

Date: November 2, 2001

To: DMLP Board members, advisors and friends

Fr: Paul Sawyer, DMLP Board Chair
Throop Unitarian Universalist Church
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Included here are the minutes of our Democratic Media Legal Project Board meeting of Sept. 22, 2001 held in San Francisco with several of you kindly participating via telephone.

Enclosed is a copy of Jonathan Lubell's outline memorandum of our constitutional challenge case. This has just been added to the materials submitted to the UU Funding Panel for the grant application now under review. *He cautions us to limit any copying to the "table of contents" and to the cover letter for any circulation to other friends of our project.*

We have arrived at a very critical moment in our country's and world's history; as well as a challenging moment for our case to continue. A war is expanding, threatening to draw in the whole world, and we have watched the "**Big Brother**" media conglomerates beat the war drums and limit debate.

Never has the need for a democratic media system been more essentially clear as we start to raise money in order to continue our legal challenge.

We will hear from the UU Grants Panel for our educational and organizational support project by mid-December. Some of us in Los Angeles are planning to bring together potential givers here to raise the **nearly \$30,000** we will need to complete our legal complaint for filing, hopefully by the beginning of 2002.

We have lots of work to do.

p.s. See you at the **next Board** meeting of the Democratic Media Legal Project on **Saturday, January 26, 10:00 am in San Francisco**

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**Democratic Media Legal Project
Board of Directors Meeting
San Francisco, CA
Saturday September 22, 2001 10 a.m.**

Minutes

Attendance:

In person: Henry Kroll (Project Administrator)
Paul Sawyer
Dorothy Patterson
Bob Alpern
Dan Fiske

Conference call:

Joan Levin (Advisor)
Glenn Terrones
George Gerbner
Jonathan Lubell (Project Litigation Attorney)

Introduction:

The acting chair Paul Sawyer expressed regret that Peter Franck who had contributed to our legal case, particularly in bringing forward the Meikeljohn interpretation of the First Amendment as a basis for our case, had decided to resign because of differences in perspective about how to proceed.

We accepted Peter Franck's resignation as well as that of Board members Dorothy Kidd and Alan Korn. Dorothy Kidd felt it best to give her energies to other media activities and Alan Horn though resigning from the Board expressed a desire to continue to do work for us on our legal team.

Paul Sawyer expressed appreciation to Jonathan Lubell who proceeded to prepare and accept responsibility for the memos necessary for our grant proposal that has been submitted to the Unitarian Universalist Funding Panel. We will hear from this panel by December on our application for up to \$20,000 for educational outreach and fund-raising.

Legal Team report

Lubell presents legal team report. Lubell be contacting law students who has been assisting with the project to assist with pulling together a legal memo based on the legal research done to date. The legal memo will not be a complaint but can used in the construction of the complaint.

Lubell stated the necessity of recruiting a legal coordinator as an important step to coordinate the legal work.

Terrones stated necessity of researching the legislative intent and history of the Telecommunications Act, including previous challenges, that a legal analysis will provide necessary insight of how to attack.

Terrones stated that attorneys who worked on the League of Women Voters vs. FCC and Findley cases are in Los Angeles.

It was agreed that Terrones and Fiske will contact these and other attorneys with historical involvement in telecommunications challenges with the objective of informing them of the DMLP and enlisting them as part of the team.

Sawyer stated that this is a first step, to broaden out our contact base, and through that will come people that are possibilities for approach to take on the role as legal coordinator. It was clarified that the coordinator should be an attorney.

Alpern said it would be a important tool to have a two page summary of the case, that can be used in fundraising.

Election of Board Members

All present organizing members of Board stood for re-election and were re-elected:

Bob Alpern

Dan Fiske

George Gerbner

Dorothy Patterson

Paul Sawyer

Glenn Terrones

Henry Kroll receives a phone call and announces the resignation of Dee Dee Hallack from the Board.

Election of Officers

Officers were elected:

Chair -- Paul Sawyer;

Vice-Chair -- Dorothy Patterson,

Secretary -- Dan Fiske.

Treasurer role still needs to be filled.

Review, Clearance & Adoption of By-Laws

By-laws were reviewed point by point, changes made, and final set of by-laws agreed up. Sawyer will circulate final version.

Discussion of possible candidates for DMLP Board

Board entertained discussion of potential candidates for Board approach at a future point.;

Rep. Esteban Torres (former congressman from East Los Angeles; lives in Tijuana, and is co-chair of a NAACP media diversity committee negotiating with networks around minority representation).

Paula Cruz -Takash, Professor at UCLA.

Bill Balderson, active member of the teachers union.

Kusum Singh, Prof. of Communications at St. Mary's.

Nicole Taylor, former journalist.

David Caploe, from New College

John McManus

G. Smith, Executive Director, Earth Island Institute.

Advisory Committee

Leann Casten from Chicago Media Watch accepted to be on the DMLP Advisory Committee.

Financial report & decisions & deadlines re: fundraising tactics.

Kroll presents financial report. Balance in the account is \$5300, and \$400-\$500 additional in UUJEC/Boston account.

When met in June there was \$15,000, and \$8,000 went for legal work, \$1,000 went for preparation of grant application. An additional estimated \$2,000 legal expenses is expected.

It is estimated that it will cost \$500-\$800 for development of a brochure. There was group resolve that the brochure be done ASAP, not waiting for additional grants before completing it as essential task.

Sawyer will be drafting the fundraising letter, Kroll will edit, and DMLP would like the letter to be signed by Dorothy Patterson, Buerhens and Bagdikian. The mailing will consist of this letter, the upgraded brochure, and the two page case summary prepared by Lubell.

DMLP will get out approximately 500 letters in the first run including but not limited to the following pools:

UUJEC contacts met at workshops and conferences
Referrals from Gerbner
Referrals from Bagdikian
20 copies to each DMLP Board member

Each board member/participant will write a personal note to go with the letter, and to as much extent as possible personal notes will go with the mailing.

- * November 1 -- target date for completion of all written materials.
- * November 15 -- deadline for submission of all names and addresses for the mailings.
- * November 30 -- first class mailing of 500 pieces will be completed and in the mail.

Cost for entire mailout will be maximally \$1,200.

Board passed that \$200/per month will be allocated through the end of December, 2001 for Kroll as acting administrator and for office expenses.

Sawyer stated that he will be doing follow through with Veateh Foundation, will make first approach.

Sawyer stated that DMLP must raise money for plaintiff work up, for the legal work, in short must develop a war chest as the project is expected to run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Next board meeting

January 26, 2002 is next board meeting.

Fiske noted that he will be in NYC at the time and will be in a conference call then.

Additional matters

Levin stated that Kroll must get his computer system repaired so that computer communications are reliable, and must have the capability to send text or Rich Text Format (RTF) files which can be read by either PC or Mac.

Levin stated that communications between project administrator and board members must increase, including but not limited to doing monthly updates.

Kroll announced that he plans to attend fundraising action training provided by the Grassroots Institute that will be taking place November 2 - 4, 2001.

Minutes submitted by Dan Fiske
Secretary.
9/29/01

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