



Minutes

December 2021 Board Meeting

📅 Thu December 16th, 2021

🕒 2:00pm - 5:00pm EST

📍 Zoom Meeting

👤 **In Attendance**

Jack Acosta, Colin Benedict, Ellen Crooke, Scott Diener, Vince Duffy, JJ Green, Lynn Hatter, Sherri Jackson, Alisha McDevitt, Allison McGinley, Sean McLaughlin, Lisa Polizzi, Tara Puckey, Michael Sanserino, Jam Sardar, Tim Scheld, Jennifer Seelig, Dan Shelley, Terence Shepherd, Alex Silverman, Robert Thomas, Loren Tobia, Kathy Walker, Sheryl Worsley, Kimberly Wyatt

I. **Call to Order & Welcome**

McGinley called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Eastern.

- a. **Roll Call**
- b. **Assignment of Minutes**

II. **Approval of Minutes**

Decision: Green moved to approve all the minutes in a block and was seconded by Worsley. Motion passed with no opposition.

- a. **September 16, 2021**
- b. **September 22, 2021**
- c. **September 25, 2021**

III. **Future Focus Exercise**

IV. **Executive Director Report**

New 2yr contract for the executive director announced, Shelley sends his thanks for the confidence and support.

VOFA Update – Big Win in Open Courts Act being sent to full Senate Floor with some bipartisan support.

VOFA Loss – Senate Bill 98 (Illegal to Arrest Bill) CA Supreme Court denied request to hear the La County Case appeal regarding court case video access.

VOFA – expressed concerns over the case of Trump DHS using government terrorist database to investigate journalists.

V. **Chief Staff Officer Report**

a. **Holiday Staffing**

Staff has a lighter schedule over the holidays but Puckey and Shelley will be available for emergencies, should any arise.

b. **Save the Dates: First Amendment Dinner, RTDNA22, Murrow Gala**

- March 9th FAD Dinner (Marriott Marquis) / Board Meeting March 10th National Press Club
- RTDNA 22 -Indianapolis 9/14-16
- Murrow Dinner – October 10, 2022 NYC

VI. **FY22 Budget**

Duffy takes over the Budget Discussion explains the process that got us to this recommendation to pass. Discussion included Tobia speaking to his confidence of the process as he handles his last year as Treasurer.

Decision: Shepherd made a motion to approve, Worsley seconded.
Motion approved unanimously.

VII. **Chair Report**

McGinley thanks Regional Directors outreach to current members. It has been helpful and impressive. Next update next month if possible. McGinley promises new talking points.

Board Donations: McGinley reminds the board that we are hoping for full participation (68% today). Puckey says donations are coming in during the board call!

Alumni engagement call happening Dec 27th. Shelley, McGinley and Tobia will speak for the organization on the holiday zoom with private FB group of RTDNA alum.

a. **Committee Updates**

VIII. **Chair-Elect Report**

Suggestion by Scheld that maybe regional zooms might be great way to engage in feedback loops.

IX. **Treasurer Report**

Growth in Foundation and Endowment reported.

X. **Adjourn as Association/Convene as Foundation**

Decision: Worsley moves to adjourn as Association and meet as Foundation. Duffy seconds and all approve.

a. **Chair Report**

No chair report. Duffy presenting for Stahlman.

b. **Treasurer's Report**

c. **New Business**

1. **First Amendment Award Winners**

FAD slate was unanimously approved by the EC. Duffy walked the board through each of the candidates.

A couple of questions were asked by Jackson (timing of vote) and Hatter (duplicate names).

Shelley gave a walk through of Defender Award nominees.

Discussion over the importance of choosing the correct lawmaker for the award.

Decision: Tobia moved that we pass the slate with nominees and backups. Walker seconded. Slate passed unanimously.

d. **Old Business**

e. **Adjourn as Foundation/Convene as Association**

Decision: Walker moves to adjourn as the Foundation and reconvene as the Association. Worsley seconds. All approve.

XI. **New Business**

McGinley sends best to Stahlman and other teams working on the tornado coverage and local efforts to serve the communities in need. Well done to all.

XII. **Old Business**

XIII. **Adjournment**

Decision: Jackson motions to adjourn, Worsley seconds, and all approve.

Meeting ends 3:41 p.m. Eastern.