

Early Television Foundation Board of Directors Meeting

May 10, 2021

Minutes

Members present:

Dave Arland

Chuck Azar

Dave Abramson

Geoff Bourne

Chuck Conrad

Bob Dobush

James O'Neal

Steve Mcvoy

Dave Sica

Not present:

Ralph Sargent

Ray Sieracki (deceased)

Early Television Foundation Board of Directors Meeting

Old Business

Minutes

Minutes of the October 2020 meeting were not distributed to board members. The minutes were tentatively approved pending a full review by the board. Minutes of the October meeting were shared via a link in the chat during today's meeting and will be emailed to members along with the minutes of today's meeting.

CRT Sales

We typically average about one CRT sale per week.

Membership

We currently have 148 members. Average increase is 1 or 2 per week. Including 7 lifetimes, 25 sustaining. The 2021 membership drive will start at the end of November. There is money coming in from memberships, donations, and donations by visitors to the museum.

Equipment Donations

A number of items have been donated since last fall, but nothing noteworthy. All are destined for auction.

The deal for the Zenith 15" color set that was going to be donated still hasn't been finalized, but Steve anticipates that it will eventually become part of the collection on loan.

Income and Expenses

We had about \$42,000 of income last calendar year. Gross revenue from the sweepstakes was approximately \$10,700; Net revenue after purchase of the prize (a

restorable CT-100 with a good CRT) was approximately \$7,000. Our total expenses for the year were approximately \$34,000, so even without the sweepstakes we did not run a deficit; with the sweepstakes income was ahead of expenses by approximately \$10,000.

There have been no significant expenses since the last meeting.

TK-41 Project

Barry Bennett is back to working on the camera. Chuck Pharis has offered to donate a useable set of prisms in exchange for the deteriorated dichroic mirrors in our camera.

Advertising and Promotion

No recent activity. The advertising placed just prior to the pandemic ended up being mostly wasted effort due to the shutdown. We will revisit advertising and promotion once things get more back to normal, perhaps this spring.

CRT Rebuilding

No report.

Museum

Our hours of operation and average weekly number of visitors is now back to approximately what it was pre-pandemic. Our current COVID policy is that only non-vaccinated visitors are required to wear masks.

Online Meetings

Dave Sica reported that the online meetings have been well-attended and well-reviewed. We have a lineup of almost a dozen potential presenters, although no one has been ready and able to present for the April or May meetings. Our backup plan for meeting with no outside presenter is to take an in-depth look at an area of our own museum. Our attendance has averaged around 100 people per meeting, with about 75 attending via Zoom and about 25 watching the YouTube feed. A number of meeting attendees stay on the Zoom meeting after the end of the formal presentation as an informal social gathering, which was part of the goal for these events.

Based on technical limitations (WiFi coverage, geography) it's impractical for everyone to do a fully live walk-around tour, and a number of potential presenters have offered to do a live Zoom presentation that relied on a canned (video or PowerPoint) segment rather than a live tour.

We discussed having formal technical presentations in addition to the more informal tours of other collections. Dave Sica cautioned that although this has been offered by several potential presenters, and would make for an interesting meeting, we want to be careful that we don't poach presentations that might be appropriate for the in-person Early Television Conventions.

We promote the online meetings via the Early Television Museum website, via our email list and through announcements made on various Facebook group pages, along with emails to members of several antique radio clubs. Suggestions for additional promotion through clubs, organizations and businesses are welcome.

New Business:

June Swapmeet

There has been a good response to the idea of holding a swapmeet at the museum this summer. It will be the first TV-related event since the beginning of the pandemic, so there is a lot of pent-up enthusiasm. Steve will not be in town for the event. Blake Hinkle is organizing the event, which will be very informal. It will be a very informal affair and there will be no admission charge. There will be a walk-around auction but it will be managed totally manually (paper records) with no buyer or seller fees.

Early Television Convention

We discussed whether to try to have the Early Television Convention this fall or cancel 2021 and hold the Convention at the regular time next year (first week of May, 2022.) It was decided to postpone the event until next spring, which was Steve's preference. We'll want to make sure that the date of our event does not conflict with the spring Kutztown Antique Radio Show (currently scheduled for the second weekend in May.) There was also the question of whether it would be a benefit or a detriment to coordinate the date of our event with the Dayton Hamvention (2022 date currently not announced.)

Sweepstakes

The sweepstakes has been a reliable fundraiser for the Museum and has been consistently popular with the collector community. We'll run a sweepstakes again this year. For a grand prize, a CT-100 television has always served us well. Two years ago the prize was won by Ray Sieracki. Steve will contact Ray's widow to see if she'd like to sell the set to the ETF, in which case we could offer it as the prize for this year's sweepstakes.

New Board Members

We have lost two board members over the past year. Ray Sieracki died and Ralph Sargent has gone missing. Steve has been unsuccessful in his attempts to contact Ralph, and based on Ralph's self-reported advancing dementia at the last Early Television Convention, it's likely that his health has deteriorated to the point where he can no longer serve. Steve will continue to try to contact him.

In any case, to maintain the current number of board members, we need to add two replacements. We discussed whether having fewer (or more) board members would be permissible and/or of any benefit. We decided to maintain the currently specified number of board members.

We discussed various options regarding electing and/or appointing board members to fill Ray's and Ralph's slots. There currently isn't anything specified in our bylaws about replacing board members in mid-term.

Steve observed that we should especially consider qualified candidates who are relatively young.

We decided to solicit nominations for the positions at the next online meeting (which will also serve as the Early Television Foundation's 2021 Annual Meeting.) Nominations will be accepted via email. Nominations will be reviewed and vetted by the board; candidates that are approved by the board will be placed on a ballot which will be sent to members via email. Voting will be by email. The two candidates receiving the most votes will become the new members of the board of directors. (It was not discussed whether the new board members would fill out the remaining time in the terms of Ray and Ralph or if they would start their own terms.)

Museum Planning

Discussion continues between Steve and the city of Hilliard about the possible sale of our current property to a developer and moving the museum to a new building in the Hilliard cultural redevelopment zone on the Franklin County Fairgrounds property.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed.