Evangelical Press Association

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 11, 2026
A meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, Tennessee

Directors Present:
Dwight Widaman, President
Warren Maye, President-Elect
Mark Dreistadt, Adviser
Seana Scott, Adviser
Andy Olsen, Treasurer
Kristy Glaspie, Secretary

Directors Absent:
None

Also Present Were:
Lamar Keener

Call to Order
Dwight Widaman who called the meeting to order at 8:53 a.m. A quorum of directors was present.

Approval of minutes
Motion by Mark Dreistadt to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting of October 30, 2025.
Seconded.
Motion carried.

Motion by Mark Dreistadt to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting of January 13, 2026.
Seconded.
Motion carried.

Director's Report
Lamar Keener presented a summary report to the board.

The board reviewed the annual business meeting agenda

Virtual communities
The First Friday Zoom meeting for freelancers, formerly run by volunteer associate members, is now being coordinated by the EPA office.

A new virtual meeting has been started. Peer Group Tuesdays happens the third Tuesday of each month with informal discussions on various subjects.

Magazine Training International report
A report was given on the successful transition of MTI becoming a division of EPA. Donations have funded the operation for up to two more years. As of April 30, 2026:

- $73,485 Revenue YTD (includes $35,000 in grants from Tyndale)
- $19,319 Expenses YTD
- $54,166 Net YTD

Convention report
Lamar shared a detailed report about the 2026 convention.

- Attendance is down nearly 20% from 2025, after a 20% decline last year
- Sponsorship revenues met budget projections despite not being sold out
- The sleeping room block requirement was not met and EPA will be required to pay an attrition penalty
- EPA will suffer a loss due to the lower registration numbers, higher food & beverage costs, and the attrition penalty

The 2027 convention will be held May 16-18, 2027, at the Westin Lombard (Chicago).

DigitalMediaCon
The 2026 virtual conference will be held October 20-21, 2026.

Scholarship report
Lamar reported on the scholarship contest which had four entries. Four judges reviewed the applications and recommended that the $3,000 Jerry Jenkins Scholarship should go to Jason Lee of Biola University. The $1,000 Douglas J. Trouten Memorial Scholarship should go to Anna Mitchell of Taylor University.

Motion by Andy Olsen to accept the scholarship recipients as recommended by the judging committee.
Seconded.
Motion carried.

2026 Emerging Journalist Award
Lamar reported on the potential honorees for this award. A panel of three judges have recommended the following for awards:

- Calvin Cockrell, The Christian Chronicle
- Sarah Wontorcik, Cru

Motion by Mark Dreistadt to accept the Emerging Journalist Award winners as recommended by the judging committee.
Seconded.

Motion carried.

Honorary Member Recommendation
Lamar recommended the board extend a lifetime honorary membership to Michael Ray Smith, a lifelong journalist and journalism professor who has supported EPA's program for decades.

Motion by Warren Maye to approve Michael Ray Smith as an honorary member.
Seconded.
Motion carried.

Contest report
Lamar shared a detailed report of the 2024 Awards of Excellence and Higher Goals awards competitions. Entries were down about 10% from the previous year, impacted by lower membership. There were 88 entries for Awards of Excellence and 761 Higher Goals entries for a total of 849 entries. Revenue was $27,670, with a net surplus of $11,310 after expenses.

The board agreed that the summer Best in Class contest could be terminated after six years due to declining participation.

Membership report
Lamar provided a comprehensive report on EPA's membership. Overall membership is declining.

- Total paid memberships for 2025 were 245
- Total overall memberships for 2025 were 291
- Attrition for the year was 11.6%
- Print publications continue to trend downward while digital members have held relatively steady but still saw a decrease last year.
- Membership for 2026 is trending behind 2025

Financial Report
Lamar provided a detailed financial report, including a report of the remote office allowance and a review of the CDs.

Lamar is projecting a significant deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, due to declining membership and the anticipated loss from the convention. He is also concerned about the outlook for fiscal year 2026-2027.

Lamar requested approval to apply for a short-term bridge loan this summer to cover cash flow until a large CD matures in late August.

Motion by Warren Maye to pass a resolution as written below to take a short-term loan.
Seconded.

Motion carried.

To approve the below resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute a loan agreement with the bank for a short-term cash-flow loan to carry us over until the next CD matures.

BOARD RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SHORT-TERM LOAN

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Evangelical Press Association, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization duly organized and existing under the laws of California, was held on May 11, 2026, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that it is in the best interests of the organization to obtain a short-term loan to support cash flow needs and ensure the continued operation of the organization's programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the anticipated terms of such a loan and finds them to be reasonable and in the best interests of the organization;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Lamar Keener, serving as the Executive Director of the organization, is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate, execute, and deliver on behalf of the organization a short-term loan agreement in a principal amount not to exceed $30,000 upon such terms and conditions as Lamar Keener deems appropriate and in the best interests of the organization;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Lamar Keener is authorized to execute any and all documents, agreements, certificates, and instruments necessary or advisable to carry out the foregoing resolution, including but not limited to promissory notes, loan agreements, and related documents;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that all actions previously taken by Lamar Keener or any officer or director of the organization in connection with the foregoing are hereby ratified, confirmed, and approved in all respects;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that this resolution shall remain in full force and effect until September 30, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by

the Board of Directors of the Evangelical Press Association, Inc., on the date first written above.

Kristy Glaspie
Secretary of the Board
Date: May 11, 2026

Executive Session
The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 12:18 p.m.
The Board returned from Executive Session at 1:45 p.m.

Following executive session, the board shared with Lamar:

- For him to reduce the remote office allowance expenses to $3,000 a year/$250 a month
- For him to provide more information about Jennifer Howard's MTI job to the board
- The board would like to create a convention-planning committee and contest judging committee to assist Lamar with his workload for 2027.

Next Board Meeting Date
The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 18 at 10 a.m. Eastern/9 Central/8 Mountain/7 Pacific via Zoom.

Adjournment
Motion by Seana Scott to adjourn.
Seconded.
Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m. Central time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kristy Glaspie, EPA Secretary