

**MINUTES OF THE MNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019**  
**MNA Offices, Minneapolis**

**Present:** Karin Ramige, Justin Lessman, Chris Knight, Chad Koenen, Diann Drew, Mark Weber, Tara Brandl, Mike Dalton, Jim Pumarlo, Chris Ison, Lisa Hills & LuAnn Yattaw

**The meeting was called** to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Karin Ramige. The minutes from the January meeting were approved on a **motion** by Dalton, seconded by Lessman.

**Elections: MNI bylaws state:**

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

**President Ramige resigned her position as MNI President.** Justin Lessman was nominated and elected on a **motion** from Dalton, seconded by Knight, passing unanimously.

**MNI President Lessman** called for nominations for Second Vice-Chair of MNI. Crystal Miller was nominated and with a **motion** by Lessman, seconded by Ramige, the board unanimously approved.

The Warner-Bargain Motion was made by Dalton, seconded by Knight to elect Jim Pumarlo for another 3-year term. Warner-Bargain Motion is a motion as all other nomination cease and a unanimous ballot be cast.

**Financial report was given by Hills. A motion to** approve the disbursements for January, February and March was made by Dalton, seconded by Knight, passing unanimously. Monthly financial statements were reviewed. A **motion** by Koenen, seconded by Drew, to approve was passed on a unanimous vote.

**MNI spending policy** statement was reviewed, a **motion** from Koenen, seconded by Drew to approve and adopt new language was unanimously passed.

**Endowment Objectives**

The investment objective of the Minnesota News Media Institutes endowment portfolio is to generate income for the annual spending needs and to preserve the long-term purchasing power of the assets.

**Spending Policy**

The MNI Board of Directors may disburse a portion of the annual investment income towards MNI's operating budget or special needs. The funds available to spend shall be a non-mandatory maximum annual distribution of up to 5% of the MNI portfolio.

**Karin Ramige discussion** of Don Heinzman book sales and the possibility of MNI promotion of sales was tabled, with Ramige to provide copies of the book to all board members. **Motion** to table by Dalton, seconded by Knight was approved.

**Hills shared the MNI 2019 Annual Report** with board members. Thanking LuAnn Yattaw for her work on the report.

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

**MNI Giving Opportunities:** Strong support was given for the Mentor/Thank someone initiative. The flier will be sent to all members as well as included in the weekly Bulletin. Brainstorming for other fundraising ideas determined that the Live Auction at the BNC awards ceremony was a success and should continue possible with different timing.

**Training:** Hills reported that the E & P program began with ten cohorts. As a result of being rescheduled due to a winter blizzard, the program ended up with seven cohorts.

Yattaw shared that the Henninger training session was cancelled due to the winter blizzard as well. Attendance was low for the session so those signed up were invited to join Press Publication presentation by Henninger on May 10. Plans for a sales seminar (beginning sales) to be held in July and a more senior sales seminar to be scheduled in Oct/Nov were discussed.

Even though the OnLine Media Campus webinars are promoted each week in the Bulletin, there is low attendance by MNA members. Miller suggested sending a separate blast each month to highlight the webinars for members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. on a **motion** by Dalton, seconded by Koenen.

Respectfully submitted,  
LuAnn Yattaw

## **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