



Minutes

June 2020 Board Meeting

📅 Thu June 4th, 2020

🕒 2:00pm - 4:00pm EDT

📍 Zoom Meeting

👤 In Attendance

Bill Dallman, Christen DeBard, Scott Diener, Vince Duffy, Janice S. Gin, Sherri Jackson, Blaise Labbe, Chip Mahaney, Alisha McDevitt, Allison McGinley, Brandon Mercer, Tara Puckey, Jam Sardar, Tim Scheld, Dan Shelley, Terence Shepherd, Andrea Stahlman, Loren Tobia, David Wagner, Jerry Walsh, Sheryl Worsley, Kimberly Wyatt

I. **Welcome & Roll Call**

Chairman Terence Shepherd called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

- a. **Roll Call**
- b. **Chair Welcome Remarks**

II. **RTDNA Reporting**

a. **Chair Report**

Terence Shepherd reported that he called Executive committee meetings on March 23, April 21, May 5, May 14 and May 28. In addition, he:

- Assigned to ethics committee the revision of Guidelines for Use of Non-Editorial Audio and Video and the possible creation of Guidelines For Gender Identification.
- Assigned to Awards committee a discussion on fairness and equity in the composition of judging teams.
- Continued outreach to public media sources with the goal of increasing participation and investment in our programs.

b. **Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Dan Shelley e-mailed his full monthly report to the board prior to the call which specific included details on the Association's activities. His full report is attached to the minutes and represents the bulk of his report.

1. **VFA Update (George Floyd protest-related arrest/assault issues)**

RTDNA staff has been working extremely hard over the last few days advising and

assisting journalists with their coverage of the George Floyd story.

Dan and the professional staff of RTDNA received several compliments from RTDNA Board Members on the outreach RTDNA has made towards journalists during this critical time.

2. **Long-term VFA Project: Outreach to industry leaders and other influencers**

3. **Other Updates**

Requests executive session

c. **CSO Report**

1. **RTDNA21 Conference Update**

Chief of Staff Tara discussed the planning for RTDNA's 2021 conference which has been in development for several months. She will submit plans to the full board by the end of the week (6/5) for their review.

2. **2020 Programming Update**

- Shift in the way we deliver education
- Knight Safety & Security grant
- Both addressing needs and looking long-term at our pillars
- RTDNA is working on several virtual and innovative options for training. The plan is to provide shorter videos on demand for members and journalists to consume at their own time.
- Safety and security program work continues with the Knight Foundation. We are exploring options with safety and security training as well as other topics which will be serving the members with the grant from the Knight Foundation.
- The professional employees of RTDNA are continuing to look at our long-term focus on projects and initiatives.

3. **Website Update**

Website work is continuing, and Tara and Karen now have access to the backend to begin the valuable work setting up for content population.

4. **Admin Updates**

- Email/Technology Switches
- DBAs and ACH Bank Accounts
- Final DC HQ Office Move
- Working on several office steps on the administrative side to better secure RTDNA/F's financial
- Tara will be heading to DC later this month to work with the team on moving out of our office space.

d. **Treasurer Report**

- Treasurer Loren Tobia reported on the finances of the Association. Currently, RTDNA has a balance of \$445,625, which is up nearly \$16,000 over the last month. We have done well during a tough time
- Levels are now at the point they were in October of last year, so we are rebounding nicely from the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the markets.
- Our annual audit is currently underway.

III. **New Business**

IV. **Old Business**

Nominations Committee Chairman Jerry Walsh reviewed plans for the 2020 RTDNA Board Elections

- - This year, elections will be held for:
 - Chair-Elect
 - Treasurer
 - Region 3 Director
 - Region 4 Director
 - Region 5 Director
 - Region 6 Director
 - Region 9 Director
 - Region 10 Director
 - Region 13 Director
 - Director-at-Large (Chip Mahaney's seat)
 - Director-at-Large (Blaise Labbe's seat)
 - Nominating Committee will meet on June 10th to review the candidates submitted to date.
 - Jerry and the committee will also work with our professional staff at RTDNA to publicize the elections. This will include encouragement for the members to consider running for a position.
 - The slate of candidates will be announced to the membership by July 13th – which is 60 days before the scheduled closing business meeting from EIJ'20.

a. **Executive Session: Potential Legal Matter**

- EIJ20
- 2020 Murrows Gala

The board returned from executive session at 2:43 p.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 3:17 p.m.

Decision: Vince Duffy made a motion the RTDNA Board move into executive session to discuss a potential legal matter. Sheryl Worsley seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. The Board moved into executive session at 2:30 p.m.

Decision: Bill Dallman made a motion to authorize the RTDNA staff to engage with relevant parties, including the hotel and sponsors, to cancel the in-person Excellence in Journalism Conference in Washington, DC in September 2020. Sherri Jackson seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Decision: Vince Duffy made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter. Sheryl Worsley seconds. Motion approved by a unanimous vote. The board entered executive session at 2:51 p.m.

V. **Foundation Meeting**

Group will adjourn as Association and convene as Foundation and, following this portion of the meeting, adjourn as the Foundation and reconvene as the Association

Decision: Sherri Jackson made a motion to adjourn as the Association and reconvene as the Foundation. Vince Duffy seconded. Motion approved by a unanimous vote at 3:17 p.m.

Decision: Sheryl Worsley made a motion to adjourn as the Foundation and reconvene as the Association. David Wagner seconded. Motion was approved by a unanimous vote at 3:23 p.m.

a. **Chair Report**

- Foundation Chair Jerry Walsh discussed plans for the annual awards which are generally awarded at EIJ. This includes the John Hogan and Paul White Awards. We are looking at virtual ways to honor Hogan and White awards winners 2020. Board members were asked to send Jerry an email with names for possible honorees and thoughts on having a virtual awards ceremony.
- Jam Sardar asked if we must award a White and Hogan winner in 2020.
- Discussion took place and it was felt we have plenty of opportunities to find worthy award winners in 2020, despite the limitations on gatherings.

b. **Treasurer Report**

- Foundation treasurer Kathy Walker was unable to attend the meeting.
- Association Treasurer Loren Tobia offered a report on behalf of Foundation finances. As of right now, the Foundation account balance is \$1,794,000 – up \$62,500 from the previous month.

c. **New Business**

Dan Shelley discussed the ongoing efforts to support journalists who have been arrested or detained during the last week.

d. **Old Business**

Decision: Motion to adjourn foundation by Sheryl Worsley. Seconded by David Wagner. Motion passed with no opposition

VI. **Consent Items**

a. **Approval of Minutes**

1. **March 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Decision: Vince Duffy moved the minutes from the RTDNA/F Board Meeting on March 6th be approved. Sherri Jackson seconded. Motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

VII. **Adjournment**

The RTDNA Board Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Decision: Jam Sardar made a motion to adjourn the board meeting. Sherri Jackson seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a unanimous vote.