

WVIA Community Advisory Board

Thursday, September 15, 2016 12 noon

The Community Advisory Board met at noon on September 15, 2016 at WVIA. In attendance were Jo-Ann Reif, Ph.D., chair, Tom Hall, Dick Briden, Midori Yamanouchi, Ph.D, Elaine Herzog, George Coulter, Tony Brooks, Carol Tome. Absent: Linda Keene, Doris Bigelow-Lees, Caryn Powers, and Meg Welker. Chris Norton represented WVIA. Jo-Ann Reif, chair, called the meeting to order.

Tom Hall complimented Jo-Ann Reif on the “Early Birds” program recorded with Erika Funke for 9/11. He admired the program for its music and scholarship, also noting Erika’s amazing ability to locate interesting people and draw them out in conversation.

Chris Norton updated the CAB on plans for the WVIA 50th Anniversary Fundraising banquet, now scheduled for Nov. 13 at Mohegan Sun Pocono. It will feature entertainment, a salute to WVIA’s history, and several awards presentation to community leaders. Other upcoming events include a Career Prep Conference October 5 at WVIA, a United Way GradNation Community Summit on boosting graduation rates October 28 at Mohegan Sun Pocono, a “Working Class” teacher workshop November 16 at WVIA, and a series of WVIA PBS Kids Classroom visits to elementary schools throughout the school year.

WVIA TV highlights include *Our Town Pittston* now in production for a February 23 broadcast, *Our Town Tamaqua* planned for June, with Mountaintop, Taylor, Olyphant and Honesdale under consideration for two programs between March and May. The *Stay Tuned* public affairs series is on hiatus due to a cutback in production expenses. *Call the Doctor* may return to production as a half-hour series in October. WVIA TV and FM will simulcast a series of 3 debates among Congressional candidates in the 10th, 11th and 17th districts Nov. 1-2-3. PBS highlights include the 6-part series *American Experience: The Presidents* in August, *Spotlight: Education* specials the week of September 15, and the upcoming *Frontline: The Choice 2016* September 27. The CAB received a printed schedule of programs in the PBS Arts Fall Festival, kicking off with *Hamilton’s America* October 21. Other notable programs include three Shakespeare histories in *The Hollow Crown: The War of the Roses* Dec. 11, 18, and 25.

WVIA FM summer highlights included a series of programs from the Wildflower Music Festival, as well as recordings of the Scranton Jazz Festival and COTA Festival at Delaware Water Gap. We aired music from Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic chamber programs, the orchestra organ concert, and the piano competition final round, hosted at WVIA. We hosted and recorded for broadcast the Bloomsburg University Young Classical Artist Competition. Our Simply Grand Concert series resumes September 18 with Duo Montagnard performing in the Sordoni Theater. Homegrown Music Concerts are on temporary hiatus as a budget-saving measure, but they’ll resume later in the season. The first Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic chamber program is tonight, September 15, with a Beethoven cello sonata and the Archduke Trio. November 10 will feature a Randall Thompson trio, and WVIA host a total of 5 Philharmonic chamber programs this year.

Carol Tome asked about the future of *A Prairie Home Companion*, and Chris explained that since Garrison Keillor's retirement, the show has featured reruns of older programs through the summer. October 22 will be the first program with new host, Chris Thiele, and it's hard to predict how the new show will sound without the familiar Lake Wobegon content. WVIA plans to carry the new episodes when available, then in later weeks a mix of Garrison Keillor and Chris Thiele reruns. *The Best of Car Talk* presents a similar dilemma: gauging audience interest when a long-time favorite program is "past its prime." Tom Hall expressed support for the "give it a try" approach.

Chris Norton conveyed an invitation from Tom Curra on behalf of the Board of Directors, welcoming CAB members willing to serve on the Development Committee. This committee will assist WVIA staff in identifying prospective donors and business underwriters as well as planning fundraising events. CAB members were given an invitation sheet to fill out and return if interested in joining the committee.

Tom Hall commented on the excellent quality of WVIA's local public service programming, and requested further information for Hazleton schools about the PBS Kids in the Classroom visit opportunity.

Next meetings: January 12, 2017 May 18, 2017 12 noon at WVIA

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Norton