

## **MNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Virtual meeting by Zoom -December 4, 2020**

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

**Welcome and Call to Order** by President Knight at 10:10 a.m.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** from September 25, 2020, board meeting passed on a **MOTION** by Lessman, seconded by Koenen.

**New Member Application** –Drew presented an application for past president membership from Mike Dalton. **MOTION** by Lessman, Seconded by Koenen, to accept the application. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

**Executive Director Report** –Rather than Hills giving an update, she asked board members to each share what is happening at their newspaper and to include a personal update.

**Finance Reports** –Lessman

- Disbursements and staff expense reports for September, October and November, were reviewed by the Finance Committee and approved on a **MOTION** by Drew, seconded by Brandl, passing unanimously.
- The Finance Report was approved on a **MOTION** by Koenen, seconded by Ramige.
- MNA and MNI SDK audit engagement letters were approved on a **MOTION** by Ramige, seconded by Brandl.
- Hills and Evans presented the 2020 year-end projection.

**Year-End Expenditures**

**MOTION** by Koenen, seconded by Knight, to approve year end accrual projections as presented.

- The projected network kitties at the meeting was \$83,954 for MCAN and MDAN combined with an additional \$3,300 for MINN. *If the year-end profit increases, MNA board members will meet again the end of December to consider adding to the network kitties.*
- MNA 3% retirement savings for eligible employees
- MNA staff bonus of \$13,100

The **MOTION** to approve year- end expenditures unanimously passed.

**The 2021 budget** was approved as presented on a **MOTION**\_Knight, seconded by Koenen, passing unanimously.

Legislative update: MNA’s longtime chief lobbyist Sandy Neren who will be retiring the end of the year, Patrick Hynes, MNA’s new lobbyist and Reed Anfinson, MNA legislative committee chair joined the call.

Patrick Hynes presented highlights: 2021 Session begins the first week of January. Most House meetings be held virtually with the Sente hoping to meet in person. There has been some restructuring of

committees with Committee chairs recently announced. The budget forecast is better than initially predicted.

### **Other Discussion**

**MOTION** by Ramige, seconded by Lessman passing unanimously to add an associate MNA membership category for **Magazines**. Lessman, Drew and Hills will meet to draft criteria, member benefits which will include a sperate Awards contest; a dues structure for magazines not affiliated with a newspaper and MNA member-owned magazines. The draft will be presented to the MNA board of directors for final approval.

### **Convention Update** – Hills

The 2021 convention program was distributed, outlining speakers and sessions.

### **Public Notice** - Hills

With a nearly all virtual 2021 legislative session and limited bills being heard, MNA introducing its public notice bill will likely be postponed.

### **Journalism Education committee**

Koenen reported the committee recommended moving ahead with the 2021 intern program. A networking session for students and professionals is being planned.

The committee report was approved on a **MOTION** by Lessman, seconded by Brandl.

### **Advertising & Digital Committee**

Miller and Brandl provided highlights from the recent committee meeting. The committee recommended holding the 2020 network advertising rates for 2021. Committee members discussed developing a virtual advertising contest with entries containing a campaign or portfolio of ads smaller than a quarter page. The contest idea discussion and details were tabled until the next committee meeting.

The advertising Committee report was approved on a **MOTION** by Koenen, seconded by Schwarz.

### **Member Services Committee**

Drew and Lessman gave the member services committee report. Committee members recommended MNI partner with the Online Media Campus and shared some programming ideas. Drew and Lessman shared the board decision to freeze 2020 dues in 2021 to allow time to adjust the MNA dues structure. Recruiting new committee members was also a topic of discussion. The Members Services Committee report was approved on a **Motion** by Brandl, Seconded by Miller.

### **Nominating Committee report**

The nominating committee report was given by Ramige. Kelly Boldan from West Central Tribune in Willmar was selected by the nominating committee to stand for election to the MNA board of directors at the annual meeting, which is set for Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm on a **MOTION** by Ramige, seconded by Drew.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Hills