



RTDNA

RTDNA Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2026 | 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Eastern

ATTENDANCE: Colin Benedict, Sheryl Worsley, Blaise Labbe, Vince Duffy, Jennifer Seelig, Robert Thomas, Stephanie Bertini, Alex Silverman, Liz Alesse; (staff) Tara Puckey, Michael Sanserino, Christine Cordial

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Benedict calls the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

MURROW TASK FORCE UPDATE

Worsley makes a motion to enter executive session to discuss a sensitive legal matter. Duffy seconds. The board unanimously approves.

Worsley moves to leave executive session. Duffy seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

ETHICS GUIDELINE APPROVALS

Thomas makes a motion to adopt the updated [Racial Identification](#) Coverage Guidelines put forward by the Ethics Committee. Duffy seconds. The board unanimously approves.

President's/ED Report

- Puckey updates the board on advocacy actions taken by RTDNA staff, including several letters RTDNA has joined, updates on legal activity, and funding opportunities related to RTDNA's advocacy efforts.
 - Board members share a desire to publicize more of these efforts and direct the messaging toward working journalists.
- Puckey shares updates on the First Amendment Awards and encourages board members to review the honorees and to register for the event.
- Puckey says the Murrow Awards early bird deadline was successful and that staff is working hard to encourage entries for the final deadline.

Advocacy Discussion

Duffy moves to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter. Thomas seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Duffy moves to leave executive session. Alesse seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

- Puckey asks the board to consider risk-tolerance and appetite for discomfort as future advocacy issues could create a conflict of interest with some of RTDNA's partners.

Chair-Elect Report

Labbe says nothing new to report.

Treasurer Report

Duffy shares the Association's finances are in solid shape.

RTDNA FOUNDATION MEETING

Thomas moves that the board adjourn as the Association and convene as the Foundation. Duffy seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Chair Report

Thomas is running the meeting as Worsley had to leave the meeting early. He highlights the Foundation's recent announcement of Laura Barron-Lopez as First Amendment Awards emcee.

Puckey shares the itinerary for the scholarship/fellowship recipients who will be attending the First Amendment Awards.

Treasurer Report

Seelig says the Foundation recently sold \$37,000 worth of assets to fund the scholarship/fellowship payout for 2026. She also says monthly meetings with PNC financial advisors are continuing.

Benedict moves the board adjourn as the Foundation and reconvene as the Association. Thomas seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

New Business

None

Old Business

None

Meeting Minutes Approval

Silverman moves to approve the December 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Alesse seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Alesse makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Duffy seconds. The motion passes unanimously.