Nominations



Nominations for the NBA Hall of Fame class of 2026 must be submitted **by January 11, 2027**. 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!
2027 NBA Annual Convention
August 10 & 11, 2027



Career Achievement Award Nominations Open



The “**NBA Career Achievement Award**” recognizes 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](#).

Members in the Spotlight



Walnut Media successfully petitioned the FCC to reallocate the legendary **WOW** call letters for its recent purchase of the silent/former KXSP (590 AM). WOW returned to the airwaves July 6 in an all-sports format featuring Huskers Athletics play-by-play, shoulder programming and ESPN affiliation.

Omaha added a Country music station on August 13 when Usher Media Group's **KOPW** flipped from Hip Hop to “Country One 106.9.”





SINCLAIR

Carol Kellum has been named VP/GM of Sinclair's Nebraska operations in Omaha, Lincoln and Central Nebraska.

Carol Kellum

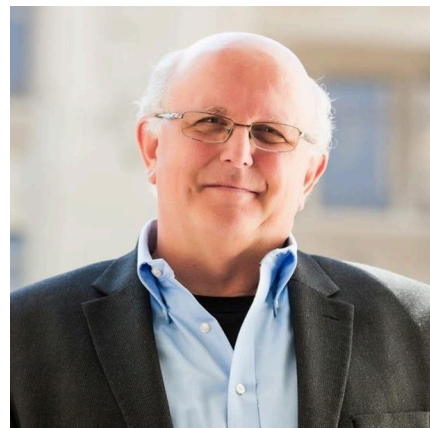


National winners in RTDNA's "Edward R. Murrow Awards" include **Nebraska Public Media** and **WOWT TV**. A complete winner's list is found [here](#).



NRG Media - Lincoln's **KFGE** ("Froggy 98") is once again in the running for a Marconi Radio Award from the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). Winners will be announced October 20 at the NAB Show – New York.

After nearly five decades in broadcast journalism, Nebraska Public Media's **Bill Kelly** called it a career earlier this month. Kelly was inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame in 2023.



Bill Kelly



Rick Alloway and Laurie Lee

Following successful, lengthy careers at the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications, **Rick Alloway** and **Laurie Lee** have retired. Alloway was inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame in 2022.



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

1966: 60 Years Ago

The NBA reminds member stations that Congress will soon reconvene in Washington and that stations should contact their representatives and senators, asking that Congress should make it clear to the FCC on every appropriate occasion that the agency has no authority to control programming and that the equal opportunity provision of Section 315 of the Communications Act should be repealed or at least suspended for the next election.

1976: 50 Years Ago

Norton Warner has invited all broadcasters to an open house at "Broadcast House," the new home of **KLIN-AM/FM** at 44th and O Streets, Lincoln. Norton describes his new building: "Broadcast House is a touch of Early America at the time when pillars signified strength and leadership at a time when beautiful wood and molding, staircases and chandeliers meant warmth, hospitality and grace and that it is as new as tomorrow with the latest in broadcast equipment. Broadcast House gives us 9,000 square feet of space and is more than a building to us. It's a commitment to greater service to our listeners, advertisers and to the State of Nebraska."

FM Stations continue to multiply in Nebraska! **Valley Broadcasting**, Superior, **KRFS** has a grant for 103.9 mhz. **Ray Lockhart**, **KOGA AM**, Ogallala has applied for an FM at 92.7 mhz. **Ed & Nelson Dahl** (Dahl FM Broadcasting), North Platte has applied for 97.1 mhz, 100 kw. **KTAP**, **Crete** has applied for 103.9 mhz (**Joe Stavas, President**). **KSRD**, Seward at 96.9 (**Frank Newell, President**). **Hilliard Co. (Les and Russ)**, Scottsbluff applied for 92.9, 100kw and **Webster-Baker Broadcasting Co.**, is seeking 96.1 in Omaha and is also applying for the **KOIL** frequency.

1986: 40 Years Ago

KXNP [FM] North Platte has been sold by **Central Nebraska Broadcasting Co.** to **Mid-Plains Broadcasting Inc.** for \$275,000. Seller Is owned by **Nell Nelkin**, who has no other broadcast Interests. Buyer Is owned by **John C. Mitchell**.

1996: 30 Years Ago

During the Annual Convention held at the Holiday Inn in Hastings, the **Friend of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Award** was presented to University of Nebraska head coach **Tom Osborne** and his football coaching staff. Coach Osborne received the award via video tape while **Steve Pedersen**, Associate Athletic Director, Football Operations, received the plaque from NBA Chairman, **Charlie Brogan**. Plaques were also sent to all coaches.

2006 20 Years Ago

The first Senatorial debate between **Senator Ben Nelson** (D) and his Republican challenger, **Pete Ricketts**, was held during the Nebraska Broadcasters Association convention in the ballroom of the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln. **Rick Alloway**, Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska College of Journalism and Mass Communications, served as moderator for the hour-long debate. A panel of four broadcasting journalists posed questions to the candidates, including **Dennis Kellogg**, **KHAS TV**, Hastings; **Brian Barks**, **KKAR**, Omaha; **Randy Lube**, **KOLN/KGIN TV**, Lincoln-Grand Island and **Frank Snyder**, **KRVN**, Lexington. The debate was carried on 36 radio stations across the state as well as 18 Nebraska television stations. The debate was sponsored and produced by the NBA.

2016: 10 Years Ago

Over 450 students from 13 southeast Nebraska high schools and middle schools descended upon **Southeast Community College** in Beatrice for their annual "Explore It!" career fair. NBA President **Jim Timm** spoke with students about careers in broadcasting, answering many questions about the changes in our industry and the types of skills needed to succeed. Several students took their turn behind the microphone to get a taste of audio recording while giving their suggestions on how they think the State of Nebraska can reverse the "brain drain" trend that is leaving so many jobs open across our state.

Sync with the NBA Calendar

EVENTS, MEETINGS & DEADLINES

General Election: November 3, 2026

Virtual Job Fair: November 16 - 20, 2026

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

2026 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 19, 2026**
- **November 16, 2026**
- **December 14, 2026**

In Remembrance



Kent Boughton-

Over 40 years as a Nebraska TV weather forecaster, inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame in 2024.

Charlie Stone-

Omaha radio personality in the 1990's.

✓ **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.

LEARN MORE



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