

RTDNA/F Board Meeting Minutes
Sept. 30, 2018
Baltimore

Association Chairman Jerry Walsh called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Roll call conducted. Present in Baltimore: Jerry Walsh, Terence Shepherd, Brandon Mercer, Sheryl Worsley, Scott Diener, David Wagner, Jam Sardar, Andrea Stahlman, Alisha McDevitt, Tim Scheld, Mark Kraham, Allison McGinley, Blaise Labbe, Chip Mahaney, Kimberly Wyatt, Janice Gin and Fiona Conway. Staff Members: Dan Shelley, Kate Switchenko, Kate McGarrity, Karen Hansen, Tara Puckey.

Joined via phone: Ellen Crooke.

Quorum confirmed.

Executive Committee nominations opened. Each of four nominations moved and seconded.

Janice nominates Sheryl (Tim seconds)

Sheryl nominates Blaise

Scott Diener nominates Andrea Stallman.

Jam Sardar also nominated.

Vote taken by secret ballot. During count by former Chairman Vince Duffy, **Chair-elect Terence Shepherd** offers his report. He looks forward to planning the best-ever EIJ for San Antonio in 2019.

Executive Director Dan Shelley says registration numbers for EIJ18 will be audited and revenue split determined over the next few weeks.

He thinks RTDNA's super sessions were phenomenal. SPJ's were affected, as ours were, by last-minute presenter cancellations. Dan applauds Jerry for getting replacements for three of four political panelists on short notice.

Dan says he and Holly are reviewing feedback from vendors and exhibitors.

Chip encourages that we do a day pass for Texas markets next year in San Antonio.

Kate says exhibitors prefer two full days on the floor to three days with poor attendance the third day. This poses a potential problem for small-market newsrooms that might send people on Saturday, when the exhibit floor is closed.

Strong positive feedback from the board over all on blend of presenters, topics, app, schedule, etc. Some concern about layout of hotel; things were spread out and sometimes tricky to find.

Kate M. suggests a return to paper signup sheets for critiques. This year's higher-tech approach didn't work as well. Board members also suggest a more clearly branded, identified area for critiques.

Dan again commends the staff for its excellent work. The board gives a standing ovation.

Sheryl and Andrea are elected to Executive Committee. A runoff is necessary between Blaise and Jam. Jam tries to withdraw his name, but the board objects.

The runoff results in Jam's election to the Executive Committee.

Jerry begins his report with praise for Tara's training session Saturday. He will soon schedule EC and full board meetings for the coming year, so that they can be put on calendars, allowing members to plan around them. He asks that committee chairs update him on a monthly basis so that he can update the full board on each committee's activities.

Mark moves, Sheryl seconds, that we adjourn as Association and convene as Foundation board. Unanimous.

Foundation Chairman Scott Libin asks Vince to provide the report that he deferred to today from last Wednesday's meeting.

Vince recommends that the Presidents Scholarship be restored to its former \$2,500 level from \$1,000. The fund now contains \$148K. If the fund never made another penny, Vince says, we could afford to award \$5K every year for the next 30 years.

He further recommends that we no longer adhere to alternating years for the Pete Wilson Award between undergraduate and graduate students. That is not required by the terms of the gift.

Some funds say in their original documentation that they are to be used for travel. We have not used such funds for that lately. General foundation funds have been used for that. Dan suggests we might assess this annually, based on how the funds are doing, so that we do not eat into the principal. When sponsors are available, we would use their money. That didn't happen this year, but could again in the future. We funded two classes' travel this year out of general Foundation funds. (That was a fluke, resulting from a change in the timeline of scholarship and fellowship deadlines and decisions. In the future, only one class of 11 scholarship and fellowship recipients will attend each convention.)

Tara and Kate recommend that the order be: sponsorship first, fund second (if allowed), general funds only if necessary.

Janice moves that we return to the \$2,500 Presidents Scholarship level. Sheryl seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Janice argues that the Wilson Scholarship issue does not require a motion, but that the online information simply be rewritten to accommodate both graduate and undergraduate students each year. Staff is so directed.

Tim Scheld moves that we commit to paying for student travel as follows:

- With sponsorship dollars, if available
- With fund interest earnings, where permitted
- From the general fund, if necessary

All decisions to be made in consultation with the Foundation chair and treasurer.

Brandon Mercer seconds the motion. It passes unanimously.

Libin says he will soon begin the process of compiling a list of potential First Amendment Award recipients. He asks that all board members review the several awards and think about who might be appropriate recipients.

Libin says we need to elect a new Foundation trustee to replace David Louie, who Dan says asked to leave the board without fanfare or recognition.

Janice asks for a round of applause for David in his absence. Chip suggests we invite him to EIJ19. Janice says the way to honor David is to give to the Oldfield endowment, which was his passion.

Scott Diener nominates Vince as Foundation trustee, Jam seconds. Mark moves to close nominations; Sheryl seconds. Vote to close nominations is unanimous.

Brandon moves that we vote by acclamation. Jam seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Board approves Vince's selection as trustee. Janice, as senior trustee, becomes vice chair of the Foundation.

Mark moves that we adjourn as Foundation, reconvene as association. Jam seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Awards Committee Chairman Jam Sardar moves that we define networks as follows: Statewide networks must enter Murrow Awards in the largest market they serve in their state, and that multistate networks enter at the network level. Kimberly seconds the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

Jam moves that projects produced by partnerships list those partners and be entered in the largest applicable category; that is, the category of the largest partner. Terence seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Jam further proposes that satellite radio entries be entered in accordance with the market in which they are produced and with their intended audience. After lengthy discussion, Jerry directs the Awards Committee to reconsider the issue and return to the board with a clearer motion. Kate says staff needs this resolved within a month. Dan says Executive Committee could vote in place of the full board, if necessary (due to timing issues).

Jam proposes that website category be removed and that digital category be opened to broadcast-affiliated sites. Spirited discussion ensues. Digital category is currently defined as “not broadcast-affiliated.” Kate M. wants that line removed. Chip is worried about pitting local broadcasters against national media organizations. This too is remanded to the Awards Committee for further work.

Jerry resumes his report, having suspended it to accommodate some board members who needed to leave early due to flight times.

He intends to keep most committee chairs in place appoints replacements as follows:

Convention (EIJ19) Planning -- Terence

Governance/membership -- Chip

Awards -- Jam

Programs -- Brandon

Nominating -- Scott Libin

Finance -- Janice

Ethics -- Tim

Diversity -- Kimberly

Moonshot -- Kathy

Jerry will appoint a Convention Strategic Planning Task Force to determine our longer-term convention future beyond EIJ20. He asks Ellen Crooke to lead the task force. She accepts.

Brandon recommends we include Brett Hall “or someone like him” on that task force, in order to ensure additional perspectives.

Jerry reminds committee chairs that they owe him monthly reports. He will assign committee members soon. Most board members will serve on two committees, he says.

Sheryl moves, Mark seconds that we go into executive session. Unanimously approved.

Association emerges from executive session. Mark moves that we adjourn. Tim seconds. The vote is unanimous and the meeting adjourns at noon.