



Diverse Radio for Minnesota's Communities

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For immediate release

Ampers adds two more stations significantly increasing minority programming in Minnesota

Members of the Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio stations voted unanimously to approve membership applications from KOJB-FM (90.1 FM The Eagle) serving the entire Leech Lake Reservation and KBFT (89.9 FM) serving Nett Lake. KOJB is licensed to and operated by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and KBFT is licensed to and operated by Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. With the additional stations Ampers now has fourteen member stations. Ampers is the largest network of community radio stations in Minnesota and one of the largest of its kind in the nation.

The educational mission of KOJB is to enhance the history, language, and way of life of the Anishinaabeg people as well as airing national Native American media and noncommercial programming. KOJB Station Manager Brad Walhof says, "KOJB brings educational programming, news, history and entertainment to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Community. Our programming targets all residents in the counties of Itasca, Cass, Hubbard and Beltrami; to all populations to help increase intercultural competency."

KBFT General Manager George Strong says his station's programming will be very diverse. "We'll have programs on Bois Forte history and culture including original Anishinabemoen Language components," strong says. "We also have hosts interested in producing shows featuring Blues, Jazz, and Country."

"We're very excited to have these two new stations as part of our group," Ampers President Michele Jansen said. "Unfortunately in these difficult economic times many community stations are closing their doors. It's great to see Minnesota bucking that trend and adding community stations."

Table with 6 columns and 2 rows listing radio stations and their locations: KAXE-FM Grand Rapids, KFAI-FM Minneapolis / St. Paul, KSRQ-FM Thief River Falls, KUMM-FM Morris, KVSC-FM St. Cloud, KBEM-FM Minneapolis / St. Paul, KMOJ-FM Minneapolis / St. Paul, KQAL-FM Winona, KUMD-FM Duluth-Superior, KUOM-AM/FM Minneapolis / St. Paul, WTIP-FM Grand Marais, KMSU-FM / KMSK-FM Mankato / Austin



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Ampers Executive Director Joel Glaser says, "Ampers is committed to supporting community radio stations that serve minorities not typically reached through traditional media. KOJB and KBFT are perfect examples of stations providing programming that residents in the area can't find anywhere else." Glaser goes on to say, "Several of our existing stations had programming for the American Indian communities. Now we have two stations completely dedicated to serving American Indians in their area."

Ampers is a network of 14 independent community radio stations in Minnesota. Each station is locally managed and programmed by and for the local communities they serve. The stations are all licensed to a college, school, university, or directly to the community. The stations include: WTIP (Grand Marais/Grand Portage/Gunflint Trail), KAXE (Grand Rapids, Bemidji, Brainerd), KSRQ (Thief River Falls), KUMD (Duluth/Superior), KVSC (St. Cloud), KUMM (Morris), KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul), KMOJ (Minneapolis/St. Paul), KUOM "Radio K" (Minneapolis/St. Paul), KBEM "Jazz88" (Minneapolis/St. Paul), KMSU (Mankato/Austin), KQAL (Winona), and now KOJB (Cass Lake/Bena) and KBFT (Nett Lake). Ampers has no affiliation with Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) and receives no financial support from MPR.

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KAXE-FM Grand Rapids	KFAI-FM Minneapolis / St. Paul	KSRQ-FM Thief River Falls	KUMM-FM Morris	KVSC-FM St. Cloud	KBEM-FM Minneapolis / St. Paul
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