





## Minutes

### June 2021 Board Meeting

 Wed June 23rd, 2021

 1:00pm - 3:00pm EDT

 Zoom Meeting

#### **In Attendance**

Jack Acosta, Fiona Conway, Vince Duffy, Lynn Hatter, Sherri Jackson, Allison McGinley, Brandon Mercer, Lisa Polster, Tara Puckey, Jam Sardar, Tim Scheld, Dan Shelley, Terence Shepherd, Andrea Stahlman, Loren Tobia, Kathy Walker, Sheryl Worsley

#### I. **Call to Order & Welcome**

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. Eastern.

##### a. **Roll Call**

##### b. **Assignment of Minutes**

Minutes were assigned to Terence Shepherd.

#### II. **Approval of Minutes**

##### a. **Bylaws Amendment Votes: All Three Passed (Record Keeping Purposes, No Action Needed)**

###### **Bylaws Amendment Votes:**

All Three Passed (Record Keeping Purposes, No Action Needed)

- Regional Director Candidate residency requirement
- Extending qualifying period for board candidates

Prohibition on running for multiple offices simultaneously

b. **December 17, 2020**

**For the Record:** These minutes were approved via a Boardable poll that closed on Friday, May 21.

Dec 17, 2020 meeting minutes approved via a Boardable poll that closed on Friday, May 21.

III. **Executive Director Report**

Keeping eyes on and advocating for several measures, including a House judiciary committee initiative that would make all federal court documents free through the PACER system. It was passed at the end of the year last year but time expired.

Federal shield law bill is coming up again.

Met last week with News Media for Open Government, Reporters' Committee about a federal shield law. Most states have state shield laws protecting journalists from revealing confidential sources.

**Decision:** Kathy Walker moved that the meeting move into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Sheryl Worsley seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissent.

**Decision:** Vince Duffy moved to exit executive session. Sheryl Worsley seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissent.

a. **Personnel Policy**

Page 9 of our personnel policy lists federal holidays that are also holidays for RTDNA staff. Last week, Juneteenth was established as a federal holiday. Staff gets paid time off on all federal holidays.

We also might want to change our employee handbook language from Columbus Day to Columbus/Indigenous People's Day.

Lynn Hatter wants to know why Veterans Day is not included among our PTO holidays.

See monthly reports for more details on executive director's activities.

**Decision:** Allison McGinley moved that we add Juneteenth to the list of paid time off holidays for RTDNA staff. Sherri Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissent. (This will go into effect in 2022.)

b. **VFA Update**

#### IV. Chief Staff Officer Report

a. **Staffing Update**

Karen Hansen left in April. Since then, Barefoot has been helping with communications coverage

b. **RTDNA21 Update**

We are making every effort to articulate how different this conference will be. We don't want people to be talked at. We want conferees to walk in and walk out with a tangible skill. We are doubling down on our two pillars: representation and resilience. Every program and activity is layered with these two pillars.

#### V. Chair Report

a. **Region 1 Appointment**

**Decision:** Yvonne Simons, KNTU, is under consideration.

Sherri Jackson moved that we accept this recommendation. Brandon seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissent.

b. **Region 4/8 Appointment Update**

Tabled for now.

#### VI. Chair-Elect Report

a. **RTDNA21 Conference Programming Update**

If you know of anyone who can be a great leader at the conference let me know. Building your personal brand. See Traci Davidson, NBC10 Philadelphia, is a good example.

Because we are not going to the same well, we are going to companies and organizations that expect or require payment, so the executive committee agreed to pay or use other enticements like donations.

Kathy has lots of fun things planned for the board.

Tara wants everyone to send her tentative travel dates.

Dan: According to the board travel policy, RTDNA will pay first and last night's hotel, presuming you stay for both meetings. You're also comped for conference registration. Travel is on your own unless you're an elected officer of the association. That includes Allison, Loren, Terence, and Andrea. Tara asks people to consult with their companies first for reimbursements.

One other little note: Allison has travel credits so she paid only \$30 bucks for the flight to Denver. Please go back to your frequent flier miles and see what you can do.

Tara, Christen and Kate purchased super duper Southwest Airlines sale fares. Dan is using a travel voucher from last year.

Kathy Walker says Denver is a hub for Frontier, Southwest and United so there should be lots of options.

## VII. **Treasurer Report**

Balance up \$56,000 to \$665,509. Meeting coming up with PNC.

## VIII. **Adjourn as Association/Convene as Foundation**

**Decision:** Loren Tobia entered the motion. Vince Duffy seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissent.

### a. **Assignment of Minutes**

### b. **Chair Report**

Terence opened with a review of the Paul White and Doug Hogan award recipient slates.

He provided several names to consider for each award.

#### 1. **White/Hogan Award Winners**

**Decision:** The board approved as slate of candidates for the Paul White Award. Motion to accept the slate was made by Tim Scheld, and seconded by Loren Tobia.

**Decision:** Sherri Jackson made the motion to approve the slate of candidates for the John F. Hogan Award. Brandon Mercer seconded the motion. Board approved.

### c. **Treasurer Report**

Terence turned it over to Kathy Walker for the RTDNF Treasurer report.

Kathy reported the RTDNF endowment account is up to \$28,105 as of May 28th.

And the RTDNF main investment account now stands, at \$2,165,000.

Both funds showed gains in May.

d. **New Business**

Loren Tobia asked what was planned for the scholarship winners at the upcoming convention.

Tara Puckey said we are inviting both 2020 and 2021 winners to attend the conference, and working on a potential sponsorship luncheon for the recipients.

Loren asked how much is the sponsorship ask/cost – Tara said 10K, total - \$18-24K

He suggested David Louie be honored, and possibly be the keynote speaker. 51 years ago the first RTDNA scholarship was presented to David Louie at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver.

e. **Old Business**

Terrence brought up that Janice Gin has volunteered to head up a committee to formalize the Oldfield endowment's purpose and protocols. We are going to move forward with this.

Sherri Jackson asked about the status of the Oldfield pins from 2020 donations. Tara says she has them and will get them distributed.

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

**Decision:** Loren Tobia motioned to adjourn as the Foundation and reconvene as the Association. Sherri Jackson seconded. Motion passed.

IX. **New Business**

Loren Tobia asked how we are doing with sales for the convention and Murrows.

Tara said that she and Holly have had three different Save the Dates, there's a flier, communications, what we're doing and we have received feedback from sponsors.

Tara says we won't have a large expo floor, we will have smaller lounges, and places for people to hang out between sessions. Branding, individual elements, all sorts of different ways to engage with sponsors.

Andrea asked Tara, how much sponsorship do we usually get for White/Hogan reception? Tara says it's usually \$8k apiece. In the past we have had one at the level and another add on components.

X. **Old Business**

Tara asks board members to please book with the conference hotel.

## XI. **Adjournment**

**Decision:** Sheryl Worsley moved that we adjourn the meeting. Vince Duffy seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissent.

Meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.