

Early Television Foundatin Board Meeting  
August 2022

Members present: Dave Abramson, Geoff Bourne, Chuck Conrad, Bob Dobush, Blake Hinkle, Dan Jones, Steve McVoy, James O'Neal, Dave Sica

Members absent: Dave Arland

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as presented.

Finances:

Steve reported that we have about \$12,000 in the bank. This is about the same amount as last reported. Our income has been essentially balancing out our expenses. The only major expense has been our insurance policy. The approximately \$3,000 bill has been paid.

Membership:

Our membership currently stands at 181 vs. approximately 150 at this time last year. Our annual membership drive begins right after Thanksgiving, so we expect that number will go up.

Equipment Donations:

A collector in California passed away. About 30 sets were offered to the museum by his estate. Steve accepted four:

- A Western Visonette, in fair cosmetic condition, complete with its back and neon lamp.
- A 'Franken-set' TKR-12 that has the original radio in it but the TV portion has been replaced with postwar components.
- A CT-100 in good cosmetic condition, but with a bad CRT.
- A Baird T-18C, complete but with a bad CRT. (During an earthquake, the set was knocked over and the CRT was smashed.)

The estate was generous enough to cover the approximately \$2,000 cost of shipping the sets to the museum.

Now, the question is 'what do we do with these sets?' Steve thought that the Western might make a good prize for the sweepstakes. A replacement for the special Baird CRT in the T-18C is unavailable. We already have an example of the same model in the museum's collection. Steve had found a replacement CRT for that one that 'sorta fits.' He suggests that we might want to do the same thing with the newly-donated one.

We also received a donation of a TRK-5 from another person in California. The set was in a basement that flooded, so the bottom few inches of the cabinet has decayed away. Other than that it's in pretty good shape. Steve is talking to a person in Colorado who does good radio cabinet restoration work and he's agreed to restore the cabinet of the TRK-5. And again, we need to decide what we'll want to do with this set.

We also received two additional items of note: a 1960s vintage Zenith color set and a Muntz 27-inch set which is fairly rare. Finally, we've been promised a really nice CTC-5 that's supposed to be delivered to us within the next month or so.

A person in the Cleveland area contacted us and has a bunch of CRTs. He tested them and found 39 that were good. Bob Dobush is going to bring them down to the museum. They're mostly 17" and 21" tubes, but other than that we don't know much about them yet.

#### TK-41 Camera Project:

There has been no progress on the restoration since the last report. Things have stalled and Steve does not expect any further progress to be made unless we are able to somehow 'restart' the project. All of the components have been returned to the museum, some in restored condition and some unrestored. The camera is back on display as a nonworking exhibit. James O'Neal will reach out to George Lemaster and see if he might be interested in taking on the project. If George isn't interested, James may reach out to Jay Ballard.

#### Online meetings:

Dave Sica reported that there has been continued interest in the monthly online meetings, and we've been getting good reviews. It continues to be difficult to get people to commit to making presentations in a specific month, although there is a 'back bench' of prospective presenters who are considering taking an upcoming month. Dave reminded Steve that promoting each meeting with specifics about the topic to be covered would be a good idea. Another suggestion by Blake Hinkle was to have a "Collectors Corner" segment of the meeting where people could show off a set in their collection. Dan Jones suggested we might do a "What's on Your Bench?" segment or solicit questions about difficult restoration challenges that people might be wrestling with. Matt D'Asaro offered to discuss his design and installation of a "head end" that broadcasts VHF and UHF channels including channel 1. Upon hearing this, James O'Neal offered to make a presentation about "The demise of channel 1."

Attendance at the online meetings is down somewhat from the peak of around 70-100 attendees, but we're still getting good numbers in the range of 35-60. Dan Jones suggested posting second meeting notices a day prior to the meetings rather than on the day of the meetings as he's received some notices after the meeting has already taken place. Dave Sica also mentioned that some feedback he's gotten indicates that we might want to have a mix of highly technical information with some content targeted more toward the beginner.

#### Real Estate:

There has been nothing new about the possibility of a new building in a new location. Steve is now of the opinion that this will likely never come to pass.

#### New Display Area:

We need a weekend or two with 2 or 3 volunteers to build out the area between the CRT room and the existing end of the museum display area. This area would be used for a rotating display exposition area. Blake Hinkle has offered to manage that project and is willing to put in time as

one member of the construction crew but needs to find people with carpentry experience. Dave Sica suggested reaching out to the local Vo-Tech school to find out if this could be a class project. James O'Neal suggested that we just hire people and get it done. Steve will check into that and get a quote to share with the board. Blake has also offered to loan the museum his collection of Predicta TVs as content for the first display in the new area.

#### Maintenance:

The museum suffered some damage due to a racoon getting in. The damage was limited mostly to ceiling tiles. Larry trapped and removed the racoon and is continuing to monitor the situation to determine if there might be more, and how they got in.

#### Swap Meet:

Blake reported that plans for the fall swapmeet are in place and it looks like it will again be a well-attended event. There is a person who is going to attend with a Natalie Kalmus set for sale who Blake is hoping he might persuade to instead donate it to the museum.

Regarding donations, James O'Neal suggested that a good topic for a presentation at next year's Convention might be a tax professional speaking about the tax implications of making charitable donations.

A motion was made to adjourn and was seconded.

The date of the next board meeting will be announced in the coming months.