

## Early Television Foundation Board of Directors meeting (telephone conference)

February 1, 2017

Present: Chuck Azar, Dave Abramson, Geoff Bourne, Bob Dobush, John Folsom, Daryl Hock, Steve McVoy, Dave Sica, Jack South

Steve McVoy noted that due to oversight, we had not conducted a board meeting this past November as had been planned.

Steve McVoy asked for comments on the minutes of the August minutes. There were no comments and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### Financial Report:

Financially, we're doing well. We have a balance of about fifteen thousand dollars in our general funds and we have a tax bill of approximately 6,000 due next month so we'll have about 10,000 in the bank after that is paid.

There is about a twenty-seven hundred dollar balance in the CRT rebuilding fund.

Currently we have 91 membership renewals for 2017. This is above where we were at this time last year. We also have seven sustaining members whereas last year we had one, so we're making progress.

Sustaining member payments are currently on a monthly basis and there are three choices: \$5, \$10 and \$15 per month. After some discussion it was decided to add the option for a yearly Sustaining Membership, in the amounts of \$25, \$50 and \$100.

### Museum Operating Report:

Steve plans to donate the building to the foundation this year due to the fact that he expects to have a substantial personal tax bill this year. He'll get an appraisal of the building, which will take a few months. There are several advantages to doing this: first is that the building will be owned by the foundation in the event that anything happens to Steve. Second, it will save approximately \$12,000 per year in property taxes once the property is owned by a nonprofit organization. This should be done by June when the next tax bill is due.

### Parking Log:

Due to the fact that we'll probably go into the Convention with around \$12,000 in the bank and we usually add a significant amount to that from the proceeds of the Convention, Steve expects that there will be enough money to pay the property tax and pay for the paving of the parking lot, which has been estimated at \$22,000. This will cover the blacktop and repainting the lines for parking spaces. We'll take up a special collection at the convention to cover the difference between the funds we have and the cost of the paving. Steve volunteered that if we came up a little short of the full amount needed, he'd be willing to make up the difference.

There will be additional parking available in the area due to the convention center just constructed by the city of Hilliard. Land around the center is being developed as a park, with parking spaces, so the Early Television Museum is going to be surrounded by parking lots.

### CRT Rebuilding:

Nick Williams is going to be out a week early before the Convention and his goal is to rebuild a 21-inch round color tube. We expect that effort to be successful.

Nick is going to be retiring from the Navy in about 3 years. He's still interested in working with the CRT rebuilding project, but he doesn't seem to be interested in moving to Hilliard. We might want to think about talking to him and determining what would be involved in moving it's moving the equipment to his location in Great Mills, Maryland at some point.

### TV truck:

We have been in ongoing conversation with the Ohio Historical Society about their transferring ownership of the RCA TV truck to the Early Television Foundation. The truck has been on load, and it was always likely that it would remain on display at the Early Television Museum. The process of donating it to the Museum has

been slow because the historical society is owned by the State of Ohio. Steve McVoy will continue to stay in touch and report again on the progress at our next meeting.

#### TRK 41 Restoration:

At the last Convention, various people took one piece of the camera chain to restore for the museum. To date, relatively little has happened. One piece of equipment, the colorplexer, has been finished; others are still works in process and work has yet to begin on others. So at this point, it seems unlikely that we'll have the restoration of the camera completed by the 2017 Convention.

Steve Kissinger was almost done with the one module, one of the camera boards.  
John Folsom has the color bar generator but that's completely nonessential.

Steve has a list of who the various parts were delegated to.

There were a number of pieces that no one volunteered to work on yet. Steve will develop and distribute a list of equipment and the status of each piece. This includes several camera modules, the main control unit in the rack, and that one is complicated. James O'Neal volunteered to look at it.

We will use the transistor preamps rather than the vacuum tube ones. They will be less noisy, easier to restore.

#### Equipment Donations:

We had a TK 1 monoscope from channel 10 in Columbus donated. It had been rebuilt in the sixties and Steve only had to replace one capacitor. It's now on display in the museum.

We also received two TK 30 camera heads in fair condition. One may have been from the IndiaAnnapolis station so we might put that one on display and sell the other one. And we had a TRK-20 that doesn't that

James O'Neal suggested that movie companies often need to rent broadcasting equipment as props. Steve noted that over the years the museum has rented out TV sets to various shows. This includes the Western Empire State mechanical set that appeared in HBO's show Boardwalk Empire a few years ago and a Zenith Flashmatic that is going to be a major Hollywood film next year.

Dave Abramson offered to take on the role of coordinating outreach to places that provide rental equipment to the film and television industry as well as various state Film and Television commissions.

We have a TRK-120 in fair condition but complete and also a Marconi 705 again in fair condition but complete. Since we already have one of each in way better shape, these will probably go into the auction.

We also had a bunch of little stuff donated.

#### Old Business:

##### Estate Planning.

Dave Sica has reached out to Bart Lee of CHRS and AWA to discuss those points about estate planning that are unique to the TV (and radio and other electronic items) collector. Besides standard estate planning techniques such as getting collectors to include us in their wills, the key problems include the fact that most people simply don't know what this stuff is, and therefore don't know how to value it so occasionally it gets thrown out. Another issue is that sometimes collections are unwieldy in size, making it difficult for heirs to deal with them.

To that end, we're working on developing a "kit" to help collectors plan ahead for the disposition of their collections. This would likely include instructional material, inventory sheets and stickers or tags. Interested organizations such as the Early Television Foundation can have these kits made up and given or sold to people to help them in their estate planning. In the "standard estate planning" vein, the kits would include information about leaving gifts of stock, cash, real estate etc. in your will.

#### Convention Presentations Committee:

We had discussed forming a committee to manage presentations for this Convention. On the one hand, we want to properly vet proposed presentations to make sure they'd be appropriate for the Convention, and on the

other hand, it's always been in the past that we have just enough presentations to fill up the program so it's not like we're really in a position to turn anybody down.

James O'Neal suggested that we should issue a Call for Papers, even if just for the purpose of getting people thinking that the Convention is coming and if they've been thinking about doing a presentation, that might get them off the fence. At a minimum we should request a synopsis or outline of the proposed presentation.

Steve will send out a specifically about presentations with a request to provide information about the subject.

Steve proposed another conference call three weeks before the convention to discuss which of the proposed presentations and see which ones we want, to come up with a lineup and perhaps reject any if needed.

James O'Neal suggested offering an award for best presentation to motivate people to make the presentations as good as possible. He has information about how the IEEE does this that he will share with Steve so he can develop something for use at the Convention.

Ampex Signature V:

Steve had emailed the person who had contacted him about the possible donation and was told that they they had already made up their minds and it is going to the Smithsonian's warehouse.

Signage:

The town of Hilliard is slowly putting together a policy on signs and when they have one, Steve will apply for a promotional sign for the Museum.

Dave Abramson asked if we can post a sign outside the museum. Steve said that we already have a sign, but Dave suggested one that was located on the corner and was a bit more promotional in nature. Dave will examine the location when he's out there in May and will develop recommendation regarding proposed locations and types of sign.

By-Laws: terms of officers

Steve noted that our current by-laws don't provide quite the functionality we had intended regarding the terms of the members of the board of directors. The idea was to have people elected for three-year terms with the terms of the various positions staggered and every year we'd elect people. To achieve this, we need to have it set up so that only a third of the board is up for election each year. The idea behind this is to ensure some continuity.

Steve proposed two ideas to create staggered terms:

First, set the number of board members at 11, which will make it simpler to maintain staggered terms.

Currently, the board of directors nominates people, and then more may be nominated from the floor. We could vote by show of hands and the highest 11 would be elected.

Dave Abramson suggested that a paper ballot would be better than a show of hands. The printed ballot could contain the previously nominated names and nominations from the floor could be written in.

Steve suggested that we could call for nominations via email a month before the meeting to allow the membership at large to nominate people and the printed ballot could be more complete.

Steve noted that his first

proposal was that we just have one year terms and every year and we take the top eleven vote-getters but that doesn't accomplish the continuity

The second idea was that we say that after 2017 don't we do the same process, but take the top eleven vote getters at the 2017 meeting and the four nominees with the highest

number of votes get the three-year terms, the next four are three-year terms and the last three are elected for one-year terms. From then on, every year there would be an election of only four people

Geoff Bourne will send Steve a copy of the by-laws of the Huntington museum for use as a reference to revising our by-laws. They have board members elected who, in turn, elect officers. They've also eliminated term limits due to it being impractical with the limited number of people who typically express interest in becoming volunteer officers. The consensus is that we should not institute term limits at this time.

Steve will rewrite his proposal for changing the election process and send out to the board for review.

James O'Neal proposed establishing a listing of minimum duties that would be expected from board members.

Dave Abramson asked if we should have, for example, a VP Technology, VP Restoration? Obligation to participate in a certain number of meetings?

Steve will add some language to the effect that the members of the board of directors will be expected to attend the annual meeting and the telephone board meetings during the year, and to spend a reasonable amount of time during the year to help promote the museum's efforts.

James O'Neal proposed requiring a minimal amount of financial support. Steve proposed something like "to support the museum financially to the best of your ability." Steve will email a proposed wording on this topic to the board for review.

Convention Center:

The city of Hilliard has built a new convention center right down the street from the museum. Holding the convention there would be about the same cost. Steve has already arranged to hold this year's convention there.

Steve instituted a \$15 charge per vendor to cover the cost of a tent.

Chuck Azzalina will not be managing the auction this year. Darryl Hock has offered to take over, but then we need someone to take over the work that Darryl has done organizing the presentations and running the computer and projector.

Dave Abramson offered to work on the auction. And Darryl offered to continue to manage the presentations if no one else steps forward.

Training:

Steve received a request from a member, someone relatively new to the hobby who thought it might be nice to have a presentation on how to begin to get into collecting and restoring.

Jack South offered to work on the presentation, but didn't feel qualified to design the whole thing.

Something for Sunday. Not necessarily with the equipment, but with pictures of the equipment.

Dave Abramson suggested that he and Dave Sica record some video footage of the museum during the convention in order to create a 30-second commercial, or Public Service Announcement that could be distributed to media outlets and used on the internet to help publicize the museum. The two Daves agreed to talk more 'offline' and work on the project together.