

MNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting was held by Zoom on Friday, September 25, 2020

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

Absent: Lisa Schwarz- St. Cloud Times

Welcome and Call to Order by President Chris Knight at 9:00 A.M. on Friday, September 25, 2020

Approval of Minutes from the June 2020 Zoom board meeting were unanimously approved on a **MOTION** by Koenen., seconded by Brandl.

Executive Director's Report – Lisa Hills: MNA staff is continues to work at home with staff members rotating time in the office; Tina McMillan hit the ground running as the new MNA advertising account manager; MNI's Virtual Peer Networking was a huge success. Follow-up sessions will be in October; A public notice working group met to review language for a public notice bill that may be introduced in the 2021 legislative session; A meeting with the convention hotel regarding the 2021 convention resulted in an in-person gathering being cancelled. With current COVID restrictions, the hotel is not able to legally execute our agreement. The MNA 2021 convention agreement with the Marriott Northwest was cancelled without penalty. The Executive Director's report was approved on a **MOTION** by Lessman, Seconded by Koenen, passing unanimously.

Membership Application

An application for MNA associate membership from Long Prairie Lider, was reviewed and unanimously accepted on a Motion by Lessman seconded by Miller.

Finance Reports – Lessman reviewed disbursements, staff expenses, financial statements and balance sheets for June - August. Disbursements were unanimously approved on a **MOTION** by Koenen, seconded by Weber. Staff expense reports were approved on a **MOTION** by Brandl, seconded by Drew, and Financial statements were approved on a **MOTION** by Miller, seconded by Weber, passing unanimously.

MNA Awards

Presenting the DSTJ and Friend of Minnesota Newspapers awards will be discussed at the December meeting.

Nominating Committee

MNA will begin running the request for board nominees in the MNA Bulletin. A report will be given at the next MNA board meeting

Joint Virtual Convention

On a MOTION by Ramige, seconded by Koenen, MNA will continue to work with, WNA and INA to explore options for a tri-state virtual convention held the first week of February.

MNA BNC, Mark Anfinson's legislative update and annual meeting will be held the last week in January. At the next meeting Hills with provide ideas for a BNC format.

The MNA meeting was recessed at 10:40 a.m. reconvening at 11:30 a.m.

2021 Membership Dues

MOTION by Ramige, Seconded by Koenen to freeze 2021 dues exactly as billed in 2020.

On a **MOTION** by Lessman, seconded by Ramige, a committee was formed to review and explore new dues structures. Committee members are: Lessman, Miller, Knight, Drew and Brandl.

MNA will send a membership survey prior to the 2021 dues billing

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

Future meeting dates:

Next MNA board meeting date will be December 3 or 4.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Hills