

Pocahontas Communications Cooperative Corporation
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Of March 5, 2023
at the
Pocahontas Opera House
1:00 PM

Board members present: Vic Herbster, Beth Armstrong, Pete Pitard, Melody Moats, Keith Carson, and Cheryl Jonese; Board Members absent: Richard Goforth, Taylor Baker

- **Call Meeting to Order**

Board President Vic Herbster called the meeting to order at 1PM. Vic thanked the caterers who prepared the meal, Almost heaven Smoke House. Vic also thanked the Pocahontas Opera House for hosting the meeting.

- **Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2022 Annual Meeting**

A motion was made by Beth to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2022 Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

- **Introduction of Board Members / Board Member Elections**

Vic introduced the Board members present at the meeting.

- **2 Pocahontas Representative Seats**

Vic Herbster and Cheryl Jonese are the Board representatives whose terms are expiring. They both put their names in nomination to continue. Both Vic and Cheryl were elected by voice vote.

- **1 Bath Representative Seat**

Richard Goforth's term is expiring this year. There was no nomination for this Board slot, so Vic said that the Board would take this up at the next Board meeting in June.

- **Star Award**

Scott Smith remarked that there are several previous winners of the STAR Award present here today. He described the history of the award, known as the Steve Terry Area Resource Award. Steve was a volunteer at WVLS and worked diligently for AMR even as he battled a terminal illness. The winner of this year's STAR Award is not present today and he is Duane Kinnison (spelling?). He started volunteering in 2014 at WVMR and became the Station Coordinator there in 2015 and remained until 2020 when he left to

relocate to South Carolina. Duane's wife Joyce is a past STAR Award winner as well. They join the only other STAR Award winning couple, Carson Ralston and Bonnie Ralston. Duane and Joyce still send shows up to AMR for broadcast. The show is called "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere." (did they each have their own show?) Scott proceeded to read Duane's biography as it appeared on the AMR website for years. Duane Edward Kinnison was born in Maryland and spent the intervening years in West Virginia and Maryland. Duane is a published poet, writer, actor and musician. He plays drums in a local rock band. Scott contacted Duane to tell him of his receiving this year's STAR Award and he sent Scott a sound recording in reply. The recording was not loud enough to be picked up by the meeting recorder so it is not included in the minutes. Scott continued by saying that both Duane and Joyce were known to spend the night at the WVMR studio when bad weather struck so they could go on the air the next day for their show. That indicates the level of their dedication to AMR.

- **General Manager Report – Scott Smith**

Scott commented on the great turnout today for the Annual Meeting, both by staff and volunteers. It has been a challenging and yet successful year for AMR. The success is due to the dedicated AMR staff that routinely go above and beyond to serve the listeners. He went around the room to recognize various staff members including Brad, Abby Dufour the afternoon DJ, Liat Lukacek, the Office Services specialist, Chuck and Heather Niday, Chief Engineer and Program Manager, Danny Cardwell, Station Coordinator at WCHG and Social Media Director. There are two staff members not here today, Pocahontas County newsman Tim Walker and the WVLS Station Coordinator Bonnie Ralston who both do superb jobs for AMR. Scott recognized Sage Tanguay down in Bath County at WCHG. Fundraisers this year were a big success. The goal for the Fall Fundraiser was \$30,000 and AMR has now raised \$36,000. The Maple Festival is coming up followed by the Blue Grass Jamboree, so if you want to volunteer, see me after this meeting. The Spring Fundraiser is coming up soon too. Scott recognized Cash Chambers, a 9th grader who is volunteering for AMR and has his own music show. The focus for the next year is young people. The PCCC Board completed a strategic plan earlier in the year. Scott also noted that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting funding is at risk from congressional

budget cuts so contact your representative and ask them to fund CPB because it helps fund rural radio stations like AMR.

- **Program Director Report – Heather Niday**

This has been a difficult year for AMR, but there has also a lot to be grateful for. The staff at AMR is truly a family and they step up when they are needed. She also appreciated the support from the Board, especially when three people were out sick over the holidays. AMR could not do what it does without the support of all of its volunteers. This past year AMR went back out full force to be all of the community festivals. She mentioned her appreciation for the Board members. They support the staff so much. Vic expressed his appreciation for all that Heather does for AMR.

- **Public Comment**

- **Closing Remarks**

Vic noted that AMR has a large impact on the people of the Allegheny Highlands. He asked the audience to look at all the people around your table here today. He noted that about 10% of the listeners to public radio stations are responsible for most of the funding for those stations. He thanked those in the audience that make up that 10% and asked the audience members to think about how you could help AMR in the future.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45PM

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Carson, Secretary

