WISCONSIN[®] BROADCASTER

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The Wisconsin Broadcaster Association Newsletter • March-April 2025 Edition

Connections made

at WBA Student Forum at Lambeau Field





















By Mark Zoromski, WBA Education Committee Chair

There's nothing like a surprise in a story, or, apparently, in a seminar.

Ellie Davis (pictured bottom right above) can attest to that. The U-W LaCrosse senior was sitting in the front row when Boyd Huppert came up and shook her hand during his presentation.

Huppert was talking about using "handshake shots" to introduce characters in his stories. Research shows that people form first impressions within one tenth of a second of meeting someone, so he carefully chooses shots when

Continued on page 4 >

Check out video from the forum!



FROM WBA'S CHAIR

Take time to reflect on what matters

I have a sign hanging in my office that reads, "Wherever life plants you, bloom with grace." It's more than just a decoration. It's a daily reminder. It reminds me that I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be, at this very moment, for a reason. And honestly, it helps me recenter when the inevitable daily frustrations crop up. I'd bet many of us feel the same way at some point.

Continued on page 2 >

ROM WBA'S PRESIDENT & CEO

Walker Institute offers unique opportunity

Your WBA has a lot to offer in terms of events and educational opportunities, but there's at least one that's difficult to find elsewhere.

there's at least one that's difficult to find elsewhere.

The Walker
Broadcast Management Institute offers an opportunity to get man-

agement training that's designed for current and future broadcast managers. Participants come from across the country, but it's in your backyard, on the UW-Madison campus.

The three-day sessions run in three-year cycles, so participants

Continued on page 2

FROM WBA'S CHAIR

Whether you're in sales, production, news, traffic, or any of the countless roles in TV and radio broadcasting, taking time to refresh and reconnect with yourself is vital. It's about finding what works for you — that way to recharge when facing challenges, disappointments, and successes. Because let's be honest, even good news can be overwhelming sometimes!

Our mental, physical, and emotional well-being are all intertwined, shaping both our personal and professional lives. Self-care isn't a luxury. It's essential in today's fastpaced world. The good

news is that many companies and communities now offer resources to support those seeking guidance and direction in prioritizing their wellbeing. I encourage everyone to explore and use these valuable tools.

Maybe it's the anticipation of spring that has me feeling so reflective lately. The thought of spotting that first robin or seeing a patch of green grass emerging from the snow (a welcome change from what I'm looking at right now!), brings a sense of renewal and hope. And that's a feeling I wanted to share with all of you.

Yes, our industry tends to ramp

up as the weather warms! Let's look forward to those vibrant farmers' markets, June Dairy Month celebrations, exciting concerts, thrilling ball games, and all the other wonderful events we cover and enjoy each year! It's a great time to remember that our listeners, viewers, and clients rely on the work we do year-round to keep them informed and entertained. We all play a vital role in connecting our communities, so enjoy and embrace the fun and activities ahead!

Aleese Fielder, GM, NRG Media, Wausau/Stevens Point/ Rhinelander, is the WBA chair.

WISCONSIN BROADCASTERS

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WBA Board minutes are always available for members. Please email Kyle Geissler at kgeissler@wi-broadcasters.org to request a copy.

FROM WBA'S PRESIDENT & CEO



come back three years in a row to complete the training cycle. In addition to the fantastic training, designed and organized by the UW School of Business, participants also enjoy a fantastic networking opportunity. If you talk to our Institute graduates, you'll find that the connections and friendships they formed over the three years were as impactful as the training.

Another unique aspect of the program is that space is limited. We keep the classes small to maximize the effectiveness of the training.

That said, space is still available. Perhaps you want to join, or know someone else who should consider it. All you need to do to enroll is to call or email the WBA office. You'll want to do so soon, in case the class fills up.

Your WBA takes over Lambeau

Wisconsin broadcasters were all over Lambeau Field for two days in February for a series of events

that showcased the future of broadcasting.

On Friday, Feb. 21, we hosted the Toolbox, put on by our WBA Young Professionals Committee, which featured an exclusive tour of the Lambeau Field media production facilities and an afternoon of wonderful sessions.

The Toolbox attendees joined a larger group of broadcasters that evening for a memorable reception.

Then, on Saturday, we welcomed hundreds of high school and college students from across the state for our WBA Student Forum at Lambeau Field. It was a day full of informative and inspirational sessions, hands-on experiences, and great networking opportunities. Thank you to all the broadcasters who make this event possible by giving their time and talents to inspire the next generation of broad-

You can check out more about the Forum on the front page and page 4.

Your WBA on the Road

Your WBA was also busy the last few months representing you, our valued members, at important events, like CES in Las Vegas, the Silver Circle awards in Milwaukee, and most recently on our annual visit to Capitol Hill. (See photos above)

Please know that your WBA supports you. We know you take your commitment to serving your communities seriously, and we do too. That commitment is what sets you apart from social media and other tech behemoths. It's your strength, and we're here to help you make the most of it.

You're there for your community, and your WBA is there for vou.



Wisconsin broadcasters visit Capitol Hill

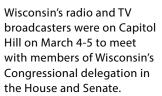


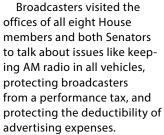












Wisconsin broadcasters were also represented at the NAB's annual State Leadership Conference.













Broadcasters bring their message to the Wisconsin State Capitol







About 50 Wisconsin broadcasters gathered in Madison on Jan. 22 to talk to state lawmakers about the coming legislative session and how local radio and TV stations are serving their constitu-

Before making calls at the Capitol, broadcasters heard from Governor Tony Evers, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, and Attorney General Josh Kaul

Broadcasters talked to lawmakers about artificial intelligence, access to police videos, and regulation of social media.







Connections Made at WBA Student Forum at Lambaeu Field

Continued from page 1 >

introducing story subjects. He wants viewers to form instant connections.

Connections. With nearly 40 media organizations at the job fair, industry professionals on panels, and faculty advisors from around the state, connections are a big part of the Student Forum at Lambeau Field.

For the second consecutive year, registration for the event topped 400. College and high school students attended seminars and heard inspiring comments from WGN-TV sports reporter/anchor Kaitlin Sharkey's keynote address. They also got the chance to get professional headshots and participate in hands on activities such as reading teleprompters, using green screen, and conducting celebrity interviews. They wrapped up the day by cheering winners of the WBA Student Awards for Excellence.

Davis estimates she shook hands at least 100 times during the event, smiling and exuding confidence each time. She now knows one-tenth of a second counts as she looks for her first reporting job.

Mark Zoromski Chair WBA Education Committee













2025 Roster of WBA Members

ASSOCIATE

American Amplifier Technologies American Awards and Promotion American Tower Corporation ANCO Wireless

BetterBNC

Broadcast Electronics/Commotion

Broadcast Management Strategies

Broadcast Music Inc.

Broadcast Music Inc.

Broadcast Supply Worldwide

Broadcaster Seleneral Store, Inc.

C&I Power Solutions

Cavell Mertz and Associates

Clear-Com Clear-Com Cobalt Digital Comlab Inc/Davicom Comrex Corporation Dialight Corp Dielectric, LLC

Edward Jones
Electronics Research Inc.
ENCO Systems Inc.
Escanaba Radio Group (WDBC, WYKX, WRPP)

Evertz
First Business Bank
Fluotec Lighting
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GatesÅir Godfrey Kahn Green Bay Packers Heartland Video Systems Holiday Vacations Jacobs Media Joda Kathrein Broadcast Kokusai Denke Electric

Kokusai Denke Electric
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Nemal Electronics International Optimized Media Group

PI Patrick Media Brokerage Phasetek Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP Plum Media Plum Media
Precision Communications
Radio Advertising Bureau
Radio GBX
Radio Gearheads
Radio Music License Committee

RCS
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RTI Media
Shockley Group, Inc.
Skyline Tower Painting
Slatercom-WCD
Smarts Broadcast Systems Society of Broadcast Systems
Society of Broadcast Engineers Inc.
Sony Electronics
SPX AtoN
Staco Energy
Summit Technology Group
Talastrage Telestream The Capitol Group The Museum of Broadcast Com

, nmunications Tieline Technology Troy Research U.S. Bank Utah Scientific WEXL Coaching

Wheatstone
Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP
Wisconsin Army National Guard
Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame Wisconsin Center For Investigative Journalism Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Assoc.

Wisconsin Lottery WisconsinEye

RETIRED

Linda Baun Tom Bolge Dennis Brechlin Leonard Charles Sean Dwyer Dale Ganske Joan Gillman Jonathan Green Marty Green Mark Halverson Bill Hubbard Perry Kidder Jack Le Duc Tommy Lee Bychinski Paul LeSage Kipper McGee Mike O'Brien Mike Powers Dave Pritchard Wayne Ripp David Sanks Tom Sheridan Scott Trentadue

Richard Wood

Richard Zaragoza

TELEVISION Appleton WACY Eau Claire WFAII WEUX WOOW Elk Mound WBDL WBAY WCWF WFRV WGRA WIIIK WMEI WPNF La Crosse **KQEG** WHLA WKBT WLAX WXOW Madisor TVW WHA WIFS WISC WKOW WMSN WMTV Menomonie WHWC WBME WDJT WISN WITI WMIW WMVS WMVT WTMJ WVCY WVTV WWRS WYTU Rhinelande WJFW KRIR WPDR Wausau WAOW

> WZAW RADIO

WHRM

WLEF

WMOW

WSAW

WYOW

Adams WCWI WHAA Amery WI AK WPCA-LP **Antigo** WACD WATK WATK-AM WVRN Appleton WAPL WEMI WHBY WKZY WORQ WSCO WZOS

Baldwin

WSCM

Baraboo

WBOO

WCNP WRPQ **Beaver Dam** WBEV WBEV-AM **Beloit** WGEZ-AM **Berlin** WISS **Black River Falls** wwis WWIS-AM **Burlington** WBSD Chilton W7RU-AM Chippewa **Falls** WCFW Crandon WFOC **Dodgeville** WDMP WZRK **Durand** WRDN **Eagle River** WERL WRJO **Eau Claire** WATO WAXX WAYY WBIZ WBIZ-AM **WEAO** WFCI WGNW WHEM WHWC WIAL WISM WOGO WMEQ WMEQ-AM **WQRB** WUEC WVCF **WWIB** WWJC Fond du Lac KFI7 WFDL

WFON WTCX WVFL **Fort Atkinson** WFAW Goodman WMVM **Green Bay WDKF** WDUZ WDUZ-AM WEMY WFZZ WGBW WGEE WHID WHND WIRD WIXX WKRU WKSZ WNCY WNFI WOGB WPKR WPNE WQLH

WTAQ WTAQ-AM **WZOR** Havward WR7H-AM WHSM WRLS Hudson **WDGY** Hurley WHRY Iron River WATW WBSZ WIJH WNXR Janesville WCLO WJVL WSJY WWHG Kenosha WGTD WIIL WLIP WVTY La Crosse **KCLH KQEG KQYB** WEOL WFOM WEQS WFBZ WHLA WIZM WIZM-AM WKII WKTY-AM WLCX-AM WLSU WLXR-AM WOCC WRTO WTPN Lake Geneva WLKG Madison WBKY WEQW WERN WHA-AM WHHI WHIT WIBA WIBA-AM WJJO WJQM WLMV WMAD

WMDX

WMGN

WMHX

WMMM

WNWC

WNWC-AM

WOLX

WORT

WOZN

WRIS

WSSW

WSUM

WTLX

WTSO

WVRE

WXXM

W7FF

Manitowoc

WCUB

WOMT

WOTC

WAGN WHYB WI ST WMAM WSFQ Marshfield **WDLB** WOSO Mausaton WRJC WRJC-AM Mayville WMDC Medford WIGM **WKEB** Menomonie WVSS Merrill WHII **WJMT** Milwaukee WAUK **WDDW** WFMK **WGKB** WHAD WHQG WISN WIMR **WJOI** WKKV WKLH WKTI WLDB MILIM WMIL WMSE WMYX WOKY WRIT WRNW WRXS WSSP WTMJ WUWM WVCY WXSS WYMS WZTI-AM Minocqua **WLKD** WMOA Monona WVMO-LP Monroe WBGR WFK7-AM Neillsville WCCN WCCN-AM WPKG Oconto WOCO WOCO-AM Oshkosh WNAM WOCT-I P WOSH WRST **WVBO**

WTSW-LP

Marinette

WGLR WPVL WPVL-AM WSUP **Plymouth** WSTM Portage WAUN WDDC WPDR Prairie du Chien WPRE WPRE-AM WQPC Racine WRIN Reedsburg WNFM WRDB Rhinelander WCYF WHDG WNWX WOBT WRHN WRI O WXPR WXPW **Rice Lake** WAQE WAOF-AM WFPP WJMC WJMC-AM WKFX WYRL-LP Richland Center WRCE-AM WRCO Ripon WRPN-AM **River Falls** WRFW Shawano **WJMO** WOTE WOWN WTCH WTCH-AM Sheboygan WRFM **WCLB** WFMP WHBL WHBZ WLKN WSHS **WXER** WYVM **Sparta** WCOW Stevens Point/ Wausau WBCV WGLX

WRLU WSBW **Sun Prairie** WLSP-LP Superior KDKF **KUWS** WDSM WDUL-AM WEBC WHDI WHSA WHWA WSSU WUWS Suring WRVM **Tomah** WBOG WLXR WTMB WVCX **Tomahawk** WEQR WJJQ WJJQ-AM Two Rivers WLTU Viroqua **WKPO** WVRQ WVRO-AM Washburn WEGZ Waupaca WAUP-LP WDUX WII W-I P **WPCA** Waupun WFDL-AM Wausau WAVL WCLO **WCWB** WDEZ WGNV WHBM WHRM WHSF WIFC WLBL-AM WI BI -FM WMZK WOZZ WRIG WSAU WSAU-AM WXCO Wautoma WAUH **West Bend** WMBZ WRYU Whitehall WHTL Whitewater **WKCH** WSLD WSUW Wisconsin Dells **WDLS** WNNO

WWWX

WYDR

Owen

WVCS

Park Falls

WCQM

WPFP

Platteville

WHTO

WPCN

WPCN-AM

WSPT

WWSP

WYTE

Sturgeon Bay

WBDK

WDOR

WDOR-AM

WLGE

WPVM

WQDC

WRKU

Wisconsin

Rapids

WFHR

WIRI



5 key areas of digital success

Revenue growth comes through digital expansion

In 2025, local business investment in digital marketing is accelerating at an unprecedented pace. According to eMarketer, traditional linear TV advertising is expected to shrink by \$4 billion between now and 2027. Meanwhile, Kagan forecasts a 3



By Chris Brunt

percent decline in radio broadcast revenue this year. Despite these challenges for terrestrial media, total ad spending is still projected to grow by 4.5 per-

cent in 2025, largely fueled by a double-digit surge—at least 12 percent—in digital advertising. The takeaway? The path to revenue growth this year runs through digital expansion. For broadcast professionals, this means evolving your sales strategy to align with where advertisers are putting their dollars. Q1 presents the perfect opportunity to conduct a thorough digital audit, ensuring your operation is positioned to capture a bigger share of this growing market.

As you prepare for digital success this year, here are five key areas to concentrate on:

1. Ensure Every Salesperson is **Proactively Discussing Digital Needs with Key Clients**

This is non-negotiable. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking we fully understand our key clients' marketing strategies. However, many advertisers still see our reps primarily as

"broadcast" salespeople rather than comprehensive marketing partners. As a result, they may not openly share their digital needs or even realize we can provide digital solutions. To bridge this gap, sales reps must consistently engage in strategic conversations that

uncover opportunities beyond traditional media buys. Asking insightful, open-ended questions that get to the heart of their digital pain points, goals, and challenges positions our stations as full-service marketing partners. We then not only expand revenue potential but also deepen client relationships and reinforce our value to local businesses in an evolving media landscape.

2. Establish Digital Goals for **Each Salesperson and Devel**op a Custom Digital Plan for **Every Key Client**

Setting clear digital goals for each salesperson ensures they have a structured approach to integrating digital solutions into their book of business. As local advertisers continue shifting budgets toward digital, our sales teams must evolve alongside them—proactively bringing forward digital strategies that align with their clients'

Of course, some clients will push back with, "I already have a digital guy." That's where we need to reframe the conversation. Instead of competing with their existing digital agency, we should highlight how our stations offer unique, integrated digital programs that leverage the power of our brand equity, on-air personalities, and audience trust. Whether it's through our owned-and-operated digital, social media campaigns, branded content, or streaming

opportunities, we can provide solutions that complement—rather than replace—their current digital efforts.

3. Align Your Digital Offerings with Client Needs and Market

To drive digital revenue growth, your station's digital solutions must align with what advertisers are actively seeking. Across all market sizes, businesses are significantly increasing their investment in OTT/ CTV (smart TV advertising), influencer marketing, and social media campaigns. If your sales reps aren't fluent in these evolving digital strategies, you risk missing out on valuable opportunities. Many of our most important advertisers trust us as a local, credible source for effective marketing advice. They're aware of emerging digital tactics, but they may not fully understand how to implement them—or how these strategies fit into their broader advertising mix. This presents a key opportunity

4. Ensure Your Rate Cards Reflect **Current Market Conditions**

for our teams to educate, guide,

combine traditional and digital

media for maximum impact.

and offer integrated solutions that

Relying on outdated rate cards won't cut it in today's rapidly evolving marketing landscape. The advertising world has shifted dramatically, and local businesses now face an overwhelming number of choices when allocating their budaets.

Unlike two decades ago, when radio, TV, and print dominated local ad spending, small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) are now being aggressively targeted by digital-first competitors. It's no longer just Google and Meta capturing local dollars—streaming giants like Hulu, Paramount+, and Spotify have made SMB advertising

a core part of their growth strategy. These platforms offer highly targeted, data-driven campaigns that appeal to local businesses looking for measurable results.

5. Secure the Best Pricing from Your Digital Vendors

The digital advertising landscape is constantly evolving, and wholesale programmatic ad exchanges have seen pricing shifts. Media like OTT/ CTV have recently experienced dramatic price drops, creating an opportunity for ad sellers to lower retail pricing while increasing profit margins. To maximize revenue and maintain a competitive edge, it's essential to regularly negotiate with your digital vendors to ensure you're getting the most competitive rates. Many vendors have flexibility in pricing, especially as new technologies and buying strategies emerge.

Advertisers have more choices than ever, and if your station isn't offering comprehensive, integrated digital solutions, they will find a competitor who does. The good news? As local broadcasters, you have a unique advantage—trusted brands, engaged audiences, and powerful long-time connections that digital-only platforms can't replicate – and we're located right down the street.

Chris Brunt is the Director of Digital Revenue and Al at Jacobs Media. The WBA Digital Hotline is a free service of the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and is available to all members – contact Chris Brunt at Jacobs Media at chris@jacobsmedia.com with any digital questions you have.

What to expect when you're expecting ... awards in May



By Robert Jarzen, Creative Director for Audacy Midwest

Ah, May. A time for flowers blooming, birds chirping, and broadcasters pacing nervously like expectant parents waiting for the big reveal: Will your baby—the spot, campaign, breaking news story, or show you poured your heart into—get the big First Place nod? And will you make that winding walk through the mass of round tables to the

front of the room, nodding and smiling as you receive the handshake and the coveted shadow box award? The WBA Awards are just around the corner, and whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned pro, here's what to expect when you're expecting... awards.

The Ultrasound Stage: Early Signs of Greatness

Every broadcaster knows that familiar mix of pride and doubt when submitting work for the WBA Awards. You've nurtured this piece from its earliest stages—sketchedout ideas on a napkin, late-night edits, and countless tweaks—and you're hoping it's got "that glow." Like an ultrasound, you can't help but examine every detail. Is this the year your baby stands out? Will the judges see its potential?

It's easy to speculate. Will this year's awards lean toward clever humor? Or will heartfelt storytelling and that one perfect soundbite capture the spotlight? Regardless, your baby deserves a place in the nursery of greatness.

The Nesting Phase: Preparing for the Big Day

As May approaches, it's time to get your broadcast baby ready for its public debut. Think of the awards night as your version of a family reunion photo—your baby in all its glory, shining for everyone to admire.

You'll want to plan accordingly. This year's theme is Masquerade Ball. Are you going all out, or just bringing a subtle mask you can easily hold or put down while networking? Who will join you at the table? Did your entire team accept the invite? Every baby has a village behind it, and there's nothing like celebrating your collective effort together.

Labor of Love: The Journey to This Moment

Let's be honest—some babies are easier than others. Some of your projects might have felt like a breeze, delivering results faster than expected. Others? Well, those were the marathon sessions—the ones where you doubted if it would ever come together. But you stayed up late, fueled by too much

caffeine and sheer determination, until you saw the spark that made it all worthwhile.

Regardless of the process, every entry is a testament to your creativity, your persistence, and your refusal to settle for anything less than extraordinary.

Delivery Day: Bringing Your Baby into the Spotlight

When awards night finally arrives, emotions will run high. As the names are called, you'll sit there with that familiar mix of nerves and excitement—like an expecting parent in the delivery room, waiting to hear that spectacular radio voice narrate the tidbits of trivia about your station, your team, and your category. What a voice this guy has!

If your baby's name is announced, there will be cheers, hugs, and maybe even a few proud tears. You'll march up, get the handshake from your peers in the industry, and then stroll confidently to the back for the photo with Jeff Wright or Judson Beck. You've earned the right to be that proud parent.

Proud Parent Moments: Sharing the Joy

Once the ceremony is over, don't be shy about showing your baby off to the world. Post it on social media, send out a press release, or casually "forget" the award on your desk for everyone to see. Let your audience and peers celebrate with you, and remind them why local broadcasting is such a vital part of the community.

And if your baby doesn't take home a trophy this year? Remember, every entry represents your hard work and passion for this industry. Sometimes, even the best ideas don't come home with hardware, but they still leave a mark. Treat it as motivation to go back, dream bigger, and create something even better for next year's awards.

After all, Charlie Chaplin never won an Oscar for his work during his lifetime, but his creations remain timeless. Eventually, yes, he did receive an honorary Oscar—but not winning never stopped him.

Baby Steps to Greatness

The WBA Awards are more than just a competition—they're a celebration of the incredible talent in our industry. They remind us that every great piece of work begins as an idea, nurtured with care and effort until it's ready to shine.

So, as you prepare for May, remember: this is your baby's moment. Whether it's a groundbreaking campaign, a perfectly produced spot, or a show that resonates with listeners, it's all about celebrating the joy of creation.

Come May, we'll all be proud parents in that room—cheering for the work that makes this industry what it is.

Stations participating in WBA awards

KFIZ AM Fond du Lac, KUWS FM Superior, PBS Wisconsin Madison, WAOW TV Wausau, WAUK AM Milwaukee, WAVL FM Wausau, WAXX FM Eau Claire, WAYY AM Eau Claire, WBAY TV Green Bay, WBCV FM Wausau, WBEV AM Beaver Dam, WBEV FM Beaver Dam, WBOG AM Tomah, WBOO FM Baraboo, WCFW FM Eau Claire, WCOW FM Sparta, WCQM FM Park Falls, WDDC FM Portage, WDJT TV Milwaukee, WEAQ AM Eau Claire, **WEAU TV** Eau Claire, **WECL FM** Eau Claire, WFBZ FM La Crosse, WFDL AM Waupun, WFDL FM Fond du Lac, WFHR FM Wisconsin Rapids, **WFON FM** Fond du Lac, **WFRV TV** Green Bay, WGBW AM Green Bay, WGKB FM Milwaukee, WGLX FM Wausau, WGTD FM Kenosha, WHBY AM Appleton, WHDG FM Rhinelander, WHIT AM Madison, WHLA FM La Crosse, WHQG FM Milwaukee, WHRM FM Wausau, WHTL FM Whitehall, WHTQ FM Wausau, WHWC FM Eau Claire, WHYB FM Marinette, WIAL FM Eau Claire, **WIBA AM** Madison, **WIRI FM** Wisconsin Rapids, WISC TV Madison, WISM FM Eau Claire, WISN TV Milwaukee, WISS AM Oshkosh, WITI TV Milwaukee, WJFW TV Rhinelander, WJJO FM Madison, WJMC FM Rice Lake, WJMR FM Milwaukee, WJMT AM Wausau, WKBH FM Portage, WKBT TV La Crosse, WKCH FM Whitewater, WKLH FM Milwaukee, WKOW TV Madison, WKSZ FM Green Bay, WKTI FM Milwaukee, WLAX TV La Crosse, WLBL FM Wausau, WLCX AM La Crosse, WLKG FM Lake Geneva, WLKN FM Manitowoc, WLSP LP Sun Prairie, WLST FM Marinette, WLUK TV Green Bay, WLUM FM Milwaukee, WMAM AM Marinette, WMBZ FM West Bend, WMDC FM Mayville, WMDX AM Madison, WMGN FM Madison, WMHX FM Madison, WMMM FM Madison, WMSE FM Milwaukee, WMTV TV Madison, WMVS TV Milwaukee, WMYX FM Milwaukee, WNAM AM Oshkosh, WNFM FM Reedsburg, WNNO FM Wisconsin Dells, WOGO AM Eau Claire, WOKY AM Milwaukee, WOLX FM Madison, WOMT AM Manitowoc, WORT FM Madison, WOSH AM Oshkosh, WPKR FM Appleton, **WQCC FM** La Crosse, **WRDB AM** Reedsburg, WRIS FM Madison, WRJC FM Mauston, WRJN AM Racine, WRJO FM Eagle River, WRLS FM Havward, WRNW FM Milwaukee, WRPQ AM Baraboo, WRXS FM Milwaukee, WSAU FM Wausau, WSAW TV Wausau, WSCO AM Appleton, WSFQ FM Marinette, WSJY FM Janesville, WSLD FM Whitewater, WSSP AM Milwaukee, WTAQ AM Green Bay, WTCX FM Fond du Lac, WTLX FM Madison, WTMB FM La Crosse, WTMJ AM Milwaukee, WTMJ TV Milwaukee, WUWM FM Milwaukee, WVBO FM Appleton, WVMO FM Monona, WVTV TV Milwaukee, WVTY FM Racine, WWIB FM Eau Claire, WWQM FM Madison, WXCO AM Wausau, WXSS FM Milwaukee, WYTU **TV** Milwaukee

Lt. Col. Hellenbrand to receive **WBA Distinguished Service Award**

Recently retired Wisconsin Army National Guard Lt. Col. Shannon Hellenbrand will receive the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association's Distinguished Service Award at the WBA Summer Conference in La Crosse this June for her accomplished 20-year relationship with Wisconsin broadcasters.

The award was established to recognize those who "reflect the values embodied in the Wisconsin broadcast industry of promoting economic vitality, engagement in civic affairs, advocacy for the First Amendment and dissemination of community information and community service, and support of diversity and a better Wisconsin."

Hellenbrand was nominated by the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Board and by the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Foundation Board, which subsequently approved the recognition unanimously.

Hellenbrand's 26-year military career is marked with numerous accomplishments and brave service to the people of Wisconsin and the United States. She deployed twice to Iraq, led human resources in various roles at the state level, commanded the 132nd Brigade Support Battalion, and was commander of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion, overseeing the work of 800 soldiers and recruits across Wisconsin.

Hellenbrand's relationship with Wisconsin broadcasters dates back to 2006 when she played an instrumental role in helping to restore a long-standing relationship between the Guard and Wisconsin broadcasters after a brief pause in the relationship. She identified the importance of broadcasters in helping the Guard with its recruiting efforts. She's been a staunch supporter of the WBA Public Education Program (PEP) and has championed PEP as an integral tool for the Guard to communicate with Wisconsinites.

More recently, as commander



of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Hellenbrand was tasked with helping the Wisconsin Army National Guard through a dramatic drop in recruiting in the early 2020s. Her collaborative and candid approach to problem solving led her to leveraging partnerships to spread the word about the recruiting crisis and tell the story about life in the Guard to potential recruits and their families.

"Shannon has been a great partner to the WBA, continuing a long tradition between our organizations of mutual cooperation, garnering mutual gains. But more than that, she was successful in her mission." said WBA Chair-Elect Judson Beck. "The Guard, along with the Armed Forces in general, has worked tirelessly to drive recruiting efforts. Facing stricter physical and medical standards, the pandemic interruption of traditional recruiting methods, they faced challenges. In 2024 the Wisconsin Army National Guard met its recruiting goal for the first time in seven years."

Beck said the Recruiting and Retention Battalion focused on

building trust, accountability, and a winning culture.

"On Lt. Col. Shannon Hellenbrand's watch, they forged this message in the heart of Wisconsinites and won. This is a critical mission for all of us and we were proud to be a part of her success. This is a unique and hard-won victory and we think she is a perfect champion to be the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award."

Hellenbrand's leadership, foresight, and brand of personal charisma brought the partnership between the Guard and Wisconsin broadcasters to a whole new level.

"Shannon's exceptional leadership, both in service to the Wisconsin Army National Guard and her unwavering dedication to the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, makes her a truly deserving recipient of the WBA Distinguished Service Award," said WBA Board Chair Aleese Fielder. "Her commitment to both organizations exemplifies the highest ideals of service and community."

Led by Hellenbrand, the recruiting turnaround showed the strength of their partnership between the

Guard and Wisconsin broadcasters. In addition to numerous other efforts. Hellenbrand collaborated with radio and TV stations across the state to bring attention to the Guard's recruiting needs, illustrate the risks it posed to the public, and enlightened potential recruits and their families to the realities of service in the Guard.

"Shannon's record of military service alone is worthy of recognition. Her work with Wisconsin's broadcasters is just a part of her inspiring body of work, but it's an important one," said WBA President and CEO, Michelle Vetterkind. "She's left a lasting impression with radio and TV stations across the state that will, for many years, continue to serve the Wisconsin Army National Guard and the people of Wisconsin. The relationships she's cultivated go deep and have made the bond between the Guard and local broadcasters closer than ever."

"Service is at the heart of everything I do-whether in the military or in partnership with Wisconsin broadcasters." Hellenbrand said. "The WBA has played a vital role in informing, educating, and strengthening our communities, and I am deeply honored to be recognized for our shared commitment to service. Together, we've built connections that not only support the Guard but also uphold the values of trust, accountability, and public service that define both of our organizations."

This is only the third WBA Distinguished Service Award to be handed out. The first was awarded to former Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson in January 2019. The second was awarded to long-time WBA and NASBA legal counsel Dick Zaragoza in June 2021.

Registration for the WBA Summer Conference will open this spring. Check the Summer Conference page for updates.

WSAW-TV's Share Your Holidays raises more than \$159,000

WSAW-TV annual Share Your Holidays campaign raised \$159,009 and thousands of pounds of non-perishable food during its 22nd year. The money will be split between the Wausau Salvation Army and The Neighbors' Place. Food that was donated will go to Peyton's Promise for distribution to multiple food pantries.

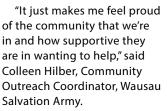
"It's been more than 20-years now and the generosity of people in central and north central Wisconsin continues to amaze me," said Jeff Thelen, News Anchor and Campaign Coordinator for WSAW. "It's so touching that with all the great charities out there, people choose ours as a way of helping."

Share Your Holidays has now raised \$1,648,585 since its inception 22 years ago. Studies show that every dollar donated to a food pantry buys three or four meals.

"This community is so generous," said Donna Ambrose, Executive Director of The Neighbors' Place. "Our guests, our volunteers, our staff, it really motivates them because they know the community has our back, that they support our work."







Thanks to matching grants, every dollar donated up to \$85,000 was doubled. The BA and Esther Greenheck Foundation, The MacDonald Foundation, The Miller-Halvorsen







Family, the Dudley Foundation, and IncredibleBank all provided matching grants.

"We are thankful for our matching donors incredible support of Share Your Holidays," said Betsy Keefe, VP/General Manager, WSAW-TV. "Their commitment to matching donations has been crucial to our campaign's success. Each year, their generosity

inspires us. Their impact on the community is remarkable."

The 2024 Share Your Holidays campaign began on Nov. 20 and concluded on Jan. 3. Viewers were encouraged to donate money online. Donors could also drop off food or money at WSAW or at locations in the Wausau area.

WSAW staff and sponsors participated in several events aimed at driving donations. On Dec. 6, staff walked along the Wausau Holiday Parade, collecting hundreds of pounds of non-perishable food and monetary donations. On Dec. 19, IncredibleBank staff worked the phone lines during a two-and-a-half-hour phone bank, raising more than \$7,500.

"Share Your Holidays is a station wide initiative that takes everyone on our team to make it a success," said Bridget Fargen, News Director, WSAW. "From reporters sharing stories about the need and impact of your donation, to our producers who run the information in newscasts for six weeks. It's an amazing effort we're proud to take on to help support people in the community."



Station's 'sharing tree' supports men's homeless shelter

A "Sharing Tree" in the lobby of Seehafer Broadcasting in Manitowoc gathered 196 items and monetary donations during the holidays for a local homeless shelter.

The Haven Men's Homeless Shelter Executive Director Alex Hunt told the station he was appreciative.

"We are super grateful for all of the good things that Seehafer Broadcasting for has done for The Haven this year."

Chastain named WISC-TV GM

Morgan Murphy Media named broadcasting and media veteran Scot Chastain vice president and general manager of WISC-TV in Madison.

Chastain has been a local TV general manager twice before, in Lansing, Michigan and Sacramento, California. Most recently, he was director of sales

and marketing for KUTV in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Earlier in his career, Chastain spent more than two decades at NBC ending as head of affiliate marketing for the network.



Chastain

"Scot Chastain's depth of broadcasting and media leadership really stands out," said Brian Burns, Morgan Murphy Media executive vice president and chief operating officer. "He has a strong vision for how to lead and grow a local media organization and has the results to prove it."

In Madison, he will oversee the CBS affiliate WISC-TV, Television Wisconsin (OTA 3.2, cable channel 14), the award-winning local website channel 3000.com, the city-regional monthly publication Madison Magazine, and a local digital agency, Phase 3 Digital.

"I am thrilled to be joining Morgan Murphy Media and leading its multiple broadcast and digital operations in Madison, Phase 3 Digital, Madison Magazine and contributing to the success of other verticals throughout the company," said Chastain. "I am looking forward to driving even greater success for the Madison businesses and across the entire portfolio for brand, content, digital, revenue and operations. The reputation of the company precedes itself and I am excited to be a part of the team that takes us to the next level."

In his latest role in Salt Lake City, Chastain was one of the key leaders in driving local business

revenue, expanding local sports partnerships, including playing a vital role in relaunching the Utah Jazz back on broadcast TV in the DMA on KJZZ-TV. In doing so, the stations extended its value in the local market.

"We have a unique set of challenges and opportunities in front of us in local broadcasting," said Burns. "The need for high quality local news, information and local programming is as greater than ever and I'm confident Scot will be the right person to find ways to deepen our engagement with local audiences and build creative and effective solutions for advertisers"

Before his time at NBC. Chastain had various leadership roles in marketing, promotions, and production at local stations in Louisiana, North Carolina, and Texas

Chastain will start in this new role in early March.

Kramer named VP/GM of WMSN-TV

Jon Kramer is the new Vice President and General Manager of WMSN-TV in Madison. He was the station's **General Sales** Manager starting in 2019.



Kramer

"Jon's extensive expertise in developing innovative advertising strategies and his proven track record in maximizing revenue make him the perfect choice to lead WMSN FOX 47," said Rob Weisbord, Sinclair's Chief Operating Officer and President of Local Media. "Jon also has a strong background as a research analyst, further enhancing his ability to deliver outstanding results for our clients and audiences in Madison."

Prior to joining Sinclair, Kramer held several executive leadership positions at Capital Newspapers and their digital agency Amplified, including Director of Sales Development, Digital Business Developer and Market Research Analyst.

"I am honored and excited to become VP, General Manager at WMSN-FOX47." Kramer said. "Rob and our leadership within Sinclair push us forward in an ever-changing media landscape. We have a very talented team here in Madison and they have my full support. I'm committed to our valued advertisers as we help drive results for them, and we appreciate and continue to serve our loyal viewers throughout the Madison area community."

Kramer also is the founder and president of the Wisconsin Billiards Hall of Fame, a statewide 501c3 non-profit. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

101.7 The Truth announces lineup, changes

Good Karma Brands and 101.7 The Truth are announcing changes to their programming lineup and leadership team, set to take effect Jan. 20.

Among the changes is the introduction of Truth to Power with Kyle Wallace from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays. Hosted by Milwaukee native Kyle Wallace, a familiar voice on ESPN Wisconsin's Kyle, Brust and Nortman, this new show will amplify diverse voices and perspectives, tackling a wide range of topics, from sports and culture to trending headlines and community issues. With Truth to Power, Wallace will offer his unique insights and engaging commentary, providing a fresh take on the conversations that matter most.

Additionally, 101.7 The Truth is launching The Truth Unfiltered, airing on Mondays at 6 p.m., hosted by Denise Thomas and Dr. Ken Harris. The program will tackle hard-hitting topics with unfiltered honesty.

Jammin' with Juice—featuring the lively duo of Benjamin Hooks and Carrie Mahone—will now air during morning drive time from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., moving from its previous time slot of 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Known for their energetic and



entertaining style, Ben Jammin and Carrie 'Noni' Juice will now help fans start their day with a vibrant mix of conversation, commentary, and entertainment.

As part of these changes, 101.7 The Truth is also welcoming back Sean Thompson as Director of Content. After suc-

Continued on page 12 >

Names in the News



Kim Stead of NRG Media in Wausau/Stevens Point was named one of the four MIW Erica Farber Mentorship in Management Class of 2025 mentees.

The program selects four female radio professionals to further their leadership skills in sales, marketing, programming and digital media. Participants gain direct mentorship and industry insights to further their careers in



Dana Fulton has been named 27 News Anchor and Executive Producer of 27 News Wake Up Wisconsin at WKOW -TV in Madison. Fulton was promoted

from Wake Up Meteorologist and now anchors the weekday morning news from 4:30-7 a.m. on 27 News Wake Up Wisconsin. Fulton joined WKOW-TV in September 2023 as WKOW TV's Wake Up Meteorologist. Previously Fulton worked at WISC-TV in Madison and WACH-TV in Columbia, South Carolina. During her time at WACH she also worked as a weekend Manager, news anchor, multimedia journalist and meteorologist.

Rusk to chair YP Committee, Stevenson stepping down

One of the original members of the WBA's Young Professionals (YP) Committee is stepping down as chair.

Terry Stevenson was also one of the founding organizers of the YP event known as the "Toolbox" which will take place Feb. 21 at Lambeau Field. It will be Stevenson's last activity as a member and chair of the committee. He's Vice President of Seehafer Broadcasting.

"It's been my privilege to not only have been actively involved in the WBA YP committee for so many years but to have actually been a part of its inception, as well as events including The Toolbox and the WBA Mentorship Program." Stevenson said. "It was also my true honor to receive the inaugural YP of the Year Award in 2020. My grandfather, Don Seehafer, was an active member of the WBA and it brings me a lot of joy to follow in his footsteps."

Taking the role of chair is WMTV-TV News Anchor, and current YP Committee member Gabriella Rusk.

"I'm thrilled to be the next chair of the WBA YP Committee! I believe fostering relationships and mentorships between younger broadcasters across the state is the best way to ensure the strength of our industry for years to come," Rusk said. "I've



enjoyed working alongside the other young professionals through my involvement with the YP Committee since 2022. It's been an honor to learn from Terry Stevenson's leadership and I look forward to continuing his great work with YP events like The Toolbox in February."

Stevenson said, "I'm excited for the future of our industry and the WBA, and very excited to watch as Gabriella takes the YP Committee to new levels under her leadership."

Stevenson also serves on the WBA Board of Directors.

Future Proofing: Don't put off succession planning

You bought it, you built it, worried about it, lost sleep over it, and celebrated it. It fed you, clothed you, bought you housing, and you enjoyed a life in your community few can understand. BUT... have you given any serious thought to what you want to happen to it once it's not yours?

Succession planning is deeply private and personal, complicated, and is too important to do on your own.

WBA leadership has vetted a

select few succession planners and consultants. If you are thinking ahead and what some help to decide what happens to the stations you have devoted much of your life to, you can contact Michelle Vetterkind at the WBA offices. She will confidentially direct you to someone who can help you with those decisions.

By not making any decisions, you are most likely making the worst decision. Take control of your stations' future and start making a succession plan.

WFRV-TV sales manager to retire



Arneson

WFRV-TV General Sales Manager Jim (Arnie) Arneson will retire at the end of March.

Arneson started his career in broadcasting in 1982 at WCGV in Milwaukee as a local account executive and then spent a three-year national stint with Blair in New York. He returned to his native Milwaukee in 1987 to serve at WCGV/WVTV. For more than 15 years he held multiple roles from local seller to director of sales

In 2007 he left broadcasting briefly to be engaged in his daughter's high school years in Door County where he worked for five years as a rigging specialist for a yacht company in Sister Bay. He also got certified and volunteered as a paramedic

He returned to broadcasting in 2012 joining WFTV-TV in Green Bay where he spent the last 13 years, and the last ten as general sales manager.

A statement from WFRV-TV congratulated Arneson and described him as a valued leader and great friend to all at the station.

in Milwaukee.

WBA Hall of Famer Bob Uecker remembered as

'Mr. Baseball'



Uecker

"Mr. Baseball," the voice of the Milwaukee Brewers, and WBA Hall of Famer Bob Uecker has died. He was 90.

The Milwaukee Brewers on Jan. 16 announced his passing.

Uecker's broadcast career extended beyond Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Brewers and radio to starring roles in such television and cable shows as ABC's "Mr. Belvedere" and "Bob Uecker's

Wacky World of Sports." He is known worldwide for his television commercial work that has included Miller Brewing Company and Chevrolet, as well as Wisconsin's own Division of Tourism.

His community involvement included many charitable projects, perhaps best typified by the "Uecker Ride for the Arts" which provided great recognition for the Arts in Milwaukee while raising thousands of dollars.

Uecker was a native of Milwaukee, had a long career in



major league baseball with the Milwaukee Braves, Philadelphia Phillies and St. Louis Cardinals. He was inducted into the Wisconsin Performing Arts Hall of Fame in 1993 and into the WBA Hall of Fame in 1994.

Madison-area broadcast engineer Simmons dies



Simmons

Madison area broadcast engineer, Roy Simmons, died Jan. 30. He was 62.

According to his obituary, Simmons graduated from the Wisconsin School of Electronics and worked most recently as chief broadcast engineer for iHeartMedia. Prior to that he worked as a broadcast engineer and radio talent for Mid-West Family Broadcasting, and as a co-owner with Auto Marketing

Services (AMS).

A visitation was held Monday, Feb, 10 at Gunderson East Funeral and Cremation Care in Madison.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the charity of your choice.

Engineer remembered for passion for radio



Long time Madison area broadcast engineer, John Bauer, died on Feb. 4.

John graduated from LaFollette High School in Madison in 1971 and moved to La Crosse where he started his career as a broadcast engineer at WIZM radio.

Bauer

According to his obituary, his passion for radio brought him to

Michigan and Iowa before returning to the Madison area in 1987. Bauer became the Director of Engineering for Mid-West Family Broadcasting until his retirement

No services are planned. However, a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

101.7 THE TRUTH

Continued from page 10 >

cessful stints with Westwood One, Audacy, and Bonneville, Thompson will bring a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to the station. He will oversee content development and help steer the station into its next chapter of growth and innovation.

Kyle Wallace, in addition to his new on-air role, will also take on the position of Director of Community Relations, where he will focus on strengthening the station's ties with the local community, driving outreach initiatives, and fostering meaningful connections with listeners.

"We're excited to welcome Sean back to the Good Karma Brands team. His extensive experience and passion for great content will be invaluable as we continue to evolve 101.7 The Truth," said Greg Scalzo, Vice President and Market Manager at Good Karma Brands Milwaukee. "With the new programming changes, we are confident our listeners will enjoy an even more engaging lineup, starting their mornings with Jammin' with Juice and staying informed and connected throughout the day with Truth to Power and The Truth Unfiltered."

The weekday 101.7 The Truth

7 a.m.- 9 a.m.: Jammin' with Juice with Carrie "Noni" Juice and **Ren Jammin**

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.: The Truth with **Sherwin Hughes**

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.: Truth to Power with Kyle Wallace

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.: The Tory Lowe Show with Tory Lowe

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.: Truth in the Afternoon with Dr. Ken Harris



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WBA Young Professionals bring Toolbox to Lambeau Field

The Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Young Professionals Committee welcomed young professionals from across the state for The Toolbox, the first time hosting it at Lambeau Field. The goal of the career-based workshop is to help young broadcasters hone their skills and network with other aspiring leaders in the industry.

Katie Kelly of Woodward Community Media showcased ways broadcasters can identify an authentic, consistent, and reliable brand to build a strong reputation as a professional or for their station.

In the fast-paced world of broadcasting, Matt Doll with SSM Health led a session introducing ways that young professionals can establish a work life balance and make their mental health a priority.

Understanding the first job is not always the last job, a moderated panel shared advice for rethinking a career in broadcast. Emerson Lehmann (WBAY), Hayley Tenpas (WHBY), and Greg Scalzo (Good Karma Brands) gave insight into how they've shaped their own careers to advance to a new position, leadership role, or station.

The Young Professionals ended the day with a private, exclusive



tour of the Lambeau Field media production facilities, getting a first-hand look at what a control room is like for a Packers home game.

Overall, the Toolbox was a success! The WBA YP Committee is hoping to bring this back for another year.

Gabriella Rusk Chair, WBA Young Professionals Committee



Toolbox Video:



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Roundtables



















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Young Professionals of the Month

Young professionals are making their mark on broadcasting in Wisconsin and the WBA is recognizing them. The WBA Young Professional of the Month is a nominee for the WBA Young Professional of the Year Award. The award seeks to recognize young broadcasters who have made a significant impact on their stations and communities. A subcommittee of the WBA Board of Directors will select the Young Professional of the Year, who will be recognized at the 2025 WBA Summer Conference on June 18 in La Crosse. Meet November and December's Young Professionals of the Month below.



Eric Bauer



A new reporter for Seehafer Broadcasting in Manitowoc, Eric Bauer, is the WBA Young Professional of the Month for the month of January.

The WBA Young Professional of the Month is a nominee for the WBA Young Professional of the Year Award. The award seeks to recognize young broadcasters who have made a significant impact on their stations and communities. A subcommittee of the WBA Board of Directors will select the Young Professional of the Year, who will be recognized at the 2025 WBA Summer Conference on June 18 in La Crosse.

Eric was nominated by Seehafer Broadcasting News Director Ryan Brahmstadt, who said Bauer has grown the quality and quantity of their news

"Since his arrival, SeehaferNews.com has been able to cover a wider range of stories, specifically in Sheboygan County, where he lives. He has been responsible for covering stories in that area that we previously didn't have the manpower to achieve," Brahmstadt wrote.

Bauer is also calling local high school sports

"Eric has been open to doing and trying anything, even if it is not something he would have thought to try before."

Company

Seehafer Broadcasting

Position

News and Sports Reporter

Years at station 6 months

Started in broadcasting 2024

How did you get into broadcasting?

I originally started in broadcasting while studying journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater where I hosted a biweekly sports talk radio show for four years on the campus radio station. At Whitewater, I also spent four years as a play-by-play announcer for the football team as well as men's and women's basketball. I then started with Seehafer Broadcasting as a color commentator for boy's and girl's high school basketball games before starting full time with the company as a journalist in June 2024.

How do you view the role of young professionals in broadcasting?

I view the role of young professionals in broadcasting as a glimpse into the future of the industry. While honoring what and who has come before us, I feel it is essential for young broadcasters to pave the way for where broadcasting will go in the coming years and decades. Broadcasting is an industry that is ever-changing as societal and technological practices do as well. I believe that as young professionals, it is on us to bring a new energy and perspective to the field while not straying too far away from what has made this industry what it is today.

What advice would you give to other young broadcasters?

First and foremost, work hard and never give up. After I graduated from UW-Whitewater it took me four years to find a job in the broadcasting industry. I feel I can serve as a good example for anyone discouraged when looking for a job in the field. If you work hard and keep at it, good things will come. Secondly, do not fear failure. Especially early on, no one is perfect, and mistakes are bound to happen. However, these mistakes will prove to be some of the greatest learning experiences for a young professional in the world of broadcasting. Lastly, always be open to learning and accept constructive criticism. As young professionals, we are often the least experienced in the room. Anytime someone offers teaching moments or criticism relating to your work, always accept it with an open mind. There is always room for improvement whether you are a 30-year vet or, in my case, someone in their first year as a broadcaster.

What does the future of broadcasting look like to you?

Bright! I feel the future of broadcasting looks great, however a bit uncertain with state-of-the-art technology appearing seemingly every day. While quite often these are luxuries, in the world of broadcasting, media, and news reporting, they can often blur the lines between fact and fiction. Especially with the rise in Al, it is on us as young broadcasters to educate ourselves and the public on the ethical use of it in the media and everyday life. We must work hard to better understand these technologies. Furthermore, I believe the future of broadcasting looks wildly exciting. Part of being in a business that experiences so much change is the thrill of not always knowing what's next. Knowing that we as broadcasters will have to adapt and learn as these changes come excites me. So, while the future of broadcasting will have stark differences compared to what the industry looks like today, it will be grounded in the same principles that it has been for nearly a century.

Austin Brumet



Company

Civic Media

<u>Position</u>

News Director

Years at station

2

Started in broadcasting 2023

A news contributor for Civic Media, Austin Brumet, is the WBA Young Professional of the Month for the month of February.

The WBA Young Professional of the Month is a nominee for the WBA Young Professional of the Year Award. The award seeks to recognize young broadcasters who have made a significant impact on their stations and communities. A subcommittee of the WBA Board of Directors will select the Young Professional of the Year, who will be recognized at the 2025 WBA Summer Conference on June 18 in La Crosse.

Brumet was nominated by Civic Media Program Director Joel Karnick, who said Brumet joined the station right out of high school, starting as a board operator for local games and church services.

"He quickly added on-air responsibilities, such is various on-air shifts, co-hosting our Shopping Show and Reality Radio and helping with live broadcasts. Austin has also taken on the duty of putting together a daily four-minute newscast that airs several times throughout the day. This added responsibility includes gathering information about local events and incorporating state news from our Civic Media news stations." Karnick wrote.

Brumet is also involved in local clubs and charitable causes.

"He is a rising star in radio and social media platforms," Karnick wrote.

How did you get into broadcasting?

I was trying to plan out potential careers that coincided with my skills and interests. I remembered my hometown has a station, gave them a call, and the rest is history.

How do you view the role of young professionals in broadcasting?

I believe we are very important. The future of the industry rests with us young professionals. It's up to us to ensure the legacy and values of broadcasting can continue long into the future.

What advice would you give to other young broadcasters?

Always remember, you are your own harshest critic. There's going to be many projects you work on where you might think it's terrible even while others tell you it's great. Listen to those people. They hear it from an outside perspective, the same as our listeners. Deep breath, you're going to do great!

What does the future of broadcasting look like to you?

I believe it will continue to evolve. Even in my own network I've seen the rise of apps and streaming vs. traditional radio. I believe that will continue. Traditional radio probably won't ever go away completely, but apps and other various mediums are definitely going to only grow in popularity.

SAVE THE DATE



Madison Marriott West

Registration Deadline: April 22

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WBA Student Awards for Excellence Winners

High School - Radio

Newscast

- 1st Union Grove High School Broncos Radio News-UGHS Veterans Day Spotlight 24
- 2nd Union Grove High School Broncos Radio News-UGHS Holiday Community
- 3rd Union Grove High School Broncos Radio-UGHS Holiday Spirit Week News 2024

Feature Story

1st Union Grove High School - Interview with the Queen of Homecoming

Sports Play-by-Play

- 1st Union Grove High School Broncos Radio Sports-UGHS vs Beloit Memorial Football
- 2nd Union Grove High School Broncos Radio Sports-UGHS vs BHS Boys Basketball
- 3rd Notre Dame Academy Notre Dame Basketball

Sports Programming

1st Kewaunee High School - Kewaunee Sports Report Winter Sports Preview

High School - TV

Event Coverage

- 1st Wauwatosa West High School Tosa West Experiences the Eclipse
- 2nd Fond du Lac High School Spring Art Show
- 3rd Pulaski High School PHS 2024 Spirit Day Recap

Newscast

- 1st Oregon High School Panther Vision News -Dec. 6, 2024
- 2nd Union Grove High School UGHS Veterans Day News
- 3rd Fond du Lac High School Cardinal TV Newscast Nov. 15, 2024

Feature Story

- 1st Fond du Lac High School Are AP Classes Worth It?
- 2nd Wauwatosa West High School Tosa West APPSE Team: Building Community Through Civics
- 3rd Oregon High School 2024 OHS Wrestling Profiles

Sports Play-by-Play

- Ist Pulaski High School Pulaski vs Bay Port Basketball
- 2nd Union Grove High School UGHS vs New Berlin East Boys Basketball
- 3rd Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools WR vs DC Everest Hockey Dec. 5, 2024

Sports Programming

- 1st Oregon High School Sports Desk with Maycee - Dec. 20, 2024
- 2nd Notre Dame Academy- Basketball Postgame Interview
- 3rd Oregon High School Sports Desk With Maycee - Oct. 18, 2024

Promo/PSA

- 1st Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools Wisconsin Rapids Football Promo/Hype Video 2024
- 2nd Fond du Lac High School Hallway Etiquette
- 3rd Oregon High School OHS PSA Make It Home

College/University - Radio

Boyd Huppert Excellence in Radio Writing Award

- 1st WRST (UW-Oshkosh) Fashion and Lingo Fads
- 2nd UW-Stevens Point Calahan Skogman Interview
- 3rd WRST (UW-Oshkosh) Warm Winter Weather

News Series/Documentary

1st WSUM (UW-Madison) - The LaFollette Line: Reproductive Freedoms Edition

Newscast

- 1st WRST (UW-Oshkosh) Week In Review Nov. 8, 2024
- 2nd WSUM (UW-Madison) Dec. 11 6 p.m. News
- 3rd WUEC (UW-Eau Claire) Live News Talk

General News Story

- 1st WRST (UW-Oshkosh) Fentanyl
- 2nd WRST (UW-Oshkosh) Model A UWO Restructure
- 3rd WRST (UW-Oshkosh) UWO Academic Restructure

Feature Story

- 1st UW-Stevens Point Andy Beshear Election Season Interview
- 2nd UW-Stevens Point Elizabeth Warren Interview
- 3rd UW-Stevens Point Scarlett Johansson Political Surrogate Interview

Sports Show

- Ist WRST (UW-Oshkosh) The Sports Page Dec. 2, 2024
- 2nd WRST (UW-Oshkosh) The Sports Page Oct. 21, 2024
- 3rd WSUM (UW-Madison) Her Take Oct. 1, 2024

Sports Story

- 1st WSUM (UW-Madison) Bonnie Oleson
- 2nd WSUM (UW-Madison) The Jump Around
- 3rd UW-Milwaukee Milwaukee College Teams Face Off at American Family Field

Sports Play-by-Play

- 1st WRST (UW-Oshkosh) UWO Football vs River Falls
- 2nd UW-Stevens Point UWSP Hockey Play by Play
- 3rd WSUM (UW-Madison) Wisconsin Volleyball vs. Northwestern

Air Check

- 1st UW-Green Bay Official Spring Airchecks GBX 2024
- 2nd UW-Green Bay Kaylee Zimonick Bay Area Breakdown
- 3rd WRST (UW-Oshkosh) KDB Radio

Station Imaging

- 1st UW-Green Bay Radio GBX Station Imaging 2024
- 2nd UW-Green Bay Station Imaging for Radio GBX
- 3rd UW-Green Bay Legal ID/Show Sweeper/Station Sweeper

Podcast

st WUEC (UW-Eau Claire) - Female Political Underrepresentation

- 2nd WUEC (UW-Eau Claire) Breaking Free: College Life After Strict Parenting
- 3rd WRST (UW-Oshkosh) Louder Than Words

Long Form Audio Storytelling

- 1st WUEC (UW-Eau Claire) Shortages and Struggles: The UWEC Housing Crisis
- 2nd WRST (UW-Oshkosh) A Mother's Memoir
- 3rd WUEC (UW-Eau Claire) Two Feet in Wisconsin, One Heart in Somalia: Finding Home in Barron

Episodic Emtertainment Program

- 1st WUEC (UW-Eau Claire) Philoso-Yappers
- 2nd UW-Green Bay "The Joe Show" Episode 11 -Broken Arrow Interview
- 3rd WUEC (UW-Eau Claire) Girl's Guide to College

Public Affairs/Talk Show

- 1st UW-Stevens Point Professor Jennifer Collins Election Night Interview
- 2nd WSUM (UW-Madison) The LaFollette Line: Women Shaping Wisconsin's Future
- 3rd UW-Stevens Point Politicking Me Off College Radio Day Special

Promo

- 1st WSUM (UW-Madison) Syd's 22nd Birthday
- 2nd UW-Stevens Point Jazzsides Promo
- 3rd UW-Green Bay Bay Area Breakdown Promo

PSA

- 1st WSUM (UW-Madison) Early Voting
- 2nd UW-Green Bay Believe You Can Rise (Cree Que Puedes Elevarte)
- 3rd WSUM (UW-Madison) Clairo's Bags

College/University - TV

Boyd Huppert Excellence in Television Writing Award

- 1st UW-Madison Art Show
- 2nd UW-Whitewater Benedict Vigil
- 3rd UW-Madison Maddox Durst Composite

News Series/Documentary

- 1st UW-Whitewater Modern Day Farmer
- 2nd UW-Milwaukee Saint Augustine
- 3rd UW-La Crosse The Dolowy Files

Newscast

- 1st UWECTV 10 BNN Oct. 16, 2024
- 2nd Titan TV (UW-Oshkosh) Titan TV News
- 3rd UW-Whitewater Wake Up Whitewater: Week of Nov. 18, 2024

General News Story

- 1st Milwaukee PBS/MATC MATC Now! 903: Souls to the Polls
- 2nd UW-La Crosse Vice President Harris' visit to La Crosse
- 3rd UW-Whitewater Benedict Vigil

Feature Story

- 1st Milwaukee PBS/MATC MATC Now! 905: Program of the Week (Baking & Pastry Arts)
- 2nd Milwaukee PBS/MATC Class Creative: Jacob Odrzywolski, Holiday Music
- 3rd UW-Madison Concrete Canoe Creates Passion, *Continued on page 18>*

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Four awarded scholarships at 2025 WBA Student Forum

Four scholarships were given out during the WBA Student Forum at Lambeau Field on Feb. 22 to students studying broadcasting in Wisconsin.

The recipients are:



Gerharz

Oliver Gerharz

Oliver Gerharz is the 2024 WBA Foundation Scholarship recipient.

Gerharz is attending UW-Madison and majoring in journalism. He is planning to graduate in spring of 2027.

His career goal is to work in radio production, focusing on researching stories and the editing stage of producing audio content.

In addition to his responsibilities as a student, Gerharz works at three local radio stations and a student newspaper. He produces a weekly interview show for college radio WSUM. He engineers on the weekends for Wisconsin Public Radio. And he produces a weekly campus news segment, a collaboration between community radio WORT and student

newspaper The Daily Cardinal, where he is also the

editorial director for the paper's podcasts.

His supporters say Gerharz is already living the life of a broadcast journalist. One wrote, "Oliver's record clearly shows how seriously he takes these opportunities to gain hands-on experience." He's described as curious and actively seeking out new opportunities.



Ray Kirsch

Ray Kirsch is the 2024 Morgan Murphy Media Scholarship recipient.

Kirsch is attending UW-Madison and majoring in journalism and English. They are planning to graduate

Their career goal is to work in editorial or audio/video production, preferably in publishing or broadcasting.

Kirsch was very involved on and off campus, having served as a reporter and talk director for WSUM student radio, staff writer for The Daily Cardinal, production director and fiction editor of the Madison Journal of Literary Criticism, poetry editor at The Madison Review, and culture editorial assistant at MODA Magazine. They've also published work with the Madison Public Library Foundation, Illumination Journal, and Brittle Paper.

Kirsch is described as a leader who "makes challenges approachable for their team by rolling up their

sleeves and leading by example." One of their instructors said Kirsch, "is one of those rare individuals who continually seeks out new challenges and looks for ways to increase their skills and improve the overall performance in anything they are doing."



Darvanian

BellaRain Darvanian is the 2024 Howard Gernetzke Scholarship recipient.

BellaRain Darvanian

Darvanian is attending UW-Green Bay and is majoring in audio production and music performance. She is planning to graduate in the spring of 2027.

Her career goal is to find healthier ways for the world to share information in the media industry.

Darvanian graduated from high school at the age of 16 and has been working at Seehafer Broadcasting in Manitowoc as an announcer on WLKN.

She's described as having a work ethic "like no other" as she juggles multiple jobs on top of schoolwork. One of her instructors wrote, "Ms. Darvanian is an excellent student with a high level of intelligence. She absorbs material quickly and asks specific questions that reveal how close she is to understanding difficult concepts entirely on her own." She's also described as self-motivated, respectful, teachable, helpful to her peers, and having a constant desire to improve.



Bonadonna

Joey Bonadonna

Joey Bonadonna is the 2024 David L. Nelson Scholarship recipient.

Bonadonna is attending UW-Madison and majoring in Journalism. He is planning to graduate in spring 2026.

His career goal is to become a play-by-play announcer for an NFL team.

Bonadonna has been very involved in broadcasting outside the classroom. He

served as the play-by-play announcer for the IFL's Green Bay Blizzard since spring 2021. He also works as a press box assistant for the Green Bay Packers as a part of their gameday staff at every home game. During my time at WSUM and Big Ten Plus, he's broadcast several Wisconsin athletic events, both on campus in Madison and around other locations across the country like Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Iowa City. In summer 2021, he spent time with the Green Bay Rockers of the Northwoods League, as part of their television broadcast crew and will be their TV play-by-play voice this summer. In 2020, he founded Triton Sports Network to broadcast Notre Dame Academy athletic events through COVID-19 restrictions.

Bonadonna is described as versatile, talented, incredibly motivated, humble, and hard-working.



UW-Oshkosh student TV station manager receives Student Leadership Award

Jenavieve Plutz, the station manager for student-run Titan TV on the UW-Oshkosh campus, was

recognized for her "exceptional abilities, dedication. and leadership." She was awarded the **WBA Student** Leadership Award at the



Plutz

Student Forum at Lambeau Field on Feb. 22. Titan TV General Manager

Justine Stokes said she was im-

pressed by her abilities and potential to recruit and retain students and encouraged her to apply for the station manager position.

"In this role, Jenavieve has consistently exceeded her job responsibilities," Stokes wrote. "She manages staff and producers, oversees show selection, conducts staff training, and fills in whenever needed, whether in front of or behind the camera. Titan TV's production schedule is a marathon, not a sprint, and Jenavieve excels at managing her own stress while recognizing when a student or production needs help."

Stokes said Plutz has a unique ability to meet students where they are and help them find their place.

"Whether it is a freshman with no experience, or an upperclassman interested in producing their own show, she makes students feel welcome and provides them with the tools to succeed."

Plutz said she learned a lot about her leadership style when she helped create and produce a live sketch comedy show on Titan

"I was managing around thirty people and always had so much to do," she wrote. "It became very

clear that I needed to stay organized, create deadlines to keep the show production on schedule, and communicate efficiently with my team. I also wanted to maintain a friendly relationship with my cast and crew so they knew I was someone they could go to with questions and concerns.

And she said she enjoys the work.

"I love helping people learn and feel comfortable with their tasks, being organized and making schedules, and working with a team and helping create a project together."

WBA STUDENT AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Continued from page 16 >

Family for Engineers at UW

Sports Show

- UW-Whitewater Warhawk Sports Saturday -UW-W vs UW-RF
- 2nd UW-Whitewater UWW-TV Sports Update -Week of Nov. 18, 2024
- 3rd UW-Whitewater Warhawk Sports Saturday -UW-W vs UMHB

Sports Story

- Milwaukee PBS/MATC Tour of America's Dairyland Pacecar
- 2nd Milwaukee PBS/MATC Tour of America's Dairyland Commissaire Interview - Ethan Ramsey
- 3rd UWECTV 10 New Season, New Home, New **Head Coach**

Sports Play-by-Play

- UW-Whitewater Warhawk Volleyball vs Platteville - Elite Eight Bound
- 2nd SPtv (UW-Stevens Point) UWSP Men's Hockev -Eau Claire vs. Stevens Point - Dec. 13, 2024
- Carthage College NECC Smash Bros Week 6: Carthage Firebirds vs UW-Steven's Point

- Milwaukee PBS/MATC Live at the Lakefront 2024 - Reverend Raven and the Chainsmoking
- 2nd Titan TV (UW-Oshkosh) Twelfth Night
- 3rd UW-Whitewater Warhawk Hall of Fame 2024

Photoiournalism

- 1st UW-Madison Art Show
- 2nd Milwaukee PBS/MATC MATC HVAC Program of
- 3rd UW-Whitewater Benedict Vigil

- Milwaukee PBS/MATC MATC Now! 902 Annphia Shelton/Ethan Ramsey
- 2nd Madison College MCTV: After Hours
- 3rd Titan TV (UW-Oshkosh) Honey-Do

Informational/Educational/Corporate Production

Madison College - Writer's Life Lecture Series with

Public Affairs/Talk Show

- 1st Milwaukee PBS/MATC Shattered Peace: Realities of **Gun Violence**
- 2nd UWECTV 10 Sounds of the Valley, Nov. 12, 2024
- 3rd Titan TV (UW-Oshkosh) Campus Clarity

Promo

- Titan TV (UW-Oshkosh) Titan TV 50th Anniversary
- Milwaukee PBS/MATC Tour of America's Dairyland West Allis Race Promo

PSA

- Titan TV (UW-Oshkosh) The Hub
- Titan TV (UW-Oshkosh) Student Recreation and Wellness Center

College/University - Radio and TV

- UW-Green Bay Radio GBX Station Social Media
- 2nd UW-Stevens Point WWSP 90FM Instagram Page
- 3rd UW-Madison Curb Magazine

Website

- UW-Madison Curb Magazine
- 2nd UW-Stevens Point WWSP 90FM Website
- UW-Whitewater UWW-TV Website

Seats available for Walker Broadcast Management Institute, April 15-17

The 26th Walker Broadcast Management Institute is set for April 15-17 on the UW-Madison campus. Enrollment is now open and seats are available. It's an excellent opportunity to grow your leadership and network in broadcasting.

The 2025 Institute marks the second year of another 3-year cycle (although you may join the cycle at any time) and is designed for broadcast managers and those seeking or being prepared for broadcast management positions.

All broadcasters are welcome. You need not be a member of the WBA.

To register please call the WBA office at 608-255-2600 or email contact@wi-broadcasters.org.



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Jowett Fellowship supports training for photographers

The Rick Jowett
Fellowship was
established in
2017 by the
Wisconsin
Broadcasters
Association
Foundation to
support educa-



Jowett

tional opportunities for photographers and videographers who work in media in Wisconsin.

Recipients of the fellowship can use the grant for professional development in the areas of photography and videography. Applicants must specify how the funds will be used. Potential uses include but are not limited to courswes offered by the National Press Photographers Association, the Poynter Institute, or any accredited college or university. This fellowship intends to award a total of up to \$2,000 in grants annually to multiple recipients to cover part or all of the recipients' expenses.

Apply at: wbafoundation.org/scholarships-grants/rick-jowett-fellowship **About Rick Jowett**

Rick grew up in a media family. His grandfather was CEO of Forward Communications which owned several television stations throughout the country. His family was also involved in the print media, the Wausau Herald. While in high school Rick began his career as a photographer working for the Wausau Herald. Rick Jowett completed his degree in journalism (UW-Madison) in the late 70s. Following graduation, Rick

Submission
Deadline is
June 1

started his career in broadcasting as a still photographer at WMTV-TV, in Madison. Rick began working with the WBA in 1985 as the Association's event photographer. He served graciously and unconditionally until his passing.









March 20, 2025 Webinar: Fair Use Fundamentals: Best Practices and Pitfalls for Journalists

with Charlie Kadado & Brian Wassom | Warner Norcross & Judd Delv

April 15-17, 2025 Walker Broadcast Management Institute UW-Madison Campus

April 17, 2025 Webinar: Environmental Reporting with Bob Lindmeier

May 3, 2025 WBA Awards Gala Madison Marriott West

May 15, 2025
Webinar: FCC, Government, &
Regulatory Update
with David Oxenford

June 18-19, 2025 WBA Summer Conference La Crosse Radisson, La Crosse

June 18, 2025
Golf Outing at WBA
Summer Conference
Forest Hills Golf Course

June 17-19, 2025 WBA Duke Wright Media Technology Institute La Crosse Radisson, La Crosse

Summer 2025 WBA's Doug Chickering – WIAA Sports Workshop Lambeau Field, Green Bay

Sept. 16-17, 2025 Midwest Regional Broadcasters Clinic

Madison Marriott West



More details

.org/events

registration at

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