



ABC &-NEWS

A weekly newsletter on North Carolina policy and political news relevant to the North Carolina's ABC Boards

ABC Boards on Twitter



It was a rather innocuous Tweet on March 26, but with it the NC Association of ABC Boards joined the Twitter world and has posted almost daily from the handle @nc_boards with news of buyback programs, articles on why privatization is a bad idea, and news about the COVID-19 pandemic in North Carolina.

The ABC Boards' Twitter page is managed by lobbyist Brian Lewis, who leads up New Frame's communications strategy and work for the Association.

"We are excited about the communications program we are building with our lobbying team," said NCAACB President Miles Davis. "We have a positive story to tell about our work and what it means to North Carolina, especially during these uncertain times for the state, counties, and municipalities."

Davis encourages ABC Boards to reach out to New Frame, to keep them updated on ABC Board happenings in local communities so they can detail for legislators, and the public, the positive impact a controlled system is having across the state.

ABC Boards Ready & Staffed for Short Session

The General Assembly returns to Raleigh on April 28 for its scheduled short session, a legislative session in which legislators' main job is to write a budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

The good news is that no budget agreement last summer means lawmakers have over \$3 billion in money to spend, however a worldwide health pandemic hit the North Carolina economy and left tens of thousands of North Carolinians out of work, drawing unemployment, and paying fewer taxes. In other words, it's going to be a tough legislative session for many.

On top of the economic downturn befallen the state, health concerns continue. Senate Leader Phil Berger (R-Rockingham/Surry/Stokes/Caswell) released a statement last week announcing that the Legislative Building will be closed to the public during the first two weeks of the session, which will be dedicated exclusively to COVID-19 legislation and the immediate needs of the state. The General Assembly will then recess and return midsummer for the traditional short session in late July when the state knows how much revenue it will have to spend.

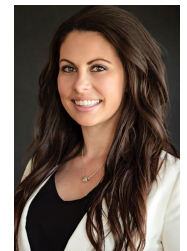
The NC Association of ABC Boards has been in talks with legislative leaders through its new Raleigh-based lobbying team at New Frame comprised of (left-to-right) Skye David, an attorney and lobbyist; and lobbyists Jason Joyner and Brian Lewis. Lewis also

specializes in political communications and will lead the ABC Board's public relations work, including social media and this e-newsletter.



Jon Carr remains a registered lobbyist for NCAACB and will work with David to provide the Association with legal services.

In addition to a new lobbying team, Jim Thompson and Caroline Grant at Capitol Hill Management Services, an association management services company with offices in Raleigh, are now overseeing the day-to-day administrative and organizational activities of the NC Association of ABC Boards.



Use the underlined hotlines in this newsletter for email addresses.