

= WABN =

WABN is an Oldies and Classic Hits @-@ formatted non @-@ commercial radio station licensed to Abingdon , Virginia . The station 's signal serves the towns of Abingdon , Lebanon , both in Virginia , and the twin cities of Bristol in Virginia and in Tennessee . WABN is owned and operated by Appalachian Educational Communication Corporation .

WABN was launched on December 10 , 1956 and has served the town of Abingdon for almost 60 years . Beginning as WBBI , the station has carried various formats including Country music and Religious . Over the years , the station aired programming from the Mutual Broadcasting System and later the NBC Radio Network .

WABN has been sold several times , including once to Bristol Broadcasting Company , which owns stations in Bristol . The station 's current owner , Bristol , Tennessee @-@ based Appalachian Educational Communication Corporation , purchased WABN on May 5 , 2004 . Since 2011 , WABN has been simulcasting on an FM translator station to increase its broadcast area .

= = History = =

= = = Pre @-@ Launch = = =

The original application for WABN was filed on March 6 , 1956 . The principal owners listed on the application were Nelson T. Barker and Lindy M. Seamon . At the time of the filing , Seamon was the general manager and chief engineer at WRIC .

On their application , the pair estimated the construction costs of building the station at \$ 19 @,@ 904 , with the first year operating costs at \$ 20 @,@ 000 . First year revenue was estimated at \$ 30 @,@ 000 . The application was approved by the Federal Communications Commission ( FCC ) on October 10 , 1956 . The new station was given the call sign WBBI during the first week of November 1956 .

= = = WBBI era = = =

On December 10 , 1956 , WBBI took to the airwaves for the first time , operating at 250 watts day and night . At the time of its launch , it was owned by Burley Broadcasting Company , which filed for a license to cover on January 9 , 1957 . This was approved on January 11 .

In April 1957 , WBBI was honored with two awards by the Virginia Associated Press Broadcasters Association ( VAPBA ) . In the " Commentary " category , the station was awarded second place in the " Non @-@ Metropolitan " division . The station placed third in the " Sports " category in the " Non @-@ Metropolitan " division . Burley Broadcasting Company transferred WBBI to Burley Broadcasting , Inc. for \$ 20 @,@ 000 in late July 1957 . Under the new company , original owners Nelson T. Barker and Lindy M. Seamon transferred 25 % of their shares to their wives , Ethel and Frances , respectively . In April 1958 , the station was again honored with a VAPBA award , this time for " Women 's News " .

On January 26 , 1959 , WBBI was granted permission to change from an unlimited or 24 @-@ hour @-@ a @-@ day schedule to a daytime only schedule . The station would sign on at 6 : 00 am and sign off at 7 : 00 pm . The VAPBA presented the station with awards in the " State and Local News " , " Farm " , " Special Events " , and " Women 's News " categories on May 2 , 1959 . The station received VAPBA awards for " State and Local News " , " Commentary " , and " Women 's News " in 1960 .

On September 14 , 1960 , Burley Broadcasting applied to increase the station 's daytime power to 1 @,@ 000 watts , while keeping its nighttime power at 250 watts . The power increase was granted November 29 , 1961 . In May 1962 , further VAPBA awards were presented to WBBI in the " Comprehensive News " , " Commentary " , " Sports " , " Women 's News " , and " Farm " categories .

On December 10 , 1966 , 10 years to the day after WBBJ launched , sister station WBBJ @-@ FM signed on . At the time , both WBBJ and WBBJ @-@ FM were carrying a country format with programming from the Mutual Broadcasting System . On April 26 , 1968 , Nelson and Ethel Barker sold their shares of WBBJ ( and WBBJ @-@ FM ) to co @-@ owners Lindy and Frances Seamon for \$ 30 @,@ 000 . The sale was granted on May 17 , 1968 .

Sister station WBBJ @-@ FM applied for the WABN @-@ FM call sign in mid @-@ March 1980 . The application was granted in mid @-@ May 1980 . In July 1982 , Burley Broadcasting began the process of selling WBBJ and sister station WABN @-@ FM to Southern Communications , Inc. for \$ 500 @,@ 000 . The sale was approved on September 24 , 1982 .

In 1984 , WBBJ dropped programming from the Mutual Broadcasting System in favor of programming from the NBC Radio Network . In mid @-@ February 1987 , Southern Communications agreed to sell WBBJ , along with sister station WABN @-@ FM , to Edwards and Sutherland Broadcasting Company for \$ 466 @,@ 200 . The new company would be operated by Richard W. Edwards and Craig Sutherland . At the time , Edwards also owned WDIC . The sale was granted in late April / early May .

= = = Present era = = =

On August 2 , 1992 , the station 's call sign was changed from WBBJ to the current WABN .

On October 17 , 1995 , WABN was placed in debtor in possession status by the FCC . Almost four years later , on November 11 , 1999 , WABN and WABN @-@ FM were sold to Bristol Broadcasting Company for an unknown sum . Less than two years later , on July 5 , 2001 , Bristol Broadcasting Company donated WABN to the Abingdon Church of the Nazarene . Bristol Broadcasting Company retained its sister station , now under the WFHG @-@ FM call sign .

On May 16 , 2003 , WABN was once again on the seller 's block , this time to be sold to Living Faith Ministries , Inc. for \$ 50 @,@ 000 . The sale was not consummated and the Abingdon Church of the Nazarene retained ownership of the station .

The Abingdon Church of the Nazarene tried again , on April 26 , 2004 , to sell WABN . The Appalachian Educational Communication Corporation ( AECC ) , based in Bristol , Tennessee , agreed to purchase the station for \$ 50 @,@ 000 . Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority , Kenneth C. Hill , is the President and CEO of AECC . At the time of the sale , WABN was broadcasting a religious format . The sale was closed on May 5 , 2004 .

In 2009 , WABN switched to its current Oldies and Classic Hits format . On September 27 , 2011 , WABN began simulcasting its signal onto translator station W277BT 103 @.@ 3 , which is also licensed to Abingdon . WABN is operated as a non @-@ commercial station . Today , WABN airs a mix of local information and sports , along with the Oldies and Classic Hits music .

= = Programming = =

WABN produces a local public service program called " Abingdon Talks " , which airs on Sundays . The station broadcasts the entire schedule of Abingdon High School athletics live throughout the year .

Syndicated programs heard on WABN include Earth & Sky and the Old Farmer 's Almanac " Radio Report " . The station is an affiliate of the Virginia Market News Service , a division of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services . Mike Cox , a staff meteorologist at AECC , provides local weather forecasts on WABN twice an hour .

= = Translator = =

In addition to the main station , WABN is relayed by an FM broadcast translator to widen its broadcast area .