MINNESOTA
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the MNA Board of Directors

Tuesday, August 10
Email Vote

Present: MNA President Tara Brandl, Tracy; First Vice President Kelly Boldan, Willmar; Second Vice President Crystal Miller, Albert Lea; Third Vice President Ted Almen, Kerkhoven; Directors Tim Douglass, Glenwood; Bill Albrecht, Coon Rapids; Rachel Miller, Henderson; Treasurer Andrew Meuleners, Howard Lake; Immediate Past President Justin Lessman, Jackson; MNA Executive Director Lisa Hills and Lisa Schwarz Director, Development & Communications

Email vote:

Earlier this year, federal agents arrested independent journalists Georgia Fort and Don Lemon and Lemon's producer Michael Buete (along with dozens of protest participants), charging them with violating federal law during a protest inside a Minnesota church. The case is *United States v. Levy-Armstrong et al.,* No. 0:26-cr-00025 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota. The media defendants intend to file motions to dismiss the superseding indictment on First Amendment grounds. Reporters Committee plans to file an amicus brief in support of dismissal, emphasizing the extent of government overreach in this case in using two potent federal civil rights statutes to charge journalists for protected newsgathering conduct, and explaining why these statutes cannot and should not be applied here.

Motion by Boldan, second by Brandl, to support MNA signing on to the Reporter's Committee For Freedom of the Press Brief amicus brief to protect the First Amendment.

SECOND: Tara Brandl seconded the Motion.

The Motion was approved with 5 votes in favor, 3 opposed and 1 abstention.

Ayes: Ted Amen, Tim Douglass, Tara Brandl, Rachel Miller, Kelly Boldan

Nays: Andrew Meuleners, Bill Albrecht, Crystal Miller

1 abstention Justin Lessman

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Hills
MNA Executive Director

DRAFT