



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Lisa Reynolds, Executive Director
515-224-7237

Iowa Broadcasters Association Honors Industry Leaders and Announces 2026 Award Winners

ALTOONA, Iowa (June 25, 2026) — The Iowa Broadcasters Association (IBA) recognized outstanding broadcasters and broadcast stations from across the state during its 2026 Annual Convention, held June 16 in Altoona. The Association presented its highest individual honors to five distinguished broadcasters, recognized excellence in radio and television through its annual Station Awards program, and announced its newly elected Board of Directors leadership.

"Local broadcasters play an essential role in informing, protecting, and connecting Iowa communities every day," said Bridget Breen, President of the Iowa Broadcasters Association. "This year's honorees represent the very best of our industry through their commitment to journalism, public service, community leadership, and broadcasting excellence."

2026 INDUSTRY AWARDS

Distinguished Service Award – Jeriann Ritter (WHO 13, Des Moines)

Jeriann Ritter has served Iowans as a trusted meteorologist at WHO 13 for more than two decades. Earlier this year, she was diagnosed with Bulbar-onset ALS. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes her professionalism, dedication to viewers, and lasting impact on Iowa broadcasting.

Broadcaster of the Year – Tom Robinson (KSOM & KSWI, Atlantic)

Tom Robinson has become one of southwest Iowa's most trusted local journalists through his dedication to local news, severe weather coverage, public affairs, and high school sports.

Hall of Fame – Randy Grossman (KDSN Radio, Denison)

Known as "Radio Ran," Randy Grossman dedicated 45 years to KDSN, broadcasting more than 30,000 sporting events while becoming a tireless community ambassador.

Hall of Fame – Dave Putnam (Spencer Radio Group)

Dave Putnam built a distinguished broadcasting career centered on community service and leadership while serving as General Manager of Spencer Radio Group and as a past president of the Iowa Broadcasters Association.

Hall of Fame – Lou Sipolt (WOI Local 5, Des Moines)

Lou Sipolt has spent nearly four decades connecting with Iowa audiences through radio and television and currently hosts Iowa Live on WOI-TV.

2026 STATION AWARD WINNERS

Breaking News Story

- **Radio:** KSOM-FM, Atlantic
- **Small Market TV:** KWQC-TV, Davenport
- **Large Market TV:** KCCI-TV, Des Moines

Sports Reporting

- **Radio:** KIFG-AM/FM, Iowa Falls
- **Small Market TV:** KTIV-TV, Sioux City
- **Large Market TV:** KCRG-TV, Cedar Rapids

Outstanding Sports Play-by-Play

- **Radio:** A2Z Broadcasting, Algona

News Special or Documentary

- **Small Market TV:** KWQC-TV, Davenport
- **Large Market TV:** KCRG-TV, Cedar Rapids

Severe Weather Coverage

- **Small Market TV:** WHBF/KLJB/WGCW, Quad Cities

Outstanding Commercial Production

- **Radio:** Titan Broadcasting, Burlington
- **Small Market TV:** KWQC-TV, Davenport
- **Large Market TV:** KCRG-TV, Cedar Rapids

Lifestyle Program

- **Small Market TV:** KWQC-TV, Davenport
- **Large Market TV:** KCRG-TV, Cedar Rapids

Digital Excellence

- **Small Market TV:** WHBF/KLJB/WGCW, Quad Cities
- **Large Market TV:** KCCI-TV, Des Moines

Outstanding Station Promotion

- **Radio:** Titan Broadcasting, Burlington
- **Small Market TV:** KTIV-TV, Sioux City
- **Large Market TV:** KCRG-TV, Cedar Rapids

Outstanding Public Service Campaign

- **Small Market TV:** KWQC-TV, Davenport

Newscast

- **Radio:** KSOM-FM, Atlantic
- **Small Market TV:** KWQC-TV, Davenport

Service to Iowa – Station Initiatives with Impact

- **Radio:** KSOU-FM, Sioux Center
- **Small Market TV:** KTIV-TV, Sioux City
- **Large Market TV:** KCRG-TV, Cedar Rapids

Account Executive of the Year

- **Radio:** Joy Walker, KIFG-AM/FM, Iowa Falls
- **Television:** Tim Oakley, KTIV-TV, Sioux City

2026–2027 BOARD LEADERSHIP

President: Bridget Breen

Vice President: Todd Steinkamp

Secretary/Treasurer: Thom Pritz

Immediate Past President: Bill Saluk

Newly Elected Director: Mark Little

Lisa Reynolds, Executive Director, said: "Whether covering breaking news, providing life-saving severe weather coverage, supporting local businesses, or telling the stories that bring communities together, Iowa broadcasters make a difference every single day."

ABOUT IBA

Founded in 1951, the Iowa Broadcasters Association represents more than 200 commercial and public radio and television stations across Iowa and is recognized as one of the nation's premier state broadcast associations.