

Board of Directors Call  
April 24, 2017

In attendance: Ziva Branstetter, Phil Williams, Lee Zurik, Ellen Gabler, Josh Meyer, Andy Donohue, Steven Rich, Matt Goldberg, Jill Riepenhoff, T. Christian Miller, Nicole Vap

Not in attendance: Cheryl W. Thompson and Sarah Cohen

Staff in attendance: Doug Haddix, Amy Johnston

Call began at 4 p.m.

### **Service Award - Goldberg**

Goldberg recommended that in honor of Jaimi Dowdell's eight-plus years of service as an IRE trainer, she be issued a service award. The board unanimously agreed.

### **Don Bolles Medal – Williams**

Goldberg noted that there were some questions about the Don Bolles Medal.

Branstetter said that the engagement committee had a discussion via email about the Bolles medal and suggested award the medal to a journalist from Mexico. Miller noted that he was also in favor of awarding the medal to this journalist.

Williams said that the committee had used the Committee to Protect Journalist to verify the journalist that is being nominated for the award.

The journalist being recommended for the Don Bolles medal is Miroslava Breach Velducea. Miroslava was shot eight times as she was leaving her home, and a note was left saying that the shooting was because she was a snitch. The reason the engagement committee chose her for this award is because she investigated organized crime, similar to the work Don Bolles did. Since her death, there have been a couple of other groups that wanted to pick up some of her work. IRE recognizes the plight that Mexican journalists face.

Miller noted that this lines up with what the Bolles Medal should honor, and the location of the conference this year in Phoenix – near the border with Mexico. Branstetter reminded everyone that it is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and that it also recognizes Don Bolles.

Vap thanked the group for all their work. Branstetter also thanked Williams for all his work on this.

Goldberg noted that going forward it would be helpful to have a way for journalists and members to recommend someone for this award. Several of the board agreed that this would be a good idea.

Goldberg said that it seemed like there was a consensus to award Miroslava Breach Velducea with the first Don Bolles Medal. He asked if there were any objections. None were voiced.

**Motion** – The IRE Board moves to recommend that Miroslava Breach Velducea be awarded the Don Bolles Medal.

Motion made by Williams and seconded by Branstetter. Unanimously approved.

Discussion ensued regarding who would be asked to receive the medal at the conference and design of the medal.

### **Previous minutes**

Discussion about the executive session section in the minutes for the January board call.

Goldberg asked if there was anything else and there was a brief discussion about DocumentCloud.

Goldberg adjourned meeting at 4:32 p.m.