

## **MNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

December 5, 2019

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**Present:** Karin Ramige- Glencoe, Chris Knight –Virginia, Justin Lessman- Jackson, Chad Koenen, Henning, Crystal Miller- Albert Lea, Diann Drew-Alexandria, Mark Weber-Eden Prairie, Tara Brandl, Tracy, Mike Dalton – Cannon Falls, Lisa Hills & Debbie Evans- MNA

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**Welcome and Call to Order** by President Karin Ramige 9:25

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** from the meeting on September 2019 passed on a **MOTION** by Koenen, seconded by Drew

Board members reviewed the 2020 meeting dates, no conflicts were identified.

**New Member Applications** – Lessman presented applications for Associate Membership from Longfellow Nokomis Messenger and Monitor, St. Paul. The applications and print editions were reviewed and approved on a **MOTION** by Dalton, Seconded by Brandl, to accept the Messenger; Motion from Koenen, seconded by Brandl to accept the Monitor. Both motions passed unanimously.

**Executive Director Report** –Hills highlighted the MNA’s successful year and the exceptional work done by MNA staff members. She provided updates on: a Judicial Council proposal to eliminate printed public newspapers ; membership changes including a discussion about working to alter the current narrative about the MN newspaper industry; details regarding MNA’s new lease agreement in the Lumber Exchange Building; and progress for the new Management agreement with MMPA effective January 1, 2020.

The Executive Director’s report passed unanimously on a Motion by Ramige, seconded by Lessman.

**Finance Reports** –Knight

- Disbursements and staff expense reports for September, October and November were reviewed by the Finance Committee and approved on a **MOTION** by Lessman, seconded by Dalton, passing unanimously.
- The Finance Report was approved on a **MOTION** by Lessman, seconded by Koenen unanimous.
- Hills and Evans presented the positive 2019 year-end projection.

**Year-End Expenditures**

- Add an additional \$40,000 to the kitty rebates **MOTION** by Koenen, seconded by Lessman, unanimous
- \$5,000 bonus for Mark Anfinson **MOTION** by Koenen, seconded by Drew, unanimous

Approved year-end expenditures during an Executive Session- notes taken by President Ramige

- \$2,000 will be donated to MNF
- \$3,000 will be donated to MNI
- An additional \$20,000 will be added to accrued staff bonuses or \$14,000 increasing the total amount of YE staff bonus to \$34,000
- MNA 3% retirement savings was approved for eligible employees.

**The 2020 budget** was approved as presented on a **MOTION** Ramige, seconded by Drew, passing unanimously.

**Other Discussion**

Ramige and Koenen will help server on a tri-state branding campaign

**Convention Update** – Hills

The 2020 convention program was distributed, outlining speakers and sessions. P.J. has been invited to speak at the Friday luncheon.

**Nominating Committee report**

The nominating committee report was given by Dalton. Lisa Schwarz from St. Cloud Times was selected by the nominating committee to stand for election to the MNA board of directors at the annual meeting during the MNA convention.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Hills

**Saturday, December 6, 2020** executive committee email/text discussion. Ramige, Lessman, Knight and Koenen unanimously approved P.J. Fleck's speaking fee.