

IRE Board Call Minutes
November 19, 2008 - 10 a.m. CST

Board members on the call: Cheryl Phillips, Alison Young, Lea Thompson, Duff Wilson, James Grimaldi, Jason Grotto, Stephen C. Miller, Lise Olsen, Mc Nelly Torres, Lawan Williams and Phil Williams.
Absent: Manny Garcia and Marilyn Thompson.

Staff on the call: Mark Horvit, Jennifer Erickson, Stephanie Sinn and IRE attorney David Smallman.

1. **Call to Order (Phillips):** Phillips called meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
2. **Executive Session:** Young moved that the meeting head into executive session for legal and personnel discussions. Wilson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting went into executive session. Voted unanimously to head out of executive session.
3. **Potential Movie Deal on Arizona Project:** Olsen moved that the board support signing off on the Arizona Project movie deal when legal counsel and IRE's executive director are comfortable with the details. L. Williams seconded the motion. Discussion ensued, during which the board members thanked Smallman for his help and guidance on the updated Reporters Handbook and the movie deal. All were in favor, and the motion passed.
4. **Point of Information:** Horvit reported that the executive committee voted to take \$90,000 from the IRE reserve fund to make its university payment.
5. **Consideration of Publishing The IRE Journal quarterly:** Horvit said that IRE staff has been considering taking The IRE Journal to quarterly publication as a cost-saving measure. He proposed beginning in January 2009 with a Jan/Feb/March issue. He said there is a \$12,000 minimum of savings per year, which doesn't include staff time.

Young said the member services committee discussed the costs and benefits of such a change. Board members wondered, given the state of industry, if the board ought to look at saving further funds by changing the publication to online-only. Grimaldi said The Journal has a number of subscribers that are libraries that collect the whole historical record of the publication; a move to on-line only would affect this group. Horvit said that it costs around \$6,000 per issue to print and mail the Journals.

Discussion ensued. Miller moved that The Journal go to quarterly publication status and then the member services committee will explore other options and what is best for IRE. L. Williams seconded his motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

6. **Membership Committee Report (Young):** Young said that the members services committee was tasked last year with reviewing IRE's rules of membership. For instance, the committee in June brought the issue of allowing part-time journalists to join IRE before the membership; as a result, this group may now join IRE as non-voting members.

In addition, the committee was approached by some academic members regarding the current restriction that only one academic may be on the board at any given time. The committee sent out a memo to the board members on the topic. Young said that those who are proponents of eliminating the restriction say there is no other similar restriction of board makeup; she added that academics are a crucial resource for training. Young said the committee felt strongly that the board should be made up primarily with working journalists; even so, they recommend getting rid of the restriction. Young said the change would require a vote of membership, since it is an amendment to the articles of incorporation. Discussion ensued. P. Williams moved that IRE adopt the committee's recommendation; L. Williams seconded his motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Board members asked how to handle the amendment, since the next election will take place during the membership meeting when the issue will be voted on. Horvit said he would research different options and make a recommendation on how to proceed.

7. **Possible Site for 2010 IRE Annual Conference:** Horvit said that he and staff are recommending that the board consider San Antonio for the 2010 conference. Olsen cautioned that it may be difficult for the local paper to host that year. Horvit said that he and staff are looking to national organizations to support IRE's annual conferences.

Discussion ensued. L. Williams said that other journalism organizations were discussing teaming up with other journalism non-profits to save costs; would IRE consider doing this? Thompson said this could potentially change the way IRE puts together panels, which is the very thing that draws people to IRE's conferences.

Horvit said that Nashville is another possibility for IRE 2010. P. Williams said that there is a possibility that it will be difficult to raise local funds in Nashville as well. Young recommended that the key players discuss the 2010 location further offline. Phillips said she would send relevant emails out via the board listserv to continue the discussion.

Sinn reported that the Renaissance Sea World property in Orlando has given IRE an excellent deal for 2011. L. Thompson made a motion that IRE go to Orlando in 2011. P. Williams seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

8. **Other Business:** Phillips thanked Olsen for leading the effort to release a board statement on the murder of veteran crime reporter Armando Rodriguez.
9. **Adjournment:** Young moved to adjourn the meeting; P. Williams seconded her motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.