

MINUTES OF THE MNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING, Thursday, April 23,2020

Participants joined by ZOOM during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Lessman. The minutes from the January meeting were approved on a **MOTION** by Brandl, seconded by Hanneman.

Executive Director update- Lisa Hills thanked everyone for joining the meeting. Hills reported that the 2020 Editor and Publisher Community Leadership program was cancelled. Blandin extended the grant for the program for an additional year. MNI has submitted another grant request to Blandin requesting funding for a Virtual Community Leadership Networking program to sustain Rural Newspapers and Community access to Essential Information.

MNI will peruse the option of MNI developing a platform for those who would like to contribute funds to support quality journalism.

Elections:

MNI bylaws

The term for Directors shall match his or her term on the MNA Board of Directors, not to exceed nine years

Chris Ison's resignation was accepted with regret from the MNI board of directors on a **MOTION** made by Koenen, seconded by Knight, passing unanimously.

MNI President Lessman called for nominations for Second Vice-Chair of MNI. Chad Koenen was nominated on a **MOTION** by Ramige, seconded by Hanneman, the board unanimously approved.

Financial report was given by Evans. A **MOTION** to approve the disbursements for January, February and March was made by Ramige, seconded by Hanneman, passing unanimously. Monthly financial statements were reviewed. A **MOTION** by Koenen, seconded by Brandl, to approve the financial report was passed on a unanimous vote.

MNA Convention fundraising: programs were discussed by Evans and the P & L reviewed. Year to year increase was noted.

MNI Intern program: MNI has \$10,000 appropriated for funding ten 2020 interns. Following a **MOTION** by Brandl, seconded by Koenen, passing unanimously, Friday, April 24, MNI will release information asking interested newspapers to submit an application by noon on May 15 to MNI if they would like to participate in a random drawing for a chance to receive \$1,000 in funding for an intern. The drawing will be held immediately following the submission deadline. The intern work conclusion was extended to October 31, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. on a **MOTION** by Ramige, seconded by Hanneman.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Hills

MNI Special Meeting

June 27, 2019

Sugar Lake Lodge, Cohasset, MN

Present: Karin Ramige, Justin Lessman, Chris Knight, Diann Drew, Mark Weber, Tara Brandl, Mike Dalton, Lisa Hills

Justin Lessman called a special meeting of the MN News Media Institute. During the April election, Jim Pumarlo was elected to serve his fourth 3-year term as a public board member. MNI's bylaws only allow public members to serve three 3-year terms. Doug Hanneman will be asked to serve on the MNI board to fill the open position. Pumarlo has provided tremendous leadership while serving on MNI's board. His service is greatly appreciated.

Hills will be sending the MNI 990 to board members soon for review and approval.

The meeting was adjourned on a Motion by Dalton, seconded by Knight.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hills