

**MINUTES OF THE MNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING, September 25, 2019**  
**MNA Offices, Minneapolis**

**Present:** Karin Ramige, Justin Lessman, Chad Koenen, Diann Drew, Tara Brandl, Mike Dalton, Chris Ison, Debbie Evans, Lisa Hills & LuAnn Yattaw (Mark Weber via phone)

**The meeting was called** to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Justin Lessman. The minutes from the May 2019, June 27 and Sept 10 (email vote) meetings were approved on a **motion** by Dalton, seconded by Brandl.

**President Lessman and Hills noted that the call** vote was to approve Doug Hanneman to replace Jim Pumarlo on the board.

**Financial review was given by Evans.**

**Hills reported** the Blandin Grant application has been submitted. Should find out result of grant in December.

**MNA Convention Fundraising.** Yattaw reported that Student reception and 'Meet the Publisher' is moving forward. A speaker (Luke Howl) has been obtained and Phil Siebel is working on getting sponsorship money. This will be held approximately 430 – 530p on January 30, prior to the BNC reception.

**Lessman** will again be our auctioneer at the BNC live auction, raising money for the Intern program. Koenen/Yattaw suggested using a TIPBOARD for fundraising in place of the raffle this year. Yattaw is speaking to MN Gambling Permits/rules to see legality of running the TIPBOARD. No decision was made on prize money at this time until more information is obtained.

**Motion to use TIPBOARD in place of raffle by Koenen, seconded by Brandl.**

**Silent Auction** – ask all board members to donate.

**Yattaw reported** Lanyard sponsorship was sold, as well as 4 trade show booth at this time.

**Hills/Yattaw reported** the completion of the pilot year (2019) for the Summer Intern Program. There were 10 interns, Hills shared comments given by the interns. Total hours worked by interns – 1805, also represented were 5 from colleges and 5 from high-schools.

**2020 Internship Program** was discussion on fairness of selection of newspaper, overall everyone felt to keep the selection as is.

**Motion was made by Dalton, seconded by Ramige** to continue program for the next 2 years as part of a three-year test/pilot to determine ability of financially sustaining the program long term. Number of internship available for 2020 to be determined at December meeting, with a minimum of 10.

**Hills reported** that the E & P program had a great year with good cohorts.

**MNI training programs;** Hills/Yattaw reported that the Beginning Sales program on 10/11 has several signed up – to be held in Burnsville. The Circulation roundtable program will be held in St. Cloud 10/23. No additional programming scheduled for remainder of 2019.

**Drew suggested** having a New Journalist program in early June (2020). This would be a great timing to include the Summer Interns. No discussion on who should lead that session.

No other business at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m. on a **motion** by Dalton, seconded by Koenen

Respectfully submitted,  
LuAnn Yattaw