

Delaware Public Media Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting, April 17, 2026
Meeting Minutes (APPROVED as amended June 19, 2026)

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Board of Directors of Delaware Public Media Corporation (DPM) was held on Friday, April 17, 2026, via Zoom conference call.

Directors attending: Randy Farmer, chair; Ellen Wolf, treasurer; Ellen Roberts, secretary; Robert Varipapa, immediate past chair; Jennifer Acord; James Griffin; Frankie Hill; Chanta Howard Wilkinson; Nancy Karibjanian; Leslie Newman; Michael Sigman

Directors absent: David Brond, vice chair

Others present: Angela Baio, director of operations; Tom Byrne, news director; Steve Gonzales, underwriting manager; Kelli King, controller; Darice Pauselius, director of marketing; Anne Williams, director of development

No members of the public were present.

Call to order: Mr. Farmer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed new board member Frankie Hill.

Introductions: Mr. Farmer reported that Tom Interrante is doing well as he recovers from surgery. He thanked Ms. Baio for standing in in Mr. Interrante's place, and he asked the new team members to introduce themselves.

- Angela Baio, director of operations, has 20+ years of public radio experience, particularly in grant writing, strategy, and community/relationship building.
- Anne Williams, director of development, is a Delaware native who has worked in public radio since she was 19 (and she's a grandmother now).
- Steve Gonzales, underwriting manager, has 20 years of media experience, most recently with iHeart Media.
- Darice Pauselius, director of marketing, worked for the Lehigh Valley PBS station and is thrilled to be on the radio side of public media now.
- Kelli King, our contract accountant, is a CPA and Public Media Company's controller.

Approval of minutes: On a motion made by Mr. Sigman and seconded by Ms. Wolf, the minutes of the January 16, 2026, board meeting were approved.

Homey Awards: The 20th annual Homey Awards celebration will be held April 26 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Queen Theater in downtown Wilmington. Board members are encouraged to attend.

Report from Tom Byrne: Mr. Byrne thanked the new team members for diving in, and he said DPM was moving in the right direction. The news team is fully staffed now for the first time in a long time. Jay Shah,

the new producer, is in place. Bente Bouthier, the new politics reporter, is getting on track. The goal is to have everyone up to speed by Memorial Day and then to pivot to election coverage.

He has received positive feedback from the University of Delaware Statehouse News Fellowship Program students. Ms. Karibjanian noted that the fellows have been well received by state legislators.

DPM won four first-place awards, and 27 awards total, from the Delaware Press Association. The first-place awards were for the Gov. Meyer talk show, Martin Matheny's arts coverage, Sarah Petrowich's story on marijuana legislation, and our arts and politics partnerships. The four first-place awards have been entered into the National Federation of Press Women competition.

We are finalists in eight categories in the Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association awards, which will be announced at the end of May.

He noted that DPM remains competitive and consistently wins awards even as the number of entries overall and level of competition in these awards programs increases.

Development update: Ms. Williams reported that we saved money by emailing the 2025 tax acknowledgement receipts. She has created a schedule for fund drives and is producing testimonials. There were 84 donors in the spring fund drive, which raised \$13,000, with \$1,600 coming from Do More 24 Delaware. There was a \$700 per month increase in monthly donations. She has begun to reach out to lapsed donors.

Marketing update: Ms. Pauselius reported that our New Castle County billboard campaign will launch in mid-May. We are spending \$15,000 with Lamar Advertising, but expect to receive exposure valued at \$47,500. We are also purchasing ads on Instagram and Facebook, geographically targeted to New Castle County, promoting app downloads.

She is working to clean up and optimize our mobile app. Hometown Heroes has been updated on the app, and she is working to add past programs. Mark Rogers has 5,200 Facebook followers; that is an untapped audience for us that she is working on with Mark to leverage. Subaru is the Homey Awards sponsor.

The new "Here for Good" newsletter launched in April. Email opens and click responses have been strong.

She is updating content on our website. She consulted with NPR's digital team, who suggested some improvements, but said our site was strong overall.

Dr. Varipapa asked for app statistics for the past 30 days. There were 357 unique users and 4,400 sessions, and the average session was 12.4 minutes longer than for the prior 30 days. Ms. Pauselius and Ms. Williams noted that users engage with content differently on the app vs. streaming on a computer. Mr. Farmer asked staff to provide a regular tracking report and trendlines on app and desktop use.

Underwriting update: Mr. Gonzales reported that Hope Wellness Center has committed \$2,000 and Subaru has committed \$49,850 through December 31. His current prospects include Netflix House in King of Prussia, Eye Physicians of Pennsylvania, Goodwill, the Delaware Children's Museum, the Biggs Museum, Delaware Symphony Orchestra, and Winterthur. He is focusing on tourism, nonprofits, healthcare, legal, financial, and HVAC companies. Ms. Acord suggested he add the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science to the list. Mr. Farmer said he hoped DHIN would continue its support.

Operations update: Ms. Baio reported that the strategic assessment is underway with Public Media Company. Considerable work is needed to improve our grant application process and stewardship of foundation and government grants already received. In some case we have had to request extensions on reporting deadlines, and we may have to request the ability to repurpose grants awarded. She is exploring

opportunities with the Public Media Bridge Fund. Our required FCC reports were completed and submitted on time.

Financial update: Ms. King, who began on March 1, presented some preliminary draft financial reports via screen share, and noted that there is more work to be done, especially on expense classifications and use of restricted funds. We are still on the NPR repayment plan. Ms. Wolf noted that we are moving from a cash basis to accrual basis going forward.

Audit Committee report: Ms. Newman reported that the FY2025 audit has been delayed due to issues related to the transition from Pete Booker and Tracy Moore to Kelli King. Progress is being tracked by the Executive Committee.

Governance/Nominating Committee: Ms. Karibjanian reported that the committee will present the following slate of officers for FY2027 for election at the annual meeting on June 19:

Chair:	Ellen Wolf
Vice chair:	Chanta Howard Wilkinson
Treasurer:	Ellen Roberts
Secretary:	David Brond

Dr. Varipapa's term as immediate past chair ends on June 30, and Mr. Farmer will move into that position. She noted that FY 2027 will be a transition year, and that the officers on the slate have not agreed to serve beyond a one-year term.

Each committee is being asked to draft a charter/scope of responsibilities.

Ms. Newman reported that Guy Mitchell (Mitch) Edmondson, MD, has agreed to be a candidate for election to the board at the June 19 annual meeting. Dr. Edmondson, an active listener and donor, has met with Mr. Interrante. A letter of introduction was circulated to the board prior to the meeting.

Ms. Newman asked if we would like to change the bylaws to allow board member elections to occur at any board meeting, not just the annual meeting.

Marketing Committee: Mr. Farmer reported that Mr. Sigman has resigned as committee chair. Ms. Pauselius offered to help draft a charter for that committee.

Adjournment: On a motion made by Mr. Sigman and seconded by Ms. Newman, the board agreed to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen J. Roberts
Secretary, Delaware Public Media Corporation