

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL (ZOOM) MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE POPULAR CULTURE ASSOCIATION, Friday, October 16, 2020.

PCA President Kathy Merlock Jackson/ PCA Governing Board Chair David Moody called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM Eastern. Secretary Debbie Phillips did a roll call of members and verified that a quorum had been attained.

**Voting Members Present:** Peter Cullen Bryan, Brenda Boudreau, Ashley Donnelly, Amie Doughty, Beth Downey, Colin Helb, Helen Lewis, Novotny Lawrence, Kathy Merlock Jackson, Sue Matheson, Camille McCutcheon, David Moody, Debbie Phillips, David Silverman

**Voting Members Absent:** None

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Lynn Bartholome, Gary Burns, Carl Sederholm, Philip Simpson, Colleen Karn, Mary Beth Ray, and Ann Larabee

**Non-Voting Members Absent:** None

**Opening Remarks:** PCA President Kathy Merlock Jackson and Chair David Moody welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss business for the Boston June 2021 Conference.

**Discussion of the July 17, 2020 minutes:** The minutes of the July 17, 2020 Virtual Board meeting were not approved. There was a discrepancy/disagreement among the Board members with the outcome of the Bylaws Amendment 10.2 which states the term of office for the Vice President of Awards, the Vice President of Area Chairs, and the Vice President for Diversity, Outreach, and Inclusion. The amendment states that “An individual may be nominated again for a second term following three intervening years after leaving the position.” There was disagreement among the Board members as to whether this motion was approved or sent back to the Bylaws Committee. Lynn Bartholome recorded the meeting so the minutes could be changed to reflect the correct outcome of the motion as found in the recording of the July 17, 2020 minutes. Discussion about this change was tabled until an outcome for the motion could be provided and until the minutes could be updated and/or revised.

**Virtual Conference:** Lynn Bartholome initiated the discussion about virtual or hybrid variations of the Boston 2021 Conference in case COVID-19 cases were still high in June 2021. Lynn introduced and invited PCA Webmaster Tony Savorelli and Conference Direct liaison Sheila Yarnell to discuss issues that could affect the June 2021 face to face conference in Boston and possible alternatives or solutions. Lynn explained that we are still planning to have a face-to-face conference as of now.

Lynn also explained that the deadline for submissions for the Boston 2021 Conference was not as hard as other years at this point in the planning process. Lynn stated that the deadline for submission of papers would probably be extended until right before Christmas. Board members discussed various platforms such as hybrid or virtual model conferences used by other organizations. The Board members discussed the budget and costs for recording all panels for a hybrid or virtual conference. The Board seemed to agree that a face-to-face Boston 2021 Conference was the ideal choice but would be influenced by factors associated with COVID-19 which are still unknown at this time. Some examples include the status of individual member's travel money, international travel restrictions, and even national travel restrictions from state to state.

After discussion about the uncertain future, Board members agree that preparations need to be made for alternative conference formats. Kathy Merlock Jackson made a motion to create a committee to work on virtual conference preparations for the Boston 2021 Conference. Brenda Bourdreau seconded the motion.

The results were: 13 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

Board members volunteered to be a part of the committee. The committee consists of Brenda Boudreau, Elizabeth (Beth) Downey, Coin Helb, Peter Cullen Bryan, David Silverman, and Philip Simpson. Tony Savorelli agreed to lead the committee.

**General Announcements/Discussion Items:** Lynn Bartholome discussed that some of the feedback from PCA members indicated they were not pleased with paying their registration fees when they submit their paper/abstract for the Conference. Board members discussed that this was a practice that has been followed by most major organizations for years. The Board members were appreciative of Mary Beth Ray who has been working with Lynn to implement the new registration and submission requirements.

Lynn Bartholome also asked Helen Lewis to discuss the Safety Practices and Policies for the Boston 2021 Conferences. Lynn, Helen, David Silverman and Phil Simpson had served on this committee since 2018 but are now faced with even more precautions for the Boston 2021 Conference due to COVID-19 restrictions. Helen led the discussion for possible precautions for the conference which include social distancing, mask use, glove use, quarantining procedures, and distribution of hand sanitizers for members. David Moody asked if Helen and the Committee could work on these issues to report to the Board at the next Board meeting.

**Endowment Committee discussion:** Phil Simpson, Chair of the Endowment Committee discussed the award distribution regarding scholarship. The awards were capped at 91,000 dollars. Phil discussed the distribution amounts for each award. One award still hasn't been

named. There was discussion about the parameters for naming this award which is given to an adjunct faculty who has been a long-term member of the Popular Culture Association. Brenda Boudreau made a motion that the naming of the award will recognize an individual who has made significant contributions to the Popular Culture Association. Elizabeth Downey seconded the motion.

The results were 13 for; 0 against, 0 abstentions

**General Announcements/Discussion.** Lynn Bartholome presented the September 2020 budget information which was sent earlier with the agenda as a separate attachment. There were no questions. Lynn also mentioned the PPL and said there was nothing new to add. Lynn also said that she had not yet received the Browne Popular Culture Library Annual Report but would address this once she has received this report.

**Report from the PCA Bylaws Committee:** Sue Matheson, Chair/PCA VP/President Elect gave her report and explained the committee has been busy with revisions to the Bylaws.

A motion was made by Sue Matheson and seconded by Elizabeth Downey to change the following amendment:

**4.1 b Composition of the PCA Governing Board: The Governing Board is composed of twenty-two Members of the PCA, fourteen voting members and eight non-voting members.**

**The motion passed: VOTE: 13 Yes; 0 No**

A motion was made by Sue Matheson and seconded by Elizabeth Downey to change the following amendment:

**4.1 c The voting members of the Governing Board include the five (5) Officers—the President; Vice President/President Elect; Vice President for Awards; Vice President for Programming and Area Chairs; Vice President for Diversity, Outreach, and Inclusion—and nine (9) Trustees. The positions of Treasurer, Secretary, and Board Chair shall be filled by individuals elected from among the Board’s nine (9) Trustees.**

**The motion included a friendly amendment to remove the duplicate of the word “shall” found in the statement.**

**The motion passed: VOTE: 13 Yes; 0 No**

A motion was made by Sue Matheson and seconded by Elizabeth Downey to change the following amendment:

**4.1 d The eight non-voting ex officio members of the Governing Board shall include the Past President, PCA Endowment Committee Chair, PCA Archivist, PCA Digital Media Director, JAC editor, JPC editor, PCA Graduate Representative, and PCA Executive Director.**

**The motion passed: VOTE: 13 Yes; 0 No**

A motion was made by Sue Matheson and seconded by Elizabeth Downey to change the following amendment:

**5.6 Governing Board Term of Office: The Governing Board members elected just prior to the National Conference (pursuant to the procedure described in Article 7 hereof) will assume office at the end of the proximal PCA National Conference. Board members will be elected for three-year terms. Individuals may be re-elected for another full term. After six consecutive years or two terms (whichever is less) an individual is ineligible to serve. Three years must transpire before an individual is eligible again. There is not limit on the number of thee-year terms that can be ultimately served.**

There was lengthy discussion about this amendment. Due to the time constraints, a motion was made by Kathy Merlock Jackson to table this amendment and the rest of the amendments until a future Governing Board meeting could be scheduled in December. Sue Matheson seconded this motion.

**The motion passed: VOTE: 13 Yes; 0 No**

**Report from the Awards Committee:** Brenda Boudreau, PCA Vice President for Awards presented her report about the 2020-2021 Award Winners. Brenda explained that some of the awards committees members have changed due to COVID19 effect of many jobs and job security.

**Closing Remarks:** Due to time limitations and Board members leaving the meeting, the meeting was adjourned by David Moody Chair of the Board adjourned the meeting at 5:08 pm.