

**MEETING SUMMARY
OF THE NPR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
MARCH 6, 2020**

The NPR Illinois Community Advisory Board (CAB) met in Springfield and connected by videoconference to Chicago and by phone on Friday, March 6, 2020.

Present in Springfield:	Deanie Brown, Sean Crawford, Kathleen Dunn, Jamey Dunn-Thomason, Nabih Elhadj, Bill Holland, Bethany Jaeger, Mario Jimenez, Megan Pressnall, Kent Redfield, Chuck Scholz, Dick Schuldt, Karen Witter
Present in Chicago:	Katy Broom (on behalf of Laurence Msall), Cindi Canary, John Carpenter, Bob Gallo, Gina Kovach, George Van Dusen
Present by phone:	Michael Diaz
Absent:	David Kohn, Lisbeth Lenos, Phillip Lopez, Adam Porter, Blake Roderick, Stephanie Rhodes, Corrine Wood

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. The Nominating Committee of Nabih Elhadj, Jamey Dunn-Thomason, Mario Jimenez and George Van Dusen identified three priorities for this year’s search:
 - Racial diversity
 - Gender equity
 - Southern Illinois representation
2. Based on the number of CAB members whose terms end June 30, 2020, the Nominating Committee anticipates nominating four candidates. Three candidates have been identified. A fourth is sought.
3. Existing CAB members offered to conduct outreach to help identify a fourth candidate, particularly representing Southern Illinois. They include the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, the Illinois Municipal League and existing member Stephanie Rhodes for her suggestions.

NPR ILLINOIS ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

4. The year-end fund drive reached the highest amount raised at \$273,000, exceeding the stretch goal of \$250,000 and last year’s total of \$215,000.
5. The spring fund drive will occur from May 11-22, 2020 with live pitching.
 - CAB members are invited to volunteer for 2- to 3-hour shifts.
6. NPR Illinois plans to host public forums through late fall 2020. Each month will be dedicated to a topic such as health, Illinois’ economic outlook, future of downtown

Springfield, the graduated income tax, and the arts and culture. The audience will be invited to ask questions of a panel, with forums recorded and broadcast during a later weekday.

- CAB members are invited to sponsor or help connect NPR Illinois to potential sponsors for these public forums. The sponsorship package was provided as a separate attachment to the email distributing this meeting summary.
7. NPR Illinois plans to host presidential debate parties leading up to the November 2020 elections.
 - CAB members are invited to sponsor or help connect NPR Illinois to potential sponsors for these presidential debate parties. The sponsorship package was provided as a separate attachment to the email distributing this meeting summary.
 8. NPR Illinois plans to host another Podcast Academy July 13-17, 2020 for high school students. Workshops for adults are also in the development stages based on demand.
 - CAB members are invited to sponsor or help connect NPR Illinois to potential sponsors for the Podcast Academy. The sponsorship package was provided as a separate attachment to the email distributing this meeting summary.
 9. NPR Illinois will host a Pete Lazare Art Show at the Myers Building in Springfield on Friday, March 20, 2020 from 6-9 p.m. The late Pete Lazare's artwork was a common sight on a banner at Grab-A-Java in Springfield and multiple times promoted NPR Illinois. New owner Bill Legge and Pete's family prepared a coffee table book of Pete's art. One copy of 25 banners will be on display and for sale at the art show. All proceeds will be donated 50/50 to the Sierra Club of Sangamon Valley and NPR Illinois in Pete's memory. The event is free, but books and art prints will be available for purchase.
 10. Public Radio Month has been deferred until 2021.
 11. NPR Illinois partnered with the Rotary Club of Springfield Sunrise to host a "This I Believe" event at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, where students read aloud their essays before a live audience in Union Theater. The partnership and essay contest spans 15 years, receiving 226 entries from Illinois. The labor-intensive event needs more sponsors in future years but has potential to weave in community outreach with engagement of high school alumni, school communities, civic leaders and community volunteers.

NPR ILLINOIS EDITORIAL UPDATES

12. Sean Crawford is serving as interim General Manager as Randy Eccles is on leave for medical treatment. Sean continues to serve as Editorial Director.
13. NPR Illinois is searching for two new reporters and an account executive to support business underwriting and sponsorships.

- CAB members are invited to submit referrals to Sean Crawford if they know anyone who would be interested in the three open positions.

14. David Racine and Sean Crawford have been in dialogue with the University of Illinois President Timothy Killeen following the NPR Illinois/ProPublica series about the university system's handling of sexual misconduct cases and a series of letters in support of NPR Illinois regarding the university's policy that all "responsible employees," including journalists, are required to report alleged sexual misconduct to the university's Title IX office. NPR Illinois reporters vowed confidentiality to their sources when reporting for the series. While President Killeen does not have authority to exempt university-based reporters from state law, NPR Illinois is preparing a response to the university about its continued request that newsgathering activities carried out by professional journalists employed by the University of Illinois be exempted from mandated reporting just as university Counseling Center employees are exempt.

STORY IDEAS

15. CAB members discussed story ideas.

- Governor JB Pritzker doubling staff salaries
- Illinois public health responsiveness
- Follow-up stories about past This I Believe essay contest winners
- Early childhood education and the quality of care
- Task Force addressing the lack of behavioral health professionals and training for education, police and first responders
- Rod Blagojevich effect on Illinois' image and appeal to potential businesses, residents
- Cybersecurity and Illinois State Board of Elections collaborative efforts with the National Guard and Help America Vote Act
- Economic development in the Quincy area includes geofencing and recruiting from Puerto Rico to fill 1,000 jobs but faces immigration challenges
- 2020 Census and misinformation
- National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (two supreme court cases related to when the elector does not vote the way the general electorate wanted)
- Local media versus wire stories and the need to supplement public journalism because of the decimation of newsrooms around the country
- Role of public media related to immigration and misinformation or education (e.g., the misperception about who is a "good" immigrant versus a "bad" immigrant)
- Nursing home closures in Illinois with a change in the cap on the amount an individual can set aside for long-term care
- Illinois is No. 1 in volunteerism

FUTURE MEETING DATES

16. The CAB is considering meeting the second or third Tuesday of each quarter as an alternative to the first Friday of each quarter. Confirmation of meeting dates and locations will be sent in advance of the next meeting, currently scheduled for June 2020.

NEXT STEPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Nominating Committee and CAB referrals will develop as follows:
 - a. Cindi Canary will call John Shaw at the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.
 - b. John Carpenter will reach out to his network in Southern Illinois.
 - c. George Van Dusen will contact Brad Cole of the Illinois Municipal League for potential Southern Illinois candidates.
 - d. The Nominating Committee will contact Stephanie Rhodes for her suggestions on Southern Illinois candidates and logistics of joining meetings.
2. CAB members can send any referrals to potential candidates to Nabih Elhadj, nabih.elhadj@gmail.com.
3. CAB members will let Nice Garcia know if they are available to do live pitching for the spring fund drive May 11-22, 2020. Email Nice at nbogd2@uis.edu.
4. Also contact Nice Garcia if you know of any sponsorship opportunities for 2020 public forums, presidential debate parties or Podcast Academy.
5. Bethany will conduct a doodle scheduling poll to find out CAB members' availability for the second Tuesday of each quarter.