

MNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2020- Meeting by Zoom

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

Welcome and Call to Order by President Knight at 9:00 A.M.

MNA staff members joined the call for Sam Swanson’s last day at MNA. Everyone shared best wishes with Sam as he begins his new adventure.

Minutes from the April meeting were unanimously approved on a **MOTION** by Ramige, seconded by Miller.

Executive Director Report – Hills shared MNA’s efforts to support MNA’s mission. MNA staff members continue to work remotely with a rotation of employees going into the office.

She reports:

- Downtown Minneapolis is a ghost town, void of workers and pedestrians.
- The Lumber Exchange Building did not sustain damage during the unrest. Most major business are not returning until late fall or 2021. MNA is re-evaluating its plans monthly.
- On the story of journalists who were arrested or detained during the protests and curfew as well as carriers and other essential newspaper employees.
- MNA membership changes. Several weekly newspaper closings and consolidations. In 2019 MNA had 22 daily members, currently there are 9 daily newspapers.
- Positive feedback has been received from the first round of six virtual network trainings. Two new sessions will be offered.
- Blandin has been a tremendous advocate for MNA and its members. They arranged for MNA to be a guest in the Working group discussion of the Democracy Funders. Democracy Funders are concerned about the effect on Democracy in a community when a newspaper closes.
- The Small Business Relief Grant bill supported by MNA passed in the Special Session.

The executive director’s report was approved on a **MOTION** by Koenen seconded by Miller, passing unanimously.

Membership Application

Diann Drew presented the Hastings Journal application for MNA Associate Membership. The application was unanimously approved on a **MOTION** by Koenen, seconded by Schwarz.

Finance Reports –Lessman and Evans reviewed disbursements, staff expenses, financial statements and balance sheets for April-May. Staff expenses and disbursements were unanimously approved on a **MOTION** by Knight, seconded by Koenen. Financial statements were reviewed, expense, salary and hour reductions have helped offset the first half of the year revenue losses. Financial statements were approved on a **MOTION** by Weber, seconded by Brandl, passing unanimously.

Other Business

MNA Dues structure and income were reviewed. Changes in newspaper publishing frequency, consolidation and closings will have a significant impact on MNA revenue. The possibility of freezing dues for 2021 was entertained to give the MNA board time to develop a new structure. Discussion will continue at the September meeting.

Public Notice- Mark, Sandy, Patrick and Lisa will be working with members on pre-session planning.

Convention and BNC – whether BNC or Convention will be held in-person or virtually is still fluid

Nominating Committee – the option of freezing current board members for 2021 was presented for consideration – the discussion will continue at the September meeting.

Committee Update

Member services and Journalism Education held a joint Zoom meeting. The BNC “Category “X” was determined. The September 1, 2019 newspaper publication frequency will determine the category for BNC submissions. Circulation category will continue to be based on the circulation published in the 2020 newspaper directory.

Following a **MOTION** by Lessman, seconded by Brandl, passing unanimously, Daily circulation BNC categories will be: Under 5000; 5000-10,000; Over 10,000.

On a **MOTION** by Lessman, seconded by Koenen, an affiliate partnership with Media Bids was approved with Weber voting Nay. The affiliate partnership will be reviewed annually by the Member services committee.

Future Meeting Dates:

MNA daily meeting TBD

MNA & MNI board meeting- September 17 or 18

MNA & MNI board meeting- December 3 or 4

Meeting adjourned on a **MOTION** by Ramige, seconded by Brandl

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Hills