RTDNA Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2026 | 3 - 5 p.m. Eastern

Attendance: Blaise Labbe, Colin Benedict, Robert Thomas, Vince Duffy, Jennifer Seelig, Kent Floyd, Dave Jorgenson, Liz Alesse, Monika Diaz, Tyler Chance; (staff) Tara Puckey, Michael Sanserino, Christine Cordial; (third-party) Jennifer McVey

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Labbe calls the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. after a brief round of introductions to acclimate the new board members.

AUDIT PRESENTATION

McVey of Barnes Denning presents the annual audit to the board. RTDNA received a clean audit. Revenue was down, but staff had cut expenses to try to keep pace. RTDNA's reserves were well within industry standards/guidelines.

Duffy makes a motion to accept the audit. Benedict seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

MURROW TASK FORCE UPDATE

Puckey shares the status of the overhaul to the Edward R. Murrow Awards. Staff is working with a third-party consultant to conduct market testing for the potential changes. Staff, also, is working with vendors to get the contest ready to roll out.

Puckey shares that staff is recommending a delay to implementation of the new program. Staff has identified a time crunch that could jeopardize the rollout of the new program, and Puckey underscored how important it is to successfully launch the new program. Board members are generally supportive of a more intentional approach to the program launch and the need for a robust educational campaign, though they express the urgency needed to improve and overhaul the competition.

No action is taken.

FUTURE EDUCATION DISCUSSION

Puckey says RTDNA is wrapping up its World Tour, which began in Fall 2025. During the World Tour, RTDNA has reached more than 1,400 journalists at stops across the country.

Puckey also shares early plans for future conferences/gatherings. She said RTDNA is exploring a variety of partnerships to help meet the changing needs of continued journalist training.

RTDNA has been approached about a potential collaboration with an AI company about training around AI tools in newsrooms. She entertains a board discussion to help gauge interest/red flags in such a potential partnership. Board members highlight areas for concern as well as opportunities but broadly encourage staff to proceed with caution.

No action is taken.

REPORTING

Chair Report

Nothing to report.

Chair-Elect Report

Nothing to report.

Treasurer Report

Duffy shares the Association Treasurer Report and says RTDNA is in good shape financially.

President/ED Report *Tara Puckey*

Puckey shares an update on Advocacy Update on recent RTDNA action as well as a recent meeting in New York City with the MOME Meeting. Duffy, Benedict and Labbe compliment staff for their rapid responses to various press-related issues in the country. She also shares a sneak peek at the Advocacy Action Tracker that serves as a repository for all of the actions RTDNA has taken to stand up for journalists around the country.

Puckey informs the board RTDNA has received a three-year grant from the Knight Foundation to purchase software to coordinate collaboration between journalism support organizations.

Duffy moves to adjourn as the association and convene as the Foundation. Benedict seconds. The motion passes.

RTDNA FOUNDATION MEETING

Chair Report

Benedict welcomes new board members, but nothing else to report.

Treasurer Report

Seelig shares the Foundation Treasurer Report and also encourages board members to help promote the scholarship and fellowship applications, now open.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Staff will send a nomination form to the board to develop a ballot for the Foundation trustee.

Adjournment as Foundation

Chance moves to adjourn as the Foundation and reconvene as the Association. Duffy seconds. The motion carries unanimously.

RTDNA – OTHER BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

New Business

Duffy makes a motion to enter executive session to discuss a sensitive legal matter. Benedict seconds. The motion passes.

Duffy makes a motion to leave executive session. Benedict seconds. The motion passes.

No action is taken.

Old Business

None.

Meeting Minutes Approval

Duffy moves to accept the August 7, 2026 minutes. Chance seconds. The motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT

Chance moves to adjourn the meeting. Duffy seconds. The motion passes. The meeting adjourns at 4:27 p.m. ET.