

**Public Access Corporation of the District of Columbia  
Board of Directors**

901 Newton Street, NE, Washington, DC  
Studio A

**Annual Meeting  
June 12, 2019**

Present: Kojo Nnamdi, Chair; Pedro Alfonso, Vice Chair/Treasurer; Cynthiana Lightfoot, Secretary; Kevin Goldberg; Michael Freedman. Nantz Rickard, President & CEO. DCTV staff; members and guests

**President's Introductory Comments**

At 8:00 p.m., Nantz Rickard welcomed the members and guests. Rickard greeted the meeting attendees. She acknowledged the valuable contributions of staff noting that this is the team that is bringing their creativity, professional skills, talents and passionate commitment to creating DCTV's future. She said that change always brings challenges—some are expected and many unforeseen, but that without compromising their commitment to providing members gracious and skilled customer service, this committed team is working hard and courageously taking on the challenges that to ensure DCTV can keep providing the resources and services for members to be able to produce community programming, to expand DCTV's base of participants, to engage viewers; and to tap the capabilities of DCTV to bring in new sources of revenue. Rickard said she is honored to work with this outstanding group of individuals:

Hafeez Kazim, CFO  
Robin Waley, Manager Finance and Administration  
Maurice Jackson, Master Control Technician  
Brian Barber, Education and Production Manager  
Jamie Fain, Media Production Specialist  
Shaun Rosa, Digital Media Producer  
Carmen Stanley, Operations Assistant  
Julia Reardin, Manager Community Participation & Media Producer  
And consultants, Angela Harper, Special Projects and Youssef Slitine, IT

Rickard then specially acknowledged:

Karen Beasley, Manager Programming – 21 years  
Mark Leeke, Senior Media Production Specialist, 13 years  
Jacque Rearden, Master Control Coordinator, 11.5 years  
with extra special recognition to Hafeez Kazim, CPA, Chief Financial Officer – 20 years

Rickard expressed her appreciation and thanked the Board of Directors, saying it is her great honor and privilege to work with every member of this Board. Rickard said she can't say enough about how much they do for DCTV—most of it unsung and behind the scenes. But they are the reason DCTV is here today, and is seen as an organization on the forefront of evolving

community media. Rickard expressed a very special appreciation for Chairman Kojo Nnamdi, saying she continues to learn about the finest qualities of leadership. She thanked him for leading DCTV through its toughest times, leading the organization to create an outstanding DCTV that serves its communities and its members, and expressed her deep appreciation for him having led DCTV onto the path for our future with vision, generosity and heart. Rickard said she is forever grateful for who he is, all he has done, and all the ways he has provided mentorship and support over the years.

### **Convene Annual Meeting of the Associate Members**

Chair Kojo Nnamdi convened the meeting.

Thank you for coming out tonight to DCTV's Annual Meeting of the Associate Members. I enjoyed spending time at the Reception with you, and I hope you are enjoying your evening with us.

I will offer the Chair's Report summarizing DCTV's vision and successes over the past year, followed by reports on our fiscal year 2017 financial statements and from the Nominating Committee.

**Chair's Report.** Thank you for coming out tonight to DCTV's Annual Meeting of the Associate Members. I hope you are enjoying your evening with us.

I will offer the Chair's Report, followed by reports on our fiscal year 2018 financial statements and from the Nominating Committee.

### **Chair's Report**

I'd like to start my Report by thanking the members of DCTV, and congratulate you on your outstanding work.

I'd like to thank the staff of DCTV, who all serve our members so well, working diligently to provide their expert skills, assistance and commitment to your success every day!

I started out with DCTV in its earliest years. Over the years, I have seen DCTV members grow in so many ways, including increasing the impact of community programming.

We are a little more than half way through implementing our Strategic Plan, and we continue to advance DCTV as a leader in community media and as an institution that is having significant impact in our neighborhoods all over the city.

DCTV and all of our stakeholders want

- On the broadest level, to make sure DCTV is sustainable into the future
- To continue to support production of new community programming from an expanded base of participants; and
- To engage viewers with excellent community programming on our channels

Over the past three decades, these goals have remained a constant. The world in which we operate, however, is always changing, and throughout our history the leadership of this organization has worked assiduously to stay abreast of those changes, and adjust so we could achieve these goals in the best way.

About 7 years ago, we saw increasingly significant shifts in the world around us. We undertook extensive analysis and exploration to predict how changes in the world of media might affect us, and over the past five years worked to develop and implement strategies to keep DCTV sustainable and to continue serving residents and communities of our city.

We determined that in order to continue to provide the services to support production of new community programming by our members, we needed to expand community engagement and our base of participants and stakeholders, and to substantially increase funding from new sources to supplement or replace the diminishing funding from cable operators.

Even as we undertake to achieve these goals with revised strategies, we are seeing even more reasons why doing this is so important. Some of you may have seen that the FCC is in the process of a rulemaking, part of which involves redefining how public, educational and government access is funded. They are proposing to wrap the value of the channels as part of the Franchise Fees, forcing an untenable choice between having channels or funding—but not both—with the result that either PEG channels or funding would be virtually eliminated across the country. At the same time, the National Cable Television Association recently testified before the Senate Committee, consistent with its new public stance, that PEG channels are a violation of cable operators First Amendment rights, and an unnecessary burden placed on cable operators in today's telecommunications markets.

Of course we are involved in efforts to fight this and protect our residents' and organizations' ability to create and telecast vital local programming. Achieving our goals takes on a heightened importance, especially for our city where DCTV is the only source of local programming created by we, the people of the District, for our communities.

To accomplish these goals requires substantial changes to DCTV. As we all know, even though change is ultimately inevitable, it is still difficult.

However, we have taken all possible steps to ensure we are continuing to support production of new community programming by our members. Before undertaking any other changes, we tested and increased the benefits for our individual members, and broadened the individual participation structure, so people have more options to choose from in how they engage with DCTV. These benefits were added first—before any other changes were started.

To recap:

We piloted—and then adopted—the Free Equipment & Facilities program. It provides members who are DC residents—and who are also certified—with the opportunity to use equipment and facilities at no cost when volunteering to create content for DCTV's channels.

We also increased the amount of time allowed for field package checkouts from one day to 48 hours. The goal of these initiatives was to increase the amount of locally produced content for DCTV's channels, reduce financial obstacles for certified producers, and increase volunteer opportunities for certified technicians. Overall, the result was an increase in use of equipment and production facilities. As envisioned, we experienced an increase in local, original programs produced at DCTV, and experienced increased participation, including by newly certified members.

We added opportunities for people interested in media to gather, network and explore possibilities. We developed and for the past 3 years have conducted the Voice Awards, honoring our volunteers, and recognizing the great work of our members.

We built the capability for submitting programs via FTP, making it easier and more convenient to get programming to DCTV for scheduling.

We created a monthly member meet-up as a regular opportunity for members to offer ideas and suggestions for DCTV's education classes and individual member services, along with opportunities for networking and presenting guest speakers who are independent media makers in DC to share best practices and their perspectives, experiences, and conversation.

These monthly member meet-ups are an important and valuable part of our process at DCTV.

In addition to providing opportunities to further skills, to network and to share information and experiences with other members, the sessions are an ongoing opportunity to get information and offer suggestions and ideas regarding DCTV's services, education topics, and production needs.

It is important to us that our individual members provide any ideas, suggestions and concerns.

Besides continuing to talk to the manager of the project you are working on, these meetings are the best way to contribute your ideas and suggestions, and to make sure the staff knows of any issues or obstacles you may be experiencing with creating content for DCTV's channels.

It is also important on an ongoing basis, that you report any technical problems or concerns to your project manager. Programmer members may provide any ideas, or report any technical problems or concerns to Programming staff.

Staff are constantly assessing services, education and facilities, including input from members, and resolving problems, making revisions or developing recommendations for improvements, additions, or technology refreshments and upgrades. These assessments and recommendations—which include the input and experience of members—are a substantial component in developing the annual budget and in making any policy changes or additions.

As we move forward implementing new initiatives to expand our base and create community programming in order to increase our ability to receive non-cable funding, we want to reassure

you that these changes will augment our services to our communities, not replace DCTV's support of production of new community programming by our individual members.

Audience engagement is an important initiative for our programming and for our producers seeking to make an impact with programming you create. We continue to refine and advance our programming lineup to create the greatest impact of community programming, getting audiences excited about DCTV, and inviting and encouraging them to be a part of what we do.

Finally, we remain committed as we have in the past to providing up-to-date technology and facilities for producing and telecasting the highest quality programs, and support our members in attaining media skills relevant to current technology. Over the past few years DCTV has developed into all-HD facility, up to our signal transmission. Beginning this year, DCTV's channels will be carried in HD, in addition to the current SD channels, and all DCTV's channels will be streamed and available to mobile devices in HD.

We are well underway implementing new strategies that

- invite to DCTV an extensive, expanded participation and engagement of our diverse and growing population and communities,
- develop even stronger programming and increased impact of community programming,
- build upon the successes of our progressive learning and education platform; and
- all while continuing to build and maintain our strategic foundations.

We envision a future where DCTV has been developed into an even more powerful communications platform than it is today.

Before I conclude, DCTV has some very special people and partners we'd like to thank.

We appreciate the continued support of the Mayor and the DC Council who strongly support public access and are instrumental in making sure that DCTV receives ongoing support for our activities. Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie is Chair of the Committee on Business and Economic Development, and has taken up the mantle as a leader for community media, and strong supporter of DCTV and our important mission. He succeeds the important work by his predecessor--Brandon Todd is Chair of the Committee on Government Operations.

The DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment has gone to great lengths on our behalf to make sure DCTV has what it needs to support our community programming. I'd like to take a moment to offer our appreciation to Director Angie Gates and General Counsel Lawrence Cooper for all their support and assistance, including for successfully negotiating and executing new franchise agreements with Comcast and RCN. These agreements are critical, and support DCTV's mission and ability to succeed.

We greatly appreciate the generosity and support of Comcast of the District, RCN Corporation and Verizon. These companies and their commitment to our communities provide the foundation for DCTV's ability to provide you the resources for creating and distributing

community programming. They provide our cable channels, our fiber lines, and almost all our funding.

I'd like to extend a special appreciation from the Board of Directors to all the DCTV members and friends who have supported us during the long process of renewing cable franchises with Comcast and RCN, to help ensure the new franchise agreements continue to provide channels and significant support to DCTV.

And finally, we extend our thanks to our DCTV members and producers, whose creativity, hard work, dedication, and commitment to our communities is the dynamic foundation of all our successes together!

This concludes the Chair's Report for the 2019 Annual Meeting.

### **Finance Report.**

Noting asked the Vice Chair and Treasurer of the Board of Directors, Pedro Alfonso, to present the finance report on the organization's audited financial statement for fiscal year 2018.

Alfonso delivered the Treasurer's Finance Report to the Membership. He reported that he audit of DCTV's financial statements was conducted by the accounting firm of F.S. Taylor & Associates, P.C. Alfonso reviewed the FY2018 audit and offered the opportunity to ask questions.

He closed by saying a summary of the Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2018 ending June 30, 2018 can be found in the Annual Report on DCTV's website at [dctv.org](http://dctv.org).

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Nnamdi asked Cynthia Lightfoot to present the Nominating Committee Report. Lightfoot delivered the Nominating Committee Report to the Membership:

Lightfoot reported:

The Nominating Committee is empowered by the Board to establish rules for the election, seek prospective Board members and finalize a slate of candidates to present to the membership for election in accordance with the organization's Bylaws.

The Nominating Committee works year-round to identify and interview prospective candidates, and members are encouraged on an ongoing basis to provide potential candidates for Board service.

Prospective Board members who are interested in applying may send a letter of interest and current resume to the Nominating Committee at DCTV through DCTV's website, or to Robin Waley.

The seats being elected are two (2) Directors to serve on the Board of Directors to fill two 3-year terms.

Besides a strong commitment to the principles of free speech and the mission of DCTV, the skills needed to support our goals and implement our five-year Strategic Plan include:

- the relationships and institutional knowledge to ensure continued support for DCTV;
- the capacity to diversify funding by building DCTV's corporate and private funding base;
- and an extensive network to identify and cultivate strong relationships that will have a ripple effect to increase community participation, investment in and support of DCTV.
- We are also maintaining the necessary financial expertise.

Every DCTV member who was current and in good standing 30 days prior to the election received the notice and election information by email, and were able to vote online. A few members received the notice and election information by regular mail.

Voting closed as of 7:45 today.

Lightfoot thanked all those who provided prospective candidates during the past year, and thanked everybody for participating in the election.

The results of this year's election are as follows:

Michael Freedman and Kevin Goldberg will be serving 3-year terms.

### **Chair Closing Remarks**

Nanmdi closed the meeting:

As we bring our 2019 Annual Meeting to a close, I'd like to thank you again for your suggestions and ideas of how DCTV can best serve you and our city. Staff are always working to improve our services and we appreciate your suggestions. All of us here at DCTV take your thoughts and suggestions into account when making decisions. Please also keep talking to staff—individually or through member meet-ups—and letting us know how you think public access might evolve and develop to best serve you and our communities. We will continue to look to our members and stakeholders for insights and suggestions as we implement the strategic plan and chart DCTV's future.

Thank you for all your great programming, and all you do in our city's communities!

This brings to a close DCTV's 2019 Annual Meeting.