

MNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 23,2020

The meeting was held on Zoom due to Covid-19 Pandemic

Present: Chris Knight –Virginia; Justin Lessman-Jackson; Chad Koenen-Henning; Crystal Miller- Albert Lea; Diann Drew-Alexandria; Mark Weber-APG-ECM; Tara Brandl - Tracy; Karin Ramige– Glencoe; Lisa Schwarz-St. Cloud; Lisa Hills & Debbie Evans -MNA.

Welcome and Call to Order by President Knight at 10:00 A.M.

Minutes from the January 2019, board meeting were approved on a **MOTION** by Ramige seconded by Schwarz, passing unanimously.

Executive Director Report – The Executive Director Report was given by Lisa Hills. Hills shared details about:

MNA efforts to help newspapers by supporting Federal legislation partnering with MBA
Getting news media declared an essential service

Working with the Governor’s office on print ads for the Stay at Home campaign

Request sent to Commissioner Grove asking that newspapers be made eligible to apply for emergency state funding and loans available through DEED

At least ten newspaper closures/mergers that MNA is aware of so far. Many changes in publication days.

MNA staff has been working remotely since March 16- going much better than expected.

Rotate 1 person in the MNA office at a time.

Staff meets at 9:00 a.m. Monday thru Friday to coordinate projects. Each person asked to share and develop an action plan for an idea to help MNA or our members.

New Member Applications – Drew presented an application for Sustaining Membership from Media Bids. The application was accepted on a **MOTION** by Koenen seconded by Brandl, passing unanimously.

Media Bids also submitted a proposal to become an affiliate partner of MNA. On a **MOTION** by Lessman, seconded by Koenen, passing unanimously, the affiliate proposal will be sent through the normal channel of being reviewed by the MNA Members Services committee for a recommendation from committee members to the MNA Board of Directors.

Finance Reports – The finance reports were given by Debbie Evans

Disbursements for January-March were approved on a **MOTION** by Brandl, seconded by Ramige, passing unanimously. AR reports & Staff Expenses for January -March were

approved on a **MOTION** by Drew, seconded by Miller, passing unanimously

Financial Statements & Balance Sheets for January-March were reviewed. The reports were unanimously approved on a **MOTION** by Schwarz seconded, by Weber.

Better Newspaper Contest & Convention Financial statements were presented by Evans. Hills will contact the Marriott to discuss working with MNA on its 2021 contract.

On a **MOTION** by Ramige, seconded by Miller, MNA dues and legal hotline payments are not refundable. The motion passed unanimously. The policy will be added to the MNA policy manual.

Several companies are asking MNA to promote to members free trial offers and set-up fees. Vendors offering these services will be asked to share their promotions and offers by placing ads with MNA.

MNA lobbyists Sandy Neren and Patrick Hynes joined the call to give a legislative update. They have been closely monitoring data practices issues. MNA board members discussed suggestions for Legislative options which might be helpful to news media. Justin Lessman will help draft a letter.

The MNA June summer board and past president's meeting has been postponed.

The meeting was adjourned on a **MOTION** by Ramige, seconded by Brandl.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Hills
Executive Director