



Minutes

RTDNA September Board Meeting (Closing)

📅 Sat September 12th, 2020

🕒 4:30pm - 7:30pm EDT

📍 Zoom Meeting

👤 In Attendance

Fiona Conway, Ellen Crooke, Bill Dallman, Scott Diener, Vince Duffy, Janice S. Gin, Sherri Jackson, Alisha McDevitt, Allison McGinley, Sean McLaughlin, Brandon Mercer, Lauren Olson, Lisa Polster, Tara Puckey, Jam Sardar, Tim Scheld, Dan Shelley, Terence Shepherd, Andrea Stahlman, Loren Tobia, Nia Towne, Kathy Walker, Sheryl Worsley, Kimberly Wyatt

I. Call to Order & Welcome

Stahlman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

a. Roll Call

b. Assignment of Minutes

II. Executive Director Report

Tremendous turnout with this year's election. Special outreach to David Wagner and Blaise Labbe to keep them engaged.

a. VFA Update

Thanks to Allison for facilitating the takedown of Rope Journalist t-shirts from Amazon. Unfortunately, eBay still has the t-shirts for sale. Will keep up the pressure to have them removed.

b. PPP for 501(c)(6)

Has been working with the American Society of Association Executives to get Congress to include organizations such as ours - 501(c)6's -- included in the next round of COVID relief.

III. Chair Report

a. **2021 Priorities**

Stahlman wants to prioritize DEI issues. Her community is facing a systemic racism problem, and they've been talking about it for the past two years. It's really important that we continue to lead in this area. Stahlman hopes everyone on the board agrees.. The other issue is wellness for journalists and news managers. All this dovetails into the committee work.

b. **2021 Board/Executive Committee Meeting Schedule**

Meeting dates and calendar invites will be sent within a few weeks of this meeting.

Meeting dates and calendar invites will be sent within a few weeks of this meeting. We are going to try to structure the meetings more strategically, instead of getting caught up in minutia. It's a tough economic year so we need to approach things differently. Expect more strategic brainstorming. Schedules should be released in the next few weeks. As a board we are going to do an interactive integrity training.

1. **Interactive Integrity Training: October 13 & 20 | 2 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern**

Puckey shared that we've been discussing this for the past couple of months. We want to make sure leadership takes part in some truly interactive, core practices. So each of the board members can have impact in your own newsrooms and companies. Internally and externally. The training has been crafted for RTDNA. 90-minutes, two weeks. Interactive Integrity Training: October 13 & 20 | 2 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern and the trainer is Amy Kovak-Ashley, who works with the American Press Institute.

c. **2021 Committee Structure**

2021 Chairs and Members will be announced within the next few weeks. If you're interested in serving in a particular Working Group/Committee, please let Andrea know.

2021 Chairs and Members will be announced within the next few weeks.

Decision: Motion to accept committee structure by Tobia. Second by Jackson. Motion passed with no dissent.

d. **2021 Executive Committee Nominations**

Members are nominated for Executive Committee service, ballots will be sent at the close of the meeting.

*Elect three directors to Executive Committee; eligible directors must have at least one year of board service)

Decision: Must elect three directors to Executive Committee; eligible directors must have at least one year of board service.

Nominees:

Sherri Jackson: By Terence Shepherd. Second by Janice Gin

Scott Diener: By Bill Dahlman. Second by Loren Tobia

Kimberly Wyatt: By Scott Diener. Second by Sheryl Worsley

Sheryl Worsley: By Kathy Walker. Second by Loren Tobia

Ellen Crooke: By Alysha McDevitt. Second by Tim Scheld

Jam Sardar moved to close nominations. Second by Allison McGinley

Process: Everyone sends Puckey three names via Zoom chat direct message.

Decision: After the vote, Jackson, Worsley and Crooke have been elected to the Executive Committee.

IV. **Foundation Meeting**

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

Decision: Motion by Gin, Sardar seconded. Motion passed without opposition.

b. **Chair Report**

Shepherd noted he's excited to work on FAD this year and knows we have an important task at hand. He aims to work hard on that task, as well as the nominations of board candidates in a way that addresses all the successes/challenges from this year.

c. **Appoint Janice Gin as Foundation Vice Chair**

Decision: Shepherd appointed Gin as Foundation Vice Chair.

d. **Trustee Election**

Members are nominated for Foundation Trustee service, ballots will be sent at the close of the meeting.

David Wagner was also nominated for the position.

Decision: Nominations took place for Foundation Trustee and Vince Duffy was elected.

e. **Foundation Secretary/Treasurer Election**

Members are nominated for Foundation Secretary/Treasurer service, ballots will be sent at the close of the meeting.

Decision: Nominations took place for Foundation Secretary/Treasurer and Kathy Walker was elected.

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

Decision: Motion to adjourn and reconvene was made by Gin, seconded by Walker. Passed without opposition.

V. **New Business**

Gin wants a timeline for when we can look at the budget for next year. Walker wants to know about the budget committee. Puckey explained that budget documents will be available after the Finance Committee meeting in early December and will be voted on by the EC and Full Board during their respective meetings the week of Dec. 14.

Tobia also indicated he and Stahlman planned for him to take a more active role in the budgeting process, which will begin in earnest next week.

Stahlman asked board members to email her with which committees they are interested in.

Gin asked about the Murrow Awards. Puckey reported that they are in production and will "air" Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. She encouraged people to RSVP because it allows us another funnel of people to communicate with.

Stahlman is accepting names for Region 13 Director appointment, please send those to her. Each committee, she reports, will have a staff member to work with.

VI. **Old Business**

VII. **Adjournment**

Decision: Tobia moved that the group adjourn, and was seconded by Sardar. Passed without opposition and meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.