# SUMMARY

NPR Illinois Community Advisory Board
June 4, 2024, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
UIS Office of Electronic Media, One University Plaza, Springfield IL

1. Call to order/roll call (Randy Eccles acting for Teresa Jones)
    a. In person: Gina Kovach, Kent Redfield, Christina Shutt,
    b. Remote: Jen McMillin, Steve Anderson, Jody Ogilvy, Garth Reynolds, Deanie Brown, Cindi Canari, John Carpenter, David Kohn, Lisbeth Leanos, Michael Morthland, Adam Porter, George Van Dusen, Erma Williams, Mia Woods
    c. Ex-officio: Sean Crawford, Randy Eccles, Molly Lamb
    d. Staff: N/A
    e. Absent: Kelly Glass, Janet Gooch, Teresa Jones, Lisbeth Leanos, Kate McKenzie, Nikita Richards, Karen Witter

2. Member reports – There was minimal reporting due to vacation absences. Attending members shared their concerns about misinformation during the 2024 election cycle and appreciate what NPR does to reduce it.

    Uri Berliner's claim of NPR bias was discussed. He made claims the network disputes as he prepared to take a job with a conservative media outlet. Nevertheless, NPR is instituting quarterly reviews and monthly internal meetings to make sure coverage is not siloed.

3. Recognition of members finishing terms – Randy thanked the members who have completed their terms and welcomed their continued input to him directly as emeritus members. Terms have ended for Adam Porter, Cindi Carnary, Kelly Glass, David Kohn, Nikita Richards, Chuck Scholz, George van Dusen, and Karen Witter. Their contributions to the board have been appreciated.

4. Nominating committee update
    a. Vice-chair – The position remains open. Randy asked for volunteers with the role taking over the chair in July 2025.
    b. Randy has been in touch with nominees the committee put forward. Discussed the idea of members representing community cohorts and helping report on their cohorts or find volunteers who can. Randy is working with UIS Communication Department to develop basic and advanced training for citizen reporters or stringers.

5. NPR Illinois update
    a. Audience engagement
        i. Listen has stretched our capacity but been worth the work. The underheard groups we've talked to so far have been civil and enthusiastic. The events in Gaza are especially sensitive for the Muslim and Jewish communities.
    b. Editorial
        i. Un-debate - Working on an initiative called "Un-Debates," aiming to provide in-depth discussions on issues during elections without candidate spin. The focus is on presenting researched perspectives and historical context from researchers and reporters, moving away from sensationalized candidate debates.
        ii. Election 2024 – coverage continues with the presidential race receiving the most attention. Local and state races will get covered as we get closer to the election early voting window.
        iii. State Week and Statewide continue to do well on stations across the state as Quad Cities has notified us, they will begin airing Statewide. Stations have also begun featuring the programs' availability on-demand at their websites.

c. Fundraising –
    i. Participating in a nationwide coordinated Public Media Giving Days. It creates a little additional giving but support for an annual program should lead to growth.
    ii. 100% CAB giving - As we have reached the end of the fiscal year, we have not achieved the board's goal of full giving participation. Kate is reaching out directly to those members who haven't given. Some have made gifts on the spot. Thanks to all the generous members that do give.
    iii. The board had suggested and letter signing event for members to write thank you notes to Calendar Club members. Not many have stepped forward so Kate will work remotely with those who want to participate.
    iv. Funding opportunities on the horizon:
        1. Illinois Arts Council General Operating Grant – the IAC has reviewed how they award grants and are looking to increase regional fairness and simplify the application process. NPR Illinois hasn't applied for this grant in the past but will with the encouragement of the IAC staff. Fingers crossed.
        2. Press Forward in the philanthropic program to stem the collapse of local journalism. The national group released their first grant opportunity and NPR Illinois doesn't qualify as it has budget limit for application was $1 million. We hope a second-round grant will have a higher ceiling so we can apply. The local Press Forward Illinois has not issued grant guidelines yet as they have a consultant researching the region. NPR Illinois was included in one of those calls.
        3. The Governor's Local Journalism Task Force recommendation led to Sen. Stadelman introducing legislation that did pass. Unfortunately, the help is in the form of tax credits which don't help nonprofit journalism organizations like NPR Illinois very much. It also established a scholarship program which could help with pipeline challenges, but the scholarships had no funds appropriated to them.
        4. NPR Illinois worked with its sibling stations in Illinois under the IPBC banner to discuss with the governor's office various media needs. The result was an appropriation in the IEMA budget to harden emergency response communications. The IPBC leadership is now in a process with IEMA to define and secure that funding.
        5. The Next Generation Warning System grant managed by CPB did not award any Illinois stations funding in the first round. It mostly when to native media. NPR Illinois' application to update WIPA' rural service technical plant was the only station to advance to the second phase of consideration. Second round of applications are due in September with awards likely to occur in January. WIPA urgently needs this funding as it is on a backup low-power transmitter due to the failure of the full-power unit that cannot be fixed.
        6. Celebration of Philanthropy –May 1 was a tremendous evening as Hannah and Dick McDaniel were recognized with the university's top donor honor primarily for their support of NPR Illinois which Dick shared in his remarks.

6. Next Meeting – Sept. 3, 2024, 11: 30 a.m.