

Minutes of the Early Television Museum Annual Meeting May 8, 2022

We had record attendance at this year's Convention. About 125 attendees. The previous record was about 115. We also had a lot of new people, and a lot of younger attendees.

MINUTES:

Approval of minutes of previous meeting:

Members should have received correspondence including the minutes of the previous meeting.

Comments and corrections to the minutes were requested. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and approved.

ELECTIONS:

Election of members of the Board of Directors:

Due to the pandemic, we had a 2-year hiatus on conventions, so our elections are two years past due. Our existing board members all continued to serve during the delay, and all have offered to run for re-election. We lost several board members over the past few years, and two people were appointed to fill their positions, Blake Hinkle and Matt D'Asaro. There are 10 board members and 11 positions. We had two new nominees. So we decided to just take the 10 incumbents and the two nominees and whichever 11 people received the highest number of votes would be the new board members. All of the incumbents were re-elected and Dan Jones was elected as our newest board member.

Our current directors are Dave Abramson, Dave Arland, Geoff Bourne, Chuck Conrad, Bob Dobush, Matt D'Asaro, Blake Hinkle, Dan Jones, Steve McVoy, James O'Neill and Dave Sica.

The other thing we need to do is elect our officers. The volunteers we have for the three positions are Steve McVoy for president and treasurer and Dave Sica for secretary. We'd both like to continue in those positions and if you approve we will do so.

A motion was made for Steve as President and Treasurer and Dave as Secretary. The motion was seconded and approved.

FINANCES:

We're doing very well financially, between memberships and donations. We're up to over 170 members right now.

The raffle went very well for the museum. It grossed almost \$12,000. Ticket sales were stalled at about five thousand dollars as of two weeks ago and then all of a sudden a lot of tickets were sold towards the end.

That's a major fundraising point for us, especially since the prize was donated to us. We only had to cover the transportation costs to get it here from California, but other than that there was no cost so it was all income to the museum.

Our other sources of income are the membership fees and donations. We get a substantial amount of donations both from people coming through the museum and from people mailing in or emailing us donations. We also sell a fairly large number of CRTs.

Bob Dobush is the person who packs them up and ships them, and we appreciate his work on that.

We received about \$1,300 in income from ads on our website.

The Convention generally brings in a few thousand dollars: we break even on the actual Convention expenses. But we do make some money on the sale of items that are surplus to our needs, and we get a commission on the auction sales. We also receive some donations at the convention. So in total, a few thousand dollars of income comes in from the Convention.

So financially we're in pretty good shape. Our income has been exceeding our expenses for the last two years. Last year our expenses were about \$33,900 and our income was about \$41,000, so we have about a \$7,000 surplus.

As of the first of the year we had about fourteen thousand dollars in the bank. That's a little higher now. We haven't bought anything for the museum and we really haven't had any big expenses beyond an occasional repair to the air conditioning system and our normal operating expenses. But we've had no unexpected expenses

EQUIPMENT DONATIONS:

We had about \$20,000 worth of items donated this year.

The most significant things are:

- The RCA TRK-120
- An RCA 648 PTK. This is a nice one and will be used to replace the one we currently have on display. (Same donor as the TRK-120)
- An RCA 630 TCS in really nice condition.

Another donation is an RCA TRK-5 which is currently on its way here. It had some water damage on the bottom of the cabinet. We have several people interested in buying it, but this set, after being restored might make a good prize for the next year's raffle.

PLANNING:

Promotional Items.

We sell t-shirts and hats and mugs, not actively, but Larry sells a few at the front desk and they're on the website. They're not very prominently displayed so there's there's some opportunity there to sell more.

New Display Area.

We're also considering extending the display area out into the currently unfinished space between the European room and the CRT workshop. This new area would house a rotating display and include a window into the CRT workshop so that would be a display area too.

New Display Philosophy: feature newer artifacts.

We've had a lot of interest from new people, and one of the driving forces and the reason for all these new people may be the monthly online meetings. There are people in there that didn't know we existed and there are probably still a lot of people who don't know we exist, so it seems that's brought a lot of new people in. One of the things that we've noticed is that their tastes in TV are different from what our traditional tastes have been. New collectors are often interested in sets dating into the 1990s. The term "bubble TV" has started to creep into the vernacular, used to describe a CRT television with its characteristic "non-flatscreen" face.

There's a lot of interest on some of the Facebook groups regarding sets from the sixties, seventies and even later. People like the retro look of CRT TVs. We should probably adapt to this because currently we really have almost nothing past 1960 in the collection, it's all focused on the earliest stuff so that's something that we need to work on.

Movie Props.

We might want to consider a more aggressive marketing our artifacts to the film and television industry for use as props. We've earned a bit of income in the past, but haven't actively promoted ourselves as a source for movie props.

Restoration Workshops.

A suggestion was made for future Convention activities: a half-day or full-day restoration workshop for those new to the hobby. It would be step by step from diagnosis through basic restoration with the goal to get it working by the end of the session. Similar to, but more comprehensive than restoration workshops at past Conventions.

CRT Rebuilding.

We don't currently have anybody rebuilding tubes. There is a report on the website about the progress that Nick Williams is making on his CRT rebuilding setup in Maryland. It's slow progress but he continues to work on it.

We have a functional setup here and we know how to do it, but the problem is the organization to turn it into a business. That's where we stumbled; nobody came forward to take control of it and say "I'll do it" and that's what we needed.

Fire Department Inspections.

The fire department came through last year with a very substantial list of issues they were unhappy with. Most were related to the electrical wiring. Bob Dobush was the liaison on this and he handled it for us very nicely. Remediation included replacing non-code electrical wiring in the work we had done here. It required replacing the cables and outlets. Larry did that with me directing him from Colorado. It was fairly extensive but it was all done and the inspector came back and everything passed. We had a second inspection this year that Bob again handled and they found very little, just a few issues with the fire extinguishers and basically making sure we

didn't double lock any doors, things like that. We're in pretty good shape and it doesn't seem likely that we're going to have any significant issues in the future.

Signage.

It was proposed that small (32") LCD televisions can be used for inexpensive signage, fed by content on a USB memory stick.

Possible Future Move to New Location.

Several years ago we were approached by a developer about buying the property and moving us to a new building in the developing recreation area of downtown Hilliard. There has been no activity on those discussions so although this may eventually come to fruition, nothing is imminent at this time. We will want to be careful about the terms of any deal since as we've discussed, owning the building is the only insurance against someone changing their plans at a later date and us losing our home.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The date of the next board meeting will be announced.