RTDNA/F Summer Board meeting minutes

Meeting held by conference call on 6-17-14

Present for the call were: RTDNA Chair Chris Carl, RTDNF Chair Vincent Duffy, RTDNA Chair Elect Amy Tardif, Executive Director Mike Cavender, and board members Dan Shelley, Jerry Walsh, Randy Bell, Ed Esposito, Holly Gaunt, Kathy Walker, Terry Scott, Jam Sardar, Bill Roswell, Terence Shepherd, Dave Trafford, Harvey Nagler, Sean McGarvy , Scott Libin

Meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm.

Amy Tardif moved to approve the minutes of the March 2014 meeting, Gaunt seconded. The motion passed without objection.

**Executive Director Report**:

Mike Cavender delivered the Executive Director's report.

Updated items included current status of the FAA-Drone issue as it relates to local media use of drones. Many people are looking for waivers from the FAA to operate drones. Newsrooms would like to use them as well. Mike believes FAA is more likely to approve individual companies rather than an industry. The FAA will almost certainly require some type of licensed pilot to operate the drone, but not sure what type of pilot. Stations who want to operate a drone will possibly need to have someone on staff who is some type of pilot.

Mike was pleased to report that we have closed a deal for a new $100,000 - $125,000 endowed scholarship from the estate plan of Bill Clarke from Denver. The endowment is designed to fund two scholarships for students living in or attending university in the Rocky Mountain Region.

**CHAIR REPORT:**

Chris Carl reports the search of Region 5 for a regional director continues.

He represented RTDNA at RTDNA Canada’s national convention. It went well and he had great time.

**CHAIR ELECT REPORT:**

Amy Tardif says this week presenters are being notified about their program time slots at EIJ. The schedule is coming together well. Pre-convention workshops are open for registration.

Mike Cavender added that we have made about $50,000 so far on RTDNA sales.

Amy says the “old timers” panel has been submitted and approved.

Dan Shelley asked if RTDNA should do anything at the convention to commemorate 9-11 and its place in the last planned Nashville convention? Mike suggested perhaps doing something as part of the Paul White event.

**Audit/Finance Committee** – Kathy Walker

RTDNA has maintained its plan of providing regular deposits into our investment accounts. The Audit/Finance Committee will provide a full budget report at the convention.

Ed Esposito presented the case for greatly improved record keeping and document storage for RTDNA/F. There is lots of information sitting around in different places.

**Governance Committee**

A bylaws change was suggested to include the words “television and digital” in our description of student chapters. Esposito moved, Shelley seconded. The board voted to send it to the full membership for a vote at the business meeting at the convention.

**Awards Committee** – Dan Shelley

Dan thanked everyone for their judging during a record year for entries and revenue.

The awards committee plans to meet by conference call in July to make a recommendation to the board regarding the creation of a student award.

The CNN breaking news award was approved by the awards committee and the executive committee. The Chair wants to discuss it at the full board meeting in September. Dan motioned and Ed seconded. It was approved.

**Ethics Committee** – Scott Libin

The ethics committee continues to work on the new ethics document (but it is not completed) and is preparing for the ethics session at the EIJ. Its next scheduled meeting is 6-19-14.

**Membership** – Harvey Nagler

Discussions are underway to get CBS to join as a group membership. The membership currently stands at 1043 members.

Dan Shelley moved we adjourn as RTDNA and reconvene as RTDNF. Ed Esposito seconded. The motion carried.

Chairman Duffy previously sent to the board a proposed Endowment Spending Policy – a public statement on how the foundation intends to allocate unrestricted funds given to the foundation. Esposito moved to accept the document for discussion. Shelley seconded.

The board discussed the document, with Duffy and Cavender answering questions from board members.

Shelly moved to amend the document to include the word “and” in the Foundation’s name between the words Radio and Television. Esposito seconded.

The motion to adopt the Endowment Spending Policy carried unanimously.

Esposito moved to accept document as amended.

Shelley seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

Duffy said he has been in touch with RTDNA/F staff and logistics for the Paul White Award presentation at EIJ are progressing.

Esposito presented the RTDNF treasurer’s report. He stated, “All is well.”

Cavender added that the RTDNF investment account is healthy.

Esposito said there was record interest in RTDNF scholarships this year, and he will be seeking scholarship judges in the near future.

The Foundation board adjourned at 4:04pm Eastern.

Old Business – None

New Business -

Scott Libin has a new job. This will allow him to stay on the board. He will be a senior fellow at University of Minnesota School of Journalism.

The Board Adjourned at 4:07pm