

March 2023 Board Meeting Minutes



Radio Television Digital News Association Association

Mar 3, 2023 at 9:00 AM EST

@ National Press Club, 13th Floor - National Press Building: 529 14th St. NW,
Washington, DC 20045

Attendance

Present:

Members: Colin Benedict, Ellen Crooke, Monika Diaz, Vince Duffy, JJ Green, Sherri Jackson, Blaise Labbe, Melissa Luck, Allison McGinley, Sean McLaughlin, Misty Montano, Tara Puckey, Michael Sanserino, Tim Scheld, Jennifer Seelig, Dan Shelley, Craig Swagler, Robert Thomas, Kathy Walker, Kim Wilhelm, Sheryl Worsley

Absent:

Members: Fiona Conway, Lynn Hatter, Alisha McDevitt, Jam Sardar, Terence Shepherd, Alex Silverman, Galean Stewart

I. Welcome (Presenters: Tim Scheld)

Scheld welcomed the group to DC and remarked on a successful First Amendment Awards. He thanked the staff for their efforts and noted that he thought the award recipients were inspiring and thoughtful.

II. Advocacy Update (Presenters: Barefoot PR, Dan Shelley)

Shelley highlighted that there are a several cases RTDNA is watching around police encryption and the right to record. The Barefoot team (Cori Streetman, Marley Reifert and Chris Pair) shared an update on RTDNA's advocacy efforts as a whole. Shelley also updated on several meetings on the Hill that took place before the First Amendment Awards with staffers, saying they were productive and indicated a willingness to work with the organization on future bills and initiatives.

III. Future Strategy (Presenters: Tara Puckey)

The group broke into smaller groups to discuss AI and the role it plays within journalism. They were asked to explore concerns and opportunities and bring back highlights of their conversation to the larger group. Staff plans to take those thoughts and distill them, sending information down to appropriate committees - like the ethics committee. Overall, the group felt like AI continues to cloud the misinformation/disinformation space and there are real concerns about how journalists may lean on AI, or use it as a whole element of their stories, to produce coverage.

If you're not already familiar, please review more about [ChatGPT](#) ahead of the meeting.

IV. RTDNA Reporting (Presenters: Tim Scheld)

A. Chair Report (Presenters: Tim Scheld)

Scheld shared the committees have been meeting regularly and he's impressed with the contributions of the non-board members within the groups. The dynamic is powerful and there is energy around new ideas and initiatives. He believes discussion will fuel ideas for education and articles and is excited to see the transition continue.

B. Chair-Elect Report (Presenters: Sheryl Worsley)

Worsley said the programming is coming along and conversations have started around broad topics to be highlighted. The group plans to continue meeting in the coming months to finalize the education for RTDNA23.

C. Treasurer Report (Presenters: Vince Duffy)

Duffy shared that the transfer to a CD is still in progress and highlighted the numbers in the written report.

D. Executive Director Report (Presenters: Tara Puckey)

- Murrow Update
- First Amendment Awards Update
- Fundraising Update (KMF, IJF, Arnold Ventures, etc.)
- Event Updates (CMA/ACP, LOT, LEAD, J-DAYS)
- Minutes Approval Update (in OnBoard voting)

Puckey shared an update that Murrow entries were on par with prior years, garnering nearly 5,000 entries. Judging will commence soon and regional winners will be announced as last year during Murrow May, giving each region their own day to celebrate. In terms of the First Amendment Awards, Puckey shared that sponsorship was down as the organization made the decision to award some non-traditional/non-network awards this year. The staff has ideas to improve the balance next year, but this year, we'll continue to evaluate post-event and learn from stats and event feedback.

In the fundraising space, Puckey is heading to the International Journalism Festival to meet with funders and have conversations with other organizations to explore future partnerships. She also shared an update on the Knight Media Forum, saying it was insightful, and the grant from Arnold Ventures in partnership with the National Press Foundation that supported the Crime Coverage Summit in January. She also shared that the staff will have booths at CMA and ACP conferences to engage with students and that planning for J-Days is in the works. Lastly, she shared that minutes will be approved virtually via OnBoard moving forward.

V. Foundation Meeting (Presenters: Tim Scheld, Allison McGinley)

Kathy Walker moved to adjourn the Association meeting and convene as the Foundation, and was seconded by Sheryl Worsley. Motion passed.

A. Chair Report (Presenters: Allison McGinley)

McGinley explained that she was exceptionally pleased with the First Amendment Awards and that it continues to be a shining example of good journalism and a great event for the

Foundation. Now that the event is over, she looks forward to continue reminding board members to donate and make their annual contribution.

B. Treasurer Report (Presenters: Kathy Walker)

Walker reported that the Endowment account is still within reach of the \$50k goal, but that the markets are making things difficult. Overall, the Foundation continues to be in good financial position and we continue to protect annual amounts for the scholarship/fellowship awards.

C. Foundation Old Business (Presenters: Allison McGinley)

There was no old Foundation business.

D. Foundation New Business (Presenters: Allison McGinley)

There was no new Foundation business. **A motion was made to adjourn as the Foundation and reconvene as the Association by Jennifer Seelig, and was seconded by Sheryl Worsley. Motion passed.**

VI. New Business (Presenters: Tim Scheld)

A. Employee Policy: Unlimited PTO (Presenters: Tara Puckey)

When the board met in September, they discussed the possibility of an unlimited PTO policy and expressed support in moving forward to explore legal concerns around such a policy. Since then, the staff modified the policy and had attorneys review, who did so by looking at state laws as well as federal and those of where the organization is based - DC. The version presented was edited by attorneys and sent back to staff to present. **A motion was made to approve the policy and insert it into the Personnel Policy Manual by Vince Duffy. It was seconded by Melissa Luck and approved with no opposition.**

VII. Old Business (Presenters: Tim Scheld)

There was no old business to be discussed.

VIII. Other Updates (Presenters: Tim Scheld)

- Committee Updates (if any need to be given)
- Other Updates

Scheld spoke about committees at the opening of the meeting but invited Crooke to share what the Trust Group had been up to. She noted they are exploring possibilities for moving forward to include a second survey and additional training opportunities. Benedict shared that the Ethics Committee will be reviewing guidelines for relevancy and updates, as well as potentially, as a result of conversations during the meeting, something around AI.

IX. Adjournment (Presenters: Tim Scheld)

Scheld called for adjournment at 11:32 a.m. **A motion was made by Vince Duffy and seconded by Sheryl Worsley. Motion passed.**