

**Annual Meeting
New Wave Corporation
Unity Center
1600 W. Broadway, Columbia, Mo.**

Meeting of January 15, 2012

Attendance

General Manager, David Owens, collected the sign-in sheets that were posted at the door. Attendance was good with most seats filled. Board members, John Betz, Tom Verdot, Joy Rushing, Meg Poché, and Ann Mehr, were in attendance as well. A social hour was held at the beginning of the meeting as people arrived with their potluck contributions. During this time, music was provided by Tom Verdot and Pippa Letsky. The potluck dinner commenced at 5pm.

Call to Order:

Board President, John Betz called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Introductions were made of KOPN program hosts, volunteers, and staff. Acknowledgements were made of staff members employed by the station at this time and the addition of new board members after tonight's elections. KOPN will have been on the air for 39 years as of this March and we look forward to the possibilities that this combination of new and existing staff and board can bring.

General Manager's Report on the State of the Station:

Clarity to those who oppose us – David Owens began by suggesting that our philosophy should not be to present opposition or confusion to those who oppose us, but rather to bring clarity to those who oppose us. If we seek to bring thoughtful discourse through thoughtful sources in thoughtful ways, the fog will perhaps lift from the eyes of those who oppose us, and then perhaps they will no longer oppose us and rather join us in our quest for thoughtful discourse and discussion. And so, bringing peaceful discourse and open thought to our community is indeed at the core of KOPN's mission and vision.

Reading of the KOPN purpose – John Betz read aloud, the mission statement for KOPN as follows: "KOPN is a non-commercial, listener-supported community radio station operated by the non-profit New Wave Corporation, broadcasting to central Missouri. KOPN is committed to educating and enriching the lives of its membership and the community it serves, especially those otherwise under-represented in the commercial or other non-profit media sectors. KOPN is free from direct constraints of commercial, political, or religious interests."

Community and Volunteer Support – David Owens continued on by thanking the community and the many volunteers for supporting this educational endeavor called community radio. David shared his thoughts on the history of KOPN, starting with his first involvement in 1975. There were no paid staff members then, and KOPN only grew through the dedication and hard work of volunteers and community support. KOPN has survived through good times and bad and thanks were expressed to those who have stood by through the years. More introductions were made of those in attendance, and mentions of some who were not in attendance, who have withstood the test of time. Big appreciation was also expressed to those in attendance who are KOPN supporters. Financial support is also a volunteer endeavor and community radio wouldn't exist

without it. It takes a community to make a community, and living here in mid-Missouri is made all the richer because of those who give of themselves so generously. David also invited those in attendance to feel welcomed to get involved with KOPN, and to spread the word to others who might be interested. On-air or off, all are welcome.

KOPN Endeavors – There are many areas one can get involved with at KOPN. Besides training for on-air time, some would prefer to help in other areas. KOPN has a re-sale shop now. Called “Re-Souled”, it is located in the catacombs of the Artlandish Gallery on Walnut Street. Help is needed to stock and tend it. Pledge drives always have need for volunteers with answering phones and post-drive mailings. KOPN has an ongoing eBay auction site where help is needed for maintaining and mailing items to winning bidders. As a 24-7 year round business, there’s never a lack of need for volunteers! New efforts are also being made in the area of production training. Interested persons can sign up for periodical training for producing material for on-air broadcast.

Challenges Ahead – Getting down to the brass tacks of the meeting, David acknowledged that this year has been a hard one for KOPN. There have been staff and board turnovers. This slows forward progress as new persons take time to hire and train. Several of these losses were due to relocations and to higher paying jobs with better benefits. In addition, there have been recent problems with the air-board, and it ceased transmitting the Friday before Christmas. A list of needed equipment is being made so that a plan can be formulated for the future. For the short term, the analog air-board in the production room is being used. If full function can be restored to the digital board in the air-room, then the desired situation is to set up a switch by which signal can be sent by either room. If a problem occurs in one room, a simply throw of that switch will allow programmers to move to the other room and board and continue to broadcast. Movement back to the original air room and board will not occur until this backup plan with the switch is in place. In the long term, a complete re-build of both the production and air rooms is desired. Estimates of what it will take to do this amount to approximately \$50,000 but the end result will be that KOPN will have dual air rooms. In the days, months, years ahead it will be necessary to hold capitol campaign fund raisers and apply for grant monies to pay for these long and short term plans.

CPB Funding – The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) has just informed us of a change in our status resulting in a funding cut of approximately \$7,000 - \$8,000. KOPN will have to find ways to make up for this through fund raising and/or tightening the budget further, although the station is already operating under tight constraints.

Inside KOPN – David asked if anyone had recently visited KOPN studios and noticed the stacks of 1940’s and 1950’s desks piled in the middle of the Green Room. Volunteer programmer, Chris Puyear procured some gently used office furniture for KOPN and is in the process of swapping out the old for the newer. Staff is thrilled with the newer, more workable space that is being created. Chris also was instrumental in helping to finish off the KOPN restroom and provided KOPN with the neon lighting that now shines down on Broadway from the windows.

This Friday, January 20th, KOPN will once again host artists in the Artrageous Gallery Crawl. Local artists Sasha Goodnow, upcycle mixed media artist, and Phillip Gresham, print artist, will be the featured artists at the KOPN studios that night. Everyone is encouraged and invited to come out and view the artwork and enjoy a snack and some beverage at the KOPN installation of the Artrageous Gallery Crawl.

Tomorrow is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. KOPN has historically conducted a live broadcast of the processions and celebrations put on by local churches as they commemorate the day. There is a candle-light march from 6pm – 7pm to the St. Paul AME Church on 5th and Park Street, and KOPN will do a live broadcast of the program there.

New Board Members - David announced the results of the ballot count for new and re-elected board members as follows: John Betz (re-elected), Meg Poché (re-elected), Karl Skala (newly elected), Steve Gallagher (newly elected), Ken Leija (newly elected), and Atish Sen (newly elected).

Open Comments and Questions – David opened the meeting up to comments and questions. Mark Haim thanked David for adding a balance sheet to the Annual Report and suggested that it would be even better in the future to also supply the report with an income statement. David explained that this was a simplified snapshot of this moment in time and not a complete financial report. Board Treasurer, Joy Rushing, explained that income and balance sheets were provided at every board meeting now. This being the case, the board is still working on fine tuning the financial reports for optimal benefit to those who would be examining and discussing them. In continuing with comments and questions, an attendee thanked everyone for their hard work in keeping KOPN going. A round of applause was given for the music provided by Pippa Letsky and Tom Verdot. David Owens was thanked for his ongoing efforts and contributions to KOPN. A question was posed about whether there might be funding available through a foundation or grant to bring BBC back to the KOPN air waves. Everyone was encouraged to let board treasurer, Joy Rushing, or general manager, David Owens, know about any funding sources, foundations, grants, etc, that they hear of. Board Vice President, Tom Verdot, clarified the list of 2011 staff and board members on the back of the Annual Report. They did not all serve at the same time, and at least one was a board member for a while but stepped down when hired as a staff member. In addition, Tom wanted to thank those staff and board members who were no longer with us, for their time and dedication while they were here. Jeff Wheeler spoke about the ramped up training program for those desiring to be on-air and said to look for even more of this in 2012. Any persons wishing to receive on-air training should contact Jeff. David Owens provides KOPN orientations for interested persons on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Meeting Adjourned – at 6:15pm

Submitted by Meg Poché on January 23, 2012