



Alaska Broadcasters Association
700 W 41st Avenue, Suite #102, Anchorage, AK 99503
P: 907/258-2424; F: 907/258-2414

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CONTACT: Cathy Hiebert, ABA Executive Director, akbagold@gci.net; 907.258.2424

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ABA to induct Tom Abbott into Hall of Fame



Anchorage, AK: The Alaska Broadcasters Association will welcome **Tom Abbott** into the ABA Hall of Fame on November 7, 2025. **Tom** will be the 78th member of the ABA Hall of Fame, which was established in 1985.

Tom Abbott currently serves as the General Manager of KFSK-FM and is also the CEO of Narrows Broadcasting Corporation, which owns KFSK. In this leadership role, he guides all station operations—from staffing and compliance to programming and community outreach. Tom Abbot is a long-time leader in public broadcasting in Alaska. He is the longest-tenured radio manager in Southeast, starting at KFSK in 1990 and moving up to manager in 1998.

Under Abbott's direction, KFSK remains a vital public media institution dedicated to informing, enlightening, and entertaining the communities across Southeast Alaska—Petersburg, Coffman Cove, Whale Pass, Port Protection, Point Baker, and beyond. At KFSK, Tom has a number of remarkable achievements. He started an internship program in 2000 which has placed journalists in broadcasting jobs around the nation, including six in Alaska. Tom developed website and social media platforms to extend KFSK's service and influence. He managed the fundraising and construction of a new broadcast tower and transmission site in Petersburg. The community cafe discussions were convened to solicit input on broadcast services resulting in sustained panel call-in programs. He embarked on sustained financial support in the community for KFSK including development of the KFSK Endowment Fund. The station delivers essential local content: borough assembly meetings, school board sessions, high school sports, and cultural programming, alongside volunteer-hosted music shows and daily news. It also partners with NPR, BBC World Service, Alaska Public Radio Network, and PRX for national and international content. Abbott underscores KFSK's critical role during emergencies—often being the single source of real-time, actionable information in areas where other communication means fail. Residents rely on the

station when cell coverage drops, such as during landslides or storms. Facing recurring budget pressures, Abbott has consistently advocated for sustaining local services. For instance, when state funding cuts loomed, he prioritized maintaining staff and programming—even at the cost of reducing network shows. He has rallied community support in tough times—once prompting locals to contribute staples like paper towels and soap to keep operations going. When federal cuts threatened 30% of the station’s funding, Abbott spoke out, stressing that "small, rural stations" like KFSK face existential threats and emphasizing their unique importance in isolated communities.

Beyond station duties, Abbott plays a broader role in Alaska’s broadcasting landscape. He currently serves as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for the Alaska Broadcasters Association, representing KFSK regionally. He also benefits from the collaborative framework of CoastAlaska, the management service collective for Southeast Alaska public radio stations—offering shared engineering, payroll, and news services. Tom has served for many years on public broadcasting’s Journalism Advisory Board for Alaska. He also serves on the board of directors of Alaska Public Media. Tom started in broadcasting in 1984 at his college radio station in Minnesota.

Abbott is an involved and dedicated community leader in Petersburg. Tom is a long-time member of Petersburg Rotary, including serving as president. He was elected to a position on public library board for three years. He was elected to a position on the hospital board for fourteen years, and was board chair twelve years. His connection to the community he serves runs deep. In a standout moment, he was honored as the 2023 Norwegian-American of the Year, symbolizing both recognition of his efforts and his resonance with Petersburg’s Scandinavian heritage. He celebrated by participating in the Little Norway Festival parade—an emblematic gesture of mutual appreciation between him and the town.

Congratulations to Tom Abbott and his family.

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About the Alaska Broadcasters Association

Founded in 1964, the Alaska Broadcasters Association functions as a 501(c)6 nonprofit corporation, and is the official trade association serving all free, over-the-air radio and television stations in Alaska. The ABA's mission is to serve, educate and advocate for its members as well as the general public. For more information on the ABA, please visit www.alaskabroadcasters.org

Consideration for this honor is given to broadcasters with a minimum of 25 years in broadcasting in Alaska, a solid record of achievement including: promoting development and growth of TV & Radio broadcasters in AK, local/national awards, and a history of dedication to the communities they serve.