

— FOUNDER · BROADCASTER · RECORD EXECUTIVE · PUBLIC SERVANT

Dr. Mark A. Ballard, Sr.

Two-time Stellar Award-winning broadcaster. Sony / Orchard-distributed label president. Chairman, National Association of Gospel Radio. Builder of institutions, careers, and campaigns at the intersection of faith, media, music, and the public square.

"We plot the course like a Harvard case study — and execute like a DJ spinning a hit."



— THE STORY

Built from the *ground*.

Approx. 500 words. Cleared for websites, press, event programs, and keynote introductions.

Born and raised in Lorain, Ohio, **Dr. Mark A. Ballard, Sr.** is an astute businessman, CEO, visionary, leader, and family man whose career has turned a hometown platform into a multi-lane vehicle for gospel music, media, education, and community development.

A Top 10 graduate of Lorain High School – National Honor Society, Who’s Who Among American High School Students – he graduated from La Salle College in 1989. He holds two honorary doctorate degrees in recognition of his leadership in ministry, media, and public service, and was ordained in 2018.

He launched his entrepreneurial career in 1993, opening and operating **eight Papa John’s Pizza franchises** with a \$7 million annual budget and more than 250 employees – experience that grounded him in the Fortune-100 disciplines of people, P&L, and scale. He later served as District Director for U.S. Congresswoman Betty Sutton.

A rare operator fluent in two languages most leaders never master together — the Black church and the Fortune-100 toolkit.

Dr. Ballard is President of Blackberry Records (launched December 1991) and Founder & President of Marxan Records (founded 1995). Together, the **Blackberry / Marxan Music Group** develops world-class talent reaching urban gospel and mainstream audiences. Marxan currently houses seven signed artists and, distributed through The Orchard / Sony Music Entertainment, has earned Stellar Award nominations for The Christianaires, Charles Woolfork, and Tim Woodson & The Heirs Of Harmony, and Dove Award nominations for Rufus Troutman, Charles Woolfork, and Shadonna Navarro.

In November 2014, Dr. Ballard launched **WNZN Power 89.1 FM** – the first brand-new urban inspirational station in Northeast Ohio – serving Huron, Lorain, and Cuyahoga Counties. WNZN is a two-time Stellar Award-winning station and eight-time nominee, owned by the P.A.C.E. Foundation, his 501©(3) addressing youth development, workforce development, and economic development. He also operates the Power Gospel Network (PGN), an OTT platform extending that mission worldwide, chairs the National Association of Gospel Radio, and is a 2022 graduate of the NAB Leadership cohort.

His public service runs just as deep. A 13-year veteran of the Lorain City Schools Board of Education, he helped lead the district out of House Bill 70 state takeover. In 2026 he was named Chair of the Public Defender’s Commission of Lorain County. He serves as Chairman of the Lorain Port Authority, Chairman of the Sewer & Water Advisory Board, Chaplain of the Lorain Police Department, and Vice Chair of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio. He is an ordained elder and trustee of the combined Greater Victory Christian Ministries and Now Faith Ministries.

— THE RECEIPTS

Not the resume — *the record.*

Current leadership, civic service, and recognition across media, music, and the public square.

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

- **Founder & CEO**, P.A.C.E. Foundation — 501©(3) noncommercial broadcaster
- **CEO**, WNZN Power 89.1 FM — Huron, Lorain & Cuyahoga Counties
- **CEO**, Power Gospel Network (PGN) — OTT streaming
- **Founder & President**, Marxan Records (est. 1995; The Orchard / Sony)
- **President**, Blackberry Records (est. 1991)
- **Chairman**, National Association of Gospel Radio

PRIOR LEADERSHIP

- District Director, U.S. Congresswoman Betty Sutton
- Franchisee / Operator — 8 Papa John’s locations, \$7M budget, 250+ staff (est. 1993)

CIVIC & BOARD SERVICE

- Lorain City Schools Board — 13 yrs; **helped end House Bill 70 state takeover**
- Chair, Public Defender’s Commission of Lorain County (2026)
- Chairman, Lorain Port Authority
- Chairman, Sewer & Water Advisory Board, City of Lorain
- Chaplain, Lorain Police Department
- Vice Chair, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio
- Ordained Elder & Trustee — Greater Victory / Now Faith Ministries

RECOGNITION & HONORS

- Two honorary doctorate degrees · Ordained 2018
- 2× Stellar Award winner · 8× Stellar nominee (radio)
- 2022 Graduate, NAB Leadership Cohort
- Marxan Stellar noms: The Christianaires · Charles Woolfork · Tim Woodson & The Heirs Of Harmony

7	3	6	1991
SIGNED ARTISTS	COUNTIES SERVED	MEDIA PROPERTIES	LABEL FOUNDED

— SIGNATURE TALKS

Leave the room *different.*

Six talks, each customized to your audience and theme. Keynote, motivational, lecture, or panel formats.

01

What Do You Have in the House?

Leveraging what's already in your hand to build from nothing.

SIGNATURE KEYNOTE

02

Frequency of Purpose

Broadcasting on the right frequency to the right audience at the right time.

ANCHOR TALK

03

From Takeover to Turnaround

How a community took its school district back from state control.

CIVIC · EDUCATION

04

Build the Kingdom & the Bank Account

Faith-informed entrepreneurship without the shortcuts or the apology.

FAITH × BUSINESS

05

The Servant Leader's Playbook

Board governance, accountability, and legacy from 13 years of service.

NONPROFIT · CIVIC

06

Gospel in the Digital Age

Keeping Black sacred music alive — and profitable — in a streaming world.

MUSIC · MEDIA

— BOOKING · SPEAKER FEES

FORMAT 01

Panel & Moderated Sessions

Panel seat, fireside chat, or moderated Q&A. Virtual rate at lower end.

\$2.5K–\$5K

FORMAT 02

Keynote & Motivational Talk

The full signature keynote, fully tailored. The headline booking.

\$15K–\$30K

FORMAT 03

Lectures, Workshops & Intensives

Half- or full-day teaching. Universities, retreats, staff development.

\$7.5K–\$20K

How quotes work: Ranges reflect typical engagements; final fee is set by date, travel, format, audience size, and customization. **Nonprofit, faith, and education rates** are available — if the mission aligns, start the conversation; a limited number of reduced and pro bono engagements are reserved each year. Travel & lodging billed separately at cost. A signed agreement and deposit hold the date.

— BOOKING & PRESS

Let's get to *work.*

For keynote bookings, lectures, panels, interviews, media requests, or bulk book orders – the booking desk is open.

BOOKING INQUIRIES

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(440) 341-0402

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WEB

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The Will to Rise · \$14.99

Bounce Back – coming soon



"Creating solutions for successful lives and healthy communities."

P.A.C.E. FOUNDATION
MARXAN / BLACKBERRY MUSIC GROUP
WNZN POWER 89.1 FM · PGN