



WMHT Public Media

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**WMHT Educational Telecommunications
WMHT Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2019**

A Meeting of the WMHT Board of Trustees was held on November 21, 2019 at WMHT, Troy, New York; Chair: John Kolb presided. The meeting opened at 4:10

Present

John Kolb	Susan Novotny
Robert Altman	Karen Opalka
Don Applyrs	Mary Ellen Piche (phone)
Bridget Ball Shaw	William Picotte
Gloria DeSole	Joseph Richardson
Kathy Jimino	Harry Rutledge
Susan Kress	Viki Sand
Martin Mbugua	Shelby Schneider
Lee A. McElroy Jr	Kelly Smith
Steady Moono	Maggie Vinciguerra

Excused

Prentiss Carnell	Doris Fischer Malesardi
Karen Carpenter-Polumbo	Estela Rivero
Mona Golub	Teresa Zielinski
Annemarie Lanese	

Also Attending

Guest: Kevin Testo, of auditing firm Bonadio; Noble Applyrs

Call to Order

WMHT Staff: Kathy Beam, Sandra Beer, Val Belden, Rob Brown, Keren Carmeli, Virginia Claus, Bruce Cole, MaryAnn Cooper, Michael Danaher, Lauren Darman, Dave Delaney, Dominick Figliomeni, Brian Flynn, Mary Gribulis, George Hauenstein, Ryan Jones, Zeke Kubisch, Joseph Landor, Cuong Le, John Luke, Ann Madeo, Jessica Marshall, Marie McGowty, Ron McGowty, Greg Meyers, Yvette Mitchell, Evania Osepa, Devan Patenaude, Julie Raskin, Justin Rockenstyre, Matt Rogowicz, Danielle, Avanti, Shirali, Joyce Stah, Tim Stah Lynn Valentino, Nicole Van Slyke, Chris Wienk, and Bill Winans.

Mr. Kolb called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

***Consent Agenda
Items***

On a motion by Mr. Moono seconded by Mr. Picotte the consent agenda of minutes and notes listed below was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.

Minutes and Notes

- September 19, 2019 Board Meeting
- October 10, 2019 Investment Sub Committee Meeting
- November 11, 2019 Governance Committee Meeting

- November 14, 2019 Finance Committee Meeting
- November 19, 2019 Audit Committee Meeting

***Governance
Committee***

Ms. DeSole introduced the following nominations.

The following individuals to serve on the WMHT Board of Trustees, each to serve a first three-year term ending in 2022.

For Trustee – First Three Year Term

- Don Applyrs
- Bridget Ball Shaw
- Martin Mbugua
- Kelly Smith
- Shelby Schneider
- Teresa Zielinski

On Motion by Dr. McElroy, seconded by Ms. Sand, the above individuals were unanimously elected to the WMHT Board of Trustees.

The following individuals to serve on the WMHT Board of Trustees, each to serve a second three-year term ending in 2022.

For Trustee – Second Three Year Term

- Mona Golub
- Kathy Jimino
- Steady Moono
- Lee McElroy
- Viki Sand

On Motion by Dr. McElroy, duly seconded by Mr. Picotte the above individuals were unanimously elected to the WMHT Board of Trustees.

On Motion by Ms. Vinciguerra duly seconded by Dr. McElroy, the following individuals were elected as Officers of the WMHT Board of Trustees, each to serve a one-year term ending at the next Annual Meeting.

Officers:

- Chair – Kathy Jimino
- Vice Chair – Susan Novotny
- Secretary – Viki Sand
- Treasurer – Harry Rutledge

***Presentation of
FY2019 Annual
Financial Statements***

Mr. Kolb introduced the auditor, Mr Testo of The Bonadio Group.

Mr. Testo reported that WMHT for FY19 has a clean audit free of any material issues.

***Employee
Longevity Awards***

Mr. Altman recognized the following staff for their years of service:

- Bruce Cole – 45 years
- Ron McGowty - 40 years
- Dave Delaney – 15 years
- Sandra Beer - 10 years
- Keren Carmeli – 5 years

***Recognition of
Departing Board
Members***

Mr. Kolb noted the departure from the board of five members and shared some of their contributions during their service. Mr. Kolb thanked Prentiss Carnell, Bill Picotte, Joseph Richardson, Estela Rivero and Maggie Vinciguerra for their dedicated work on behalf of WMHT.

President's Report

Mr. Altman thanked John Kolb for his service as chair of the board, with the pleasure of knowing he will continue service on the board for two more years.

Mr. Altman noted that this is the annual report on the prior fiscal year at a distance of five months. This will not be comprehensive, rather selective key notes.

It was a good year financially, as that makes everything else happen.

Overall the media tools we are using to do work are changing rapidly but the services we provide to the community are not.

Last year we produced the *Innovation Hall*, *Field Trip*, and *The Local Feed*—all digital first series, a program on the Writers Institute, and our weekly programs *NYNow* and *AHA!*

Our productions continued into the early part of the new fiscal year with the Caffè Lena documentary, *The Scene*, and *Capital Creative*. The early part of FY20 also was the culmination of work done in FY19 and previous fiscal years by the engineering team to do the spectrum repack. FY19 also saw the move to a weekly on-air fundraising schedule on television.

To succeed in accomplishing our mission we need committed volunteers, including board members; I welcome the new members and thank those completing their service on the board.

Chair's Report

Mr. Kolb shared that it is his privilege to provide an additional perspective on the progress that WMHT has made in many areas. He noted the development of very insightful programming including the *Creative Capital* and *Lena, A life in Folk* and *Innovation Hall* as the station continues its leadership in bringing innovative and informative programs to our community.

The strategic plan, now in its third year appears to be an appropriate roadmap to position this enterprise – as a leader – for future success. The Strategic Plan, first and foremost, calls for leadership in three strategic areas:

1. Increasing Social Value in our Communities with outstanding programs and services.
2. Build organizational capacity to meet community needs.
3. Enhance Institutional Stability.

This year we continued to build on that strategy, looking leadership opportunities in the areas of WMHT's particular expertise – Arts and Culture, Children and Education, and Civic and Public Affairs, allowing WMHT to accomplish what no one else does in this region.

Mr. Kolb acknowledged the special characteristics of this organization: a noble mission, a great facility, some cutting-edge technology, and a balanced budget. Yet he noted that the people really make this organization something to be very proud. A couple of notables include welcoming Joseph Tovaes to our organization, and the recognition at the inaugural Capital Region Thomas Edison Music Awards, we had Chris Wienk, of WEXT, awarded the Radio DJ of the Year, and Mona Golub recognized for her work with the Music Haven Concert Series. These are reminders that we have dedicated and talented staff, strong management, and a Board that has invested, and continues to invest, in moving all of us forward.

WMHT is in a leadership position, because the station has talented and motivated people who continually strive to make this organization known for its quality and excellence. Mr. Kolb thanked the existing board members and staff, and re-welcomed the six new board members:

He noted the great job recruiting new board members that the Governance Committee did this year under the leadership of Mona Golub, and with the support of her colleagues Gloria DeSole, Annmarie Lanese, Doris Fischer Malesardi, and Lee McElroy.

Mr. Kolb acknowledged the strong group of new Officers of the Board of Trustees, Chair – Kathy Jimino, Vice Chair – Susan Novotny, Secretary – Vicki Sand, and continuing as Treasurer – Harry Rutledge. He then acknowledged everyone's passion and purpose who make this truly a rewarding place to spend time and energy, and to help make an impact on our surrounding communities.

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Sand seconded by Ms. Ball Shaw the board unanimously approved adjourning the meeting at 4:47 pm