

121st Annual

IBTA Convention • June 7-9, 2026
The Four Seasons, St. Louis, MO



IBTA Convention

Premiere Sponsor:



AGENDA

Sunday

11:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. St Louis Cardinals Game - Suite (pre registered only - must download MLB app to get your ticket with the email you registered with.)

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Welcome Reception

Monday

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Breakfast and Registration
Ballroom Lobby

8:00 a.m. Welcome – Mike Grisham, Chairman, IBTA Board of Directors
Presentation of Awards, Illinois Legislative & Regulatory Update - Randy Nehrt,
IBTA President
Ballroom A

8:30 a.m. *Federal Telecom Policy Update*
Derrick Owens, WTA, Senior Vice President of Government & Industry Affairs

9:20 a.m. *Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program Update*
Devon Braunstein, Director, Illinois Office of Broadband and Shawna Taets,
Broadband Policy Manager, Illinois Office of Broadband

10:20 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. *Broadband Meets AI: Innovation, Responsibility, and the Road Ahead*
Laura Matthews, Director Product Design, NISC

Artificial Intelligence is transforming industries worldwide, and broadband is no exception. This session will explore how generative and agentic AI can drive new efficiencies, improve customer service, and support operational excellence for providers. We'll also discuss security, compliance, and ethical design considerations to ensure AI is implemented responsibly. Attendees will walk away with practical ideas for getting started and a clear view of what's coming next.



11:30 p.m. Lunch & Annual Meeting
Ballroom Lobby

Note to Vendors: Exhibit Hall will be open for display setup 1:30-4:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. *How Service Providers Can Capitalize on National Opportunities and AI Data Center Expansion in Rural Areas - Panel Discussion*

Panel: Cara Walker - VP of Sales, Aurora Fiber Network (MN), Jess Parisoff, VP of Sales, Kansas Fiber Network, Ryan Dutton, VP of Sales, SDN Communications (SD) and Kasey Robinson - VP of Sales INDATEL

2:15 p.m. *When Cyber Security Fails, What Happens?*

Peter Elliott, Owner, Rural Trust Insurance Company, Susan Hamilton, Vice President at Grafton Technologies

Almost all businesses have had an auto accident or injured employee that turns into an insurance claim. With cyber incidents becoming more frequent, a look inside what that process looks like helps a business owner and manager hit the ground running. Every moment spent figuring out what to do increases the odds of a negative outcome exponentially. This session will let you hear from an insurance expert who has been in many incident war rooms and a rural independent from your state who was a victim of an incident.

3:30 p.m. IBTA Board of Directors Meeting
Board Room

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. IBTA Vendor Exhibition and Reception
Ballroom B&C

Dinner on your own

Tuesday

6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
Mississippi

7:00 a.m. Check-in for Jack Tharp Scholarship Fund Golf Scramble
The Courses at Forest Park

8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start at The Courses at Forest Park

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Flamingo Bowl - No transportation provided (pre registered only)