

MINUTES OF THE MNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING, December 4, 2020

Virtual meeting by Zoom.

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; Doug Hanneman – public member, Hutchinson; Lisa Hills & Debbie Evans- MNA

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by MNI chair, Justin Lessman. The minutes from the September 2020, meeting were approved on a **MOTION** by Koenen, seconded by Knight.

MNA and MNI 2021 board dates were reviewed. No schedule conflicts were identified.

MNI's Whistleblower; Ethical Conduct and Conflict-of-Interest policies were reviewed. Board members were asked to sign the Conflict-of-Interest policy and return it to Lisa at MNA.

Statement and balance sheets for September & October were reviewed by Evans. **MOTION** to approve was made by Drew, seconded by Brandl, passing unanimously.

Finance reports

Disbursements were reviewed and approved on a **MOTION** by Schwarz, seconded by Koenen.

MNI spending policy was reviewed by board members.

Evans reviewed the MNI year-end projections. Hanneman made a **MOTION** to approve the 2021 budget as presented. Miller seconded the motion, passing unanimously.

2021 Internship program: MNA's journalism education committee recommended the MNI board of directors continue the MNI intern program providing funding for up to \$1,000 for ten randomly selected newspapers. The recommendation was accepted on a **MOTION** by Ramige, seconded by Hanneman, passing unanimously. It was suggested that MNA solicit donations to help fund the **intern program**.

On a **MOTION** by Knight, seconded by Brandl, passing unanimously, MNI board members accepted the recommendation from MNA's member services committee to pay \$1,250 to join **Online Media Campus** which will provide unlimited webinars for MNA members. Suggestions for training are: Day 1 reporter and ad rep training. Also, how to fill out a postal form.

Editors & Publishers Community Leadership: The intention is to hold E & P either as a virtual or in-person program depending on the Covid-19 vaccine progress.

Student Reception: Details of the student reception will be referred back to Journalism education committee. Hills will request information from INF on their student program held in 2020.

Raffle: MNI is moving forward based on the guidelines suggested at the September board of directors meeting. Diann Drew is working with LuAnn Yattaw at the MNA office to coordinate.

Sponsorships are being sold both for the tri-state convention and the BNC awards gala.

Elisia Cohen director of School of Journalism & Mass Communication will be asked to fill the vacant public position on the MNI board of directors.

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

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Hills