

Radio Television Digital News Association & Foundation



RTDNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Sep 25th, 2021 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

I. Call to Order & Welcome

a. Roll Call

b. Assignment of Minutes

c. Group Photo!

d. Board Member Introductions

After introductions, McGinley recommended to have a runoff election to determine the tie in Region 1 Director race between Yvonne Simons and Melissa Luck. If the next vote ends in a tie, a board vote will determine the winner. Gin pointed out that we consider future bylaw change to address potential ties.

Decision | Tobia motioned to have a runoff election and Worsley seconded. None opposed.

II. Executive Director Report

Shelley thanked RTDNA staff members for their incredible hard work on the conference this week. He highlighted COVID safety measures and credited the conference programming committee for all of the incredible content.

a. Remarks

Shelley alerted the board to a new VFA issue, stating the Alabama Supreme Court has gutted the state's open records law as it relates to law enforcement. He has reached out to the Alabama Broadcasters Association and plans to follow up, and keep the board updated. Also, he signed an RTDNA letter in support of Afghan Nationals, which was published during the conference. Shelley expressed personal thanks to the board for being great stewards of RTDNA.

III. Chief Staff Officer Report

Puckey reported that RTDNA21 was a success. She received positive feedback and plans to connect with sponsors and attendees in the coming weeks to collect feedback to inform planning for RTDNA22. Some of the information she heard: attendees felt safe, engaged and people didn't feed rushed from session to session. She thanked the board for support during the planning process and asked members to send her any feedback.

a. Board Logistics Update

Puckey explained logistics such as email and Boardable, both of which will be updated shortly to reflect member changes.

IV. Chair Report

a. 2022 Priorities

McGinley laid out priorities for the coming year. Her first pillar focuses on governance and board engagement. She plans to create a Task Force led by Stahlman and Tobia to evaluate the size, structure and evolution of the board and governance structure. She also stressed that board engagement should happen all year long and is going to encourage all regional directors to have regular communication with regional members, requiring direct contact with 5 members each month and a report of any issues to be sent to her.

The second priority is to establish a Task Force to examine the Murrow Awards evolution and discussion vision moving forward in 2023. She announced her third pillar of trust and transparency rather than the defensive, including Wyatt and Green, who also expressed appreciation of member outreach.

b. 2022 Board/Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

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

1. March 10, 2022 - DC Board Meeting Following First Amendment Dinner

c. 2022 Committees

2022 Chairs and Members will be announced within the next few weeks. If you're interested in serving in a particular Committee, please let Allison know.

McGinley will be working through committee assignments and updating the board in the coming weeks.

d. 2022 Executive Committee Nominations

Members are nominated for Executive Committee service.

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

Nominations were made for election of three directors to join the officers in the makeup of the EC:

- Gin nominated Worsley, Scheld seconded.
- Worsley nominated Wyatt, Duffy seconded.
- Stahlman nominated Jackson, Worsley seconded.
- Tobia nominated McLaughlin, Diener seconded.
- Jackson nominated Crooke, Worsley seconded.
- Tobia moved to close nominations, Worsley seconded.

Decision | First secret ballot results: Crooke and Worsley were selected, but a tie existed between McLaughlin and Wyatt. A second board vote resulted in a tie between McLaughlin and Wyatt again. Stahlman motioned that the officers vote, Tobia seconded. All in favor, Jackson abstained. Wyatt was elected the third Executive Committee member.

Treasurer's Report

Tobia reports on clean audit and says RTDNA is in good financial shape with \$829k in the Association investment account. Tobia, who has been the treasurer since 9/11/01, announced he plans to retire from the board in one year. Tobia will be the longest serving treasurer in RTDNA's history.

Decision | Tobia moved that Duffy be his replacement as treasurer, Worsley seconded. All in favor.

V. Adjourn as Association/Convene as Foundation

Decision | Worsley motions to adjourn as the Association and convene as the Foundation, Tobia seconds. Motion passes.

a. Chair Report

Stahlman discusses RTDNF goals: Priority is to ensure scholarships and engagement.

1. Oldfield Endowment Legal and Regulatory Matters

Oldfield Endowment now has \$30K. A \$500 donation gets you into the Oldfield Circle. Suggests asking your company to assist with the Foundation. We do appreciate full board participation in donating money.

In the last few months, Shepherd led effort to create policy to ensure how money will be spent in the future.

Gin would like to amend the document to adjust the advisory committee. Her amendment would allow past Chairs and Barney-interested individuals. Discussion continues as to have the advisory committee meet and amend the policy to include those past individuals.

Decision | Duffy moved to approve the policy, Jackson seconded. Motion passed unanimously and the document was adopted.

b. Foundation Vice Chair Appointment

Appointment of Vince Duffy as Foundation Vice Chair.

While counting votes, we discussed scholarships - historically given more than \$1 million dollars. Talked about the 2021 recipients and the amazing talent they are for the future of our industry. Tim Scheld asked for a list of scholarship winners so we can follow up. Before adjourn, Andrea discussed luncheon. The success and the kind treatment of the students was important. David Louie took an active role in their celebration and in a mentoring session with him.

c. Trustee Election

Members are nominated for Foundation Trustee service.

Nominations were accepted for Foundation Trustee service:

- Worsley nominated Gin, Walker seconded.
- McDevitt nominated Scott Libin, Duffy seconded.
- Crooke nominated Shepherd, Diener seconded.
- Tobia nominated David Louie, Worsley seconded.

Decision | Walker moved to close nominations and Shepherd was elected Trustee.

d. Adjourn as Foundation/Convene as Association

Decision | Motion to adjourn moved by Duffy. Scheld seconded. All approved.

VI. New Business

VII. Old Business

Sardar would like to address several Awards Committee recommendations. First, removing the following categories: Excellence in Video for Radio and Excellence in Sound for TV. McGarrity explained a combination of low entries, no winners at times, feedback from judges and previous winners.

Decision | Sardar moved to remove the two categories, Jackson seconded. All in favor, Thomas abstained. Motion passes.

Decision | Sardar moves to add the category of News Series for Digital. Duffy seconded. Motion passes unopposed.

Decision | Sardar moved to limit student awards to undergraduates only. Scheld seconded. None opposed. Motion passes.

Decision | Sardar moved to remove language banning paid student entries, which was seconded by Wyatt. All in favor, motion passes.

Decision | Sardar moved to rework the Overall Excellence entry requirements to allow for organizations which don't produce traditional newscasts so they can enter other additional categories. Stahlman suggested a friendly amendment that newscasts no longer be included in the end of the entry, which was accepted. Worsley seconded, no one opposed and the motion was passed.

VIII. Adjournment

Decision | Tobia moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Worsley. Motion passes and meeting was adjourned.