

CAB MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8th, 2011

In the absence of Chairman Lorenzo Vazquez, Vice-Chairman Redd Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He invited the members to re-introduce themselves for the benefit of newer members, and noted that a quorum did not exist. Shortly thereafter, Ms Barbara Proctor & Mr. Michael Gonzalez arrived representing the WTTW Board of Trustees.

CAB Members in attendance: Redd Griffin, Yvette Brown, Susan Buckner, Lennette Meredith, Mary Lou Mockus, Maggie Steinz, Dr. Deborah Williams. Also in attendance were Staff, V.J.McAleer & Yvonne Davis, and two guests.

Mary Lou Mockus introduced Mr. & Mrs. Al Skierkiewicz (Al is WTTW/WFMT Engineer in Design & Maintenance) who had been invited to present a program on the "Robot Project", an international activity and competition offering students opportunities to learn & explore the creative possibilities of electronic remote control devices, how to design them, compete for scholarships & learn life skills. The goal is to attract students to science and creative thinking toward solving "real world" problems. The presentation sparked interest & enthusiasm among the audience culminating in a recommendation(by Dr. Deborah Williams & Maggie Steinz) that WTTW encourage and facilitate the project in any ways possible--especially with a view toward expanding the teen viewing audience for WTTW. An invitation was extended to attend the Midwest regional Competition at UIC, March 24-6 with promised VIP tours. (N.B.:Indeed, 7 of our audience members took advantage of this exciting event.) One interesting sidelight was the fact that Mr. Gonzalez was a judge for the Robot Competition in the past. Mr. Griffin suggested the possibility of developing a production approach similar to the "Nat'l. Spelling Bee", featuring human interest, behind the scenes stories to carry a series for teens.

Dr. Deborah Williams reported on her school visitation and ongoing survey of student viewing & awareness. She reported that students remembered affectionately the programs they viewed as young children, but said there was nothing in the schedule directed toward teens. In addition she found teachers were unaware of material available on the website that could be utilized. Discussion of ways to increase awareness followed. Research guided by Dr. Williams & Mrs. Donna Rook is on-going.

Mr. Gonzalez discussed the funding challenges facing Public Television, and the Board of Trustees and their desire to support the station and become better acquainted with the CAB & their concerns. Mrs. Mockus then reviewed the four concerns conveyed in CAB's Annual Report to the B.O.T., namely, 1. A need to focus on Civic Education with a view to expanding the citizens' understanding of how the U.S. Gov't. functions; 2. Coverage of African-American Military service; 3. Concern for Freedom of Speech in Broadcasting, with rejection of any attempts to legislate censorship or reinstatement of the, so-called, Fairness Doctrine; 4. Recognition and coverage of Native American population in WTTW's broadcast area. There was no comment.

Vice-Chairman Griffin returned to his on-going concern for WTTW's institutional history, suggesting attention be paid to the station's origins & founding, with specific focus on Edward L. Ryerson. There is an abundance of information at the University of Chicago library and currently a relative of Mr. Ryerson serves on the B.O.T. and might be helpful on such a project. VJ McAleer suggested Jeff Baer, WTTW producer, might be interested in it as a project. Mr. Griffin, who serves on the Illinois Historical Assn. Board, would be happy to assist.

VJ reported in response to Mrs. Mockus' concern that the Spanish language channel offers both Spanish & English options (SAP or captions) so that dual language facility is developed by reporting that both are usually available. He also reported that the new movie review program has been launched. In response to a later visitor's comments, VJ confirmed that WTTW is well represented on the "Social Networks."

Under "New Business" it was established that Mrs. Meredith, Ms Sutton, & Mrs. Mockus will present a slate for new officers at the April meeting.

Under "Unfinished Business" two By-Law revisions were agreed upon to be presented at the April meeting:

1. A quorum will be based on the actual membership of 18 members; therefore a quorum will consist of 10 members henceforth.
2. Members shall serve three-year renewable terms.

Mrs. Cragan, Pgm. Committee Chair, will arrange with Mrs. Summers & Mrs. Goldstein an opportunity to screen the film recommended last year.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lou Mockus