

Evangelical Press Association

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 3, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the
Branson Hilton in Branson, MO

Directors Present:

Sandra Glahn, President
Warren Maye, Treasurer
Dwight Widaman, President-Elect
Ann-Margret Hovsepian, Advisor
Kristy Glaspie, Secretary
Mark Dreistadt, Advisor (via Zoom for first half)

Directors Absent:

Mark Dreistadt, Advisor (for second half)

Also Present Were:

Lamar Keener, Executive Director

Call to Order

Called to order at 9:18 a.m., Central time. (Sandra Glahn led a devotion prior to the call to order)

Approval of minutes

Motion by Kristy Glaspie: to approve the minutes of the Nov. 4, 2024 Board meeting.

Seconded.

Motion carried.

Board reviewed annual business meeting agenda

Old Business

The Board discussed and reviewed a proposed Resolution on Biblical Values. A Google document will be prepared for the Board to further review and revisit at fall Board meeting.

Director's Report

Lamar Keener presented a detailed report to the board.

NRB Report

The Board reviewed the ROI of Lamar attending the NRB convention and recommended continuing attending.

2025 Convention Report

Lamar Keener presented a detailed report of convention attendance and revenue.

- Financially, the conference is good despite lower registrations.
- 2026 Convention will be in Nashville May 11-13.
- 2027 has many possibilities for convention.
- Board discussed potentially changing the length of breakout sessions.

DigitalMediaCon

Will continue doing this with the next one scheduled for October 21-23, 2025.

Scholarship Contest

The Board reviewed recipients and scholarship amounts.

The Board discussed ways to increase scholarship money.

Motion to award \$3,000 for the Jerry Jenkins Scholarship to Anna Kezar of Grace College and \$1,000 for the Douglas J. Trouten Memorial Scholarship to Kendall Beck of Taylor University.

Seconded.

Motion carried.

Emerging Journalist Award

The Board reviewed honorees for this award:

- Rachel Streich, Cru Storylines
- Marissa Sullivan, Lifeway Research
- Schuyler Vander Wilt, Answers Magazine
- Audrey Jackson, The Christian Chronicle (Photojournalist)
- Caylie Smith, Alliance Life (Visual Artist)

Awards Contest

Lamar Keener presented a detailed report of the contest.

Motion by Sandra Glahn: to open Awards of Excellence to multiple entries/multiple categories.

Seconded.

Motion carried

The Board discussed potentially adding AI guidelines for contest rules. Warren will explore creating a statement about it for contest entries.

The Board discussed Best in Class contest and were in agreement for it to continue.

Board adjourned at 12:55 for lunch

Board reconvened at 2:46. Mark Dreistadt was absent.

Membership Report

Lamar Keener provided a comprehensive update on EPA's membership. Overall, membership is stable through 2024 but trending behind for 2025. Print memberships continue to drop while digital memberships continue to grow.

The Board discussed offering a 2026 convention incentive to help increase memberships.

Financial Report

Lamar Keener provided a comprehensive update on EPA's financial plan and forecast.

Motion by Ann-Margret Hovsepian: to authorize Executive Director Lamar Keener and Treasurer Andy Olsen (pending vote at annual business meeting) to be the official signers for the organization's financial accounts, including the Christian Community Credit Union and Mountain American Credit Union.

Seconded.

Motion carried.

Lamar projected a slight deficit for FY26 budget.

Executive Session

The Board adjourned to a break at 4:04 p.m. and reconvened for Executive Session at 4:10 p.m. without Lamar Keener.

Executive Session adjourned and Lamar Keener rejoins the board at 5:08 p.m.

Increase HRA

Sandra Glahn informed Lamar Keener that the Board voted in Executive Session to increase the annual allotment for the Section 105 HRA from \$10,000 to \$12,000 and to reduce the director's salary from \$70,000 to \$68,000, effective July 1, 2025.

2027 Convention

Board directed Lamar Keener to explore Cleveland, Chicago, and Pittsburgh for Convention 2027.

Fall Planning Retreat

Board requested a revised budget that adds \$7,000 for an in-person board meeting in the fall.

FY26 Budget

Motion by Sandra Glahn: to give preliminary approval for the 2025-2026 with the modified budget including a \$7,000 addition with review and final approval at the fall board meeting.

Seconded.

Motion carried.

New business

Magazine Training International

The Board discussed asset acquisition proposal of Magazine Training International.

Motion by Sandra Glahn: to authorize the Executive Director to take whatever actions necessary to execute an asset acquisition agreement with Magazine Training International.

Seconded

Motion carried.

Motion by Lamar Keener: to open a bank account under the name of MTI as a DBA of EPA.

Seconded.

Motion carried.

Screenwriter Membership Initiative

The Board discussed whether to add screenwriters to list of potential members for EPA. The Board distinguished the need to differentiate between nonfiction and fiction for any category of member we may add. The Board discussed other visual non-fiction storytellers that could potentially be added for membership.

Triennial Wage Survey

We'll do it again this year.

Next board meeting

Board will next meet in the fall in-person at a location TBD.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Warren May to adjourn.

Second.

Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m. Central time.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristy Glaspie, EPA Secretary